



The London Gazette.

Published by Authority.

FRIDAY, JULY 1, 1831.

St. James's-Palace, June 29, 1831.

THIS day His Grace the Archbishop of Canterbury, with a Deputation from the Clergy of the Province of Canterbury, waited upon His Majesty to present to His Majesty the following Address, which His Majesty was graciously pleased to receive on the Throne:

To the KING's Most Excellent Majesty.

Most Gracious-Sovereign,

WE, your Majesty's dutiful subjects, the Archbishop, Bishops, and Clergy of the Province of Canterbury, in Convocation assembled, most humbly entreat your Majesty to accept our assurances of sincere affection and loyalty.

It has been the wisdom of our Sovereigns, and of those more particularly of your Majesty's illustrious House, to secure to their subjects the inestimable blessings of sound doctrine, and the regular ministrations of religion, by affording their special protection and countenance to the Established Church. In this faithful attention to the charge, committed to Christian Kings by Divine Providence, your Majesty has adopted the principles of your ancestors, and acted on their example; a consideration, which, in this season of danger and difficulty, tends much to our encouragement and comfort. Yet, Sir, we must not conceal that we are not altogether free from anxiety. Since last we had the honour of addressing your Majesty, the tranquillity of the country has been partially disturbed by a spirit of violence, which prevailed for a time over the moral restraints essential to the well being of society, and which, though now providentially quieted, may again be called into action. Among the means of averting such a calamity, your Majesty will unquestionably look to the professional exertions of the Clergy: we trust, Sir, that, taken as a body, with reasonable allowance for human infirmity, we cannot be justly accused of in-

attention to our sacred duties; and we humbly venture to promise, that, with the blessing of God on our resolutions, no supineness or negligence on our part, no want of moderation, or zeal, or disinterestedness, shall obstruct the success of our pastoral cares and labours.

But we humbly represent to your Majesty, that the exertions of the Ministers of the Church, however assiduous or able, must fail in too many instances of their full effect, while the truths of Divine Revelation are publicly held up to derision by professed teachers of impiety, and writings replete with sedition and blasphemy, are extensively circulated in open defiance of the law. We do not object to the fullest discussion of religious subjects, or the freest animadversion on the Church or its Ministers, where either may seem in fault: even, when the intention is hostile, the result may be the elucidation of truth, or the removal of blemishes or defects. But, Sir, no excuse can be offered for a course of proceeding, which poisons the morals of the young, and emboldens the ignorant to scoff at their Creator, and reject the instruction which would render them happy in themselves and estimable and useful in society.

At the same time we beg leave to assure your Majesty, that in every disadvantage we may have to encounter, we shall find an additional incitement, to the diligent use of the means, which the mercy of God has placed in our hands, for the benefit of our fellow creatures. To the mischievous delusions, of infidelity and immorality on the one hand, and enthusiasm and superstition on the other, we shall persevere in opposing the doctrines and precepts of the Gospel. And while, in humble reliance on aid from above, we inculcate the necessity of personal holiness, and cheerful obedience to the laws, we shall never cease to pray, that your Majesty may long continue to reign, beloved at home, and respected abroad, in peace, prosperity, and honour.