

facturers of copper, iron, mill-work, hardware, woolen and cotton goods, the fisheries, the collieries, the salt provision trade of Ireland, and all the various trades connected with shipping, a source of employment on which these industrious classes have been accustomed to rely in war as well as in peace. We humbly represent that a great commercial convulsion must follow this loss of employment, while, at the same time, the revenue would be seriously affected by a great diminution of consumption arising out of the diminished ability of the people to purchase taxable commodities, and the enormous advance of prices of all colonial articles, which must attend the abstraction of the produce of the British West Indies from the general market of Europe.

That the loss or abandonment of your Majesty's West India Colonies would be no less injurious to the real interest of humanity, than to the commerce of this country. The negroes, if unsupported by the presence, the intelligence, and capital of Europeans, would speedily sink into a state of anarchy and moral debasement; and, while a deplorable cessation of industry in raising articles for European consumption would thus ensue in the British colonies, an irresistible inducement would be given to foreign colonies to increase their cultivation, and for that purpose to extend the African Slave-trade, which this country, by great exertion and expenditure of money, has long and ineffectually endeavoured to suppress.

We beg leave further humbly to represent to your Majesty, that the conduct of Great Britain towards your Majesty's West India Colonies has neither been consistent with the principle laid down in the parliamentary resolutions of 1823, nor with that spirit of justice and conciliation which is so necessary to the attainment of any national object. The system of cultivation by slave labour was established by Great Britain for her own benefit; the colonists are Englishmen, lawfully possessing property under the direct sanction and encouragement of the mother country, and are entitled to the protection which the law and the constitution provide for the security and integrity of that property: the colonists are naturally jealous of their character and rights; on them must depend the execution of all colonial laws wherever originating, and not only are they most competent to frame regulations for the real comfort of the slave, but they have a direct interest in his welfare; so that to discredit and endanger their property by perpetual interference, and to stigmatize them as a class of persons destitute of the common feelings of humanity, can neither tend to forward the purposes of justice, of sound policy, or of real improvement in the condition of the slave.

That popular clamour, arising from mistaken impressions as to the real condition of the negroes, and extended to the colonies; has already produced the most disastrous effects, by alienating the affection of the slave from his master, of the master from the mother country, destroying the credit of colonial property, causing constant agitation, and thus seriously retarding those measures of gradual improvement in the condition of the negro population, which it was the object of the British legislature to accomplish.

We further humbly represent to your Majesty, that we have observed with great regret, that at a

moment when relief is avowedly necessary, even to the preservation of the West India colonies, your Majesty's Ministers have declared their intention to make that relief contingent on the unqualified adoption of an Order of your Majesty in Council, dated November the 2d, 1831; a line of policy which, being virtually designed to coerce the legislative colonies, by means of fiscal or penal regulations on their produce, is most objectionable, and calculated to widen the misunderstanding between the mother country and the colonists, to increase the excitement among the negro population, and thus to precipitate the ruin of the colonies.

We beg leave humbly to state to your Majesty, that we are anxious for the adoption of such further constitutional measures of amelioration as may, on due inquiry, be found necessary to the real welfare of the negro, and consistent with the parliamentary resolutions of 1823, a feeling in which we are convinced all the resident planters fully participate.

Under these circumstances, we lay ourselves at your Majesty's feet.

It is to your Majesty's crown and royal dignity that the colonies of Great Britain are, in a more especial manner appendant. By their respective constitutions, no less than by a just sense of your Majesty's benevolent intentions towards them, they are bound to venerate your Majesty as their legal and constitutional governor and protector; and we therefore implore your Majesty to exert your Royal prerogative in their behalf.

We humbly beseech your Majesty to rescue the colonies from the imminent dangers with which they are now surrounded—to alleviate, as far as possible, the losses to which property in those colonies has been subjected, and to protect their inhabitants, members of the body politic of the United Kingdom—against those still greater dangers which must result from measures, conducted without accurate knowledge, and this, we most humbly represent to your Majesty, will most effectually be derived from a full and impartial parliamentary inquiry upon oath.

And your Petitioners will ever pray.

[Here follow the signatures.]

From the Planters, Merchants, and others interested in the welfare of the island of Tobago, and of the White and Coloured Inhabitants generally having property in Slaves therein, praying His Majesty to exercise the prerogative vested in Him by the Constitution for their benefit, and if any Act be presented to Him by the other branches of the Legislature, having the effect of depriving them of their property without compensation; or declaring the emancipation of their Slaves, without full and ample compensation being first made to them, that His Majesty would refuse His assent to such an Act, and in no shape become a party to such injustice.

From the Inhabitants of Bridgeton, an extensive district in the suburbs of Glasgow, signed by the Chairman of the Meeting, in favour of the Reform Bill.

From the Inhabitants of the city of Canterbury and its vicinity, whose names are signed, against the proposed measure for establishing a system of National Education in Ireland.

From the Inhabitants of the city of Exeter and its