

ment may experience all the blessings of national prosperity.

Given under the common seal of the borough of Portsmouth, the 26th day of June 1837.

*William Cooper, Mayor.*

[Presented by the Mayor.]

No. 9.

To the QUEEN'S Most Excellent Majesty.

*Most Gracious Sovereign,*

WE, your Majesty's most faithful, devoted, and loyal subjects, the Grand Master, Pro Grand Master, Deputy Grand Master, and other Officers and Brethren of the United Grand Lodge of Free and Accepted Masons of England, venture, in all humility, to approach your Royal Presence.

We request, most illustrious Lady, the gracious permission to condole with your Majesty, in common with all your loyal subjects, on the demise of our late most beloved Sovereign King William the Fourth, your Majesty's revered and most affectionate Uncle.

At the same time we beg leave to present, with the utmost respect, our most sincere congratulations on the accession of your Majesty to the Throne of these realms.

We are fully aware, most gracious Queen, of the peculiar difficulty under which, as Free Masons, we labour at the present moment, since from the nature of our institution, and the strict obligation which binds its members to secrecy, our incorporate Society can be known to your Majesty by its name and title alone.

Whilst, then, we represent for the information, and openly assert for the satisfaction of your Majesty, that the spirit and intention of Free Masonry is to enlighten the human mind, and by training and exercising its professors in the path of virtue, to render them good citizens of the community, we readily and confidently submit ourselves to the enlightened discrimination, candid judgment, and benevolent disposition of your Majesty towards all your subjects, and humbly crave for ourselves a share of your royal favour, gracious patronage, and fostering protection.

Permit us, in corroboration of the appeal which we thus make, and as a convincing proof of our sincerity, to acquaint your Majesty, that the august and Royal Brothers who immediately preceded your Majesty on the Throne of England, were enrolled among the members, and were distinguished as the rulers of our craft. From their first entrance into Masonry, and even from their accession to the Crown, they never ceased to promote and patronize the objects of the Order; and it is with conscious pride, that we repeat to your Majesty the declaration of our Royal Grand Master, George the Fourth, when Prince of Wales, wherein he stated that the Free Masons of England yielded to no subjects of the Kingdom in zealous affection for the constitution of their country, and in loyal attachment to the person of their Sovereign.

The just fear of trespassing too much on your royal time, would almost prevent us from submitting to your Majesty one remaining testimony in our behalf. It is contained in the reply of your Majesty's illustrious and revered Father to an Address of Con-

gratulation from our Society, on the auspicious birth of your Majesty. His Royal Highness the Duke of Kent, who had been a Grand Master of the Order, was pleased to assure us of his affectionate regard, as well as of the pride with which he looked back to having been a Member of our Society for upwards of thirty-two years, and he declared his readiness to assert, from his own knowledge and experience, that we were faithful and loyal to our Sovereign, to his family, and our country.

Accept, then, most gracious Lady, the homage of our affection, and condescend to receive the pledge which we offer of devotion to your august person.

In the meek, humble, and honest confidence that, as Free Masons, we have not degenerated from our ancient purity, we offer up our supplications at the Throne of the Great Architect and Ruler of the Universe, for the blessings of Heaven to be showered down abundantly on your Royal head.

We pray, that as the wisdom of Providence has selected your Majesty, at an early age, to rule over the destinies of this great empire, so it may continue to direct, assist, and strengthen you in the way of peace, comfort, and happiness. That the same Beneficent and All-ruling Power may crown with success the gracious intentions of your Majesty to promote the welfare of those committed to your care. That your Majesty may be enabled both to rival and to surpass, in splendour and renown, the reigns of your princely predecessors, of Elizabeth, and of Anne. Finally, we pray, that the Throne of your Majesty may be firmly grounded, as it now stands, and be permanently established in the love, the regard, and the gratitude of a free, loyal, and obedient people.

[Presented by the Duke of Sussex.]

No. 10.

To the QUEEN'S Most Excellent Majesty.

The humble Address of the Mayor, Aldermen, and Burgesses of the town, port, and borough of Sandwich, in the county of Kent.

*May it please your Majesty.*

WE, your Majesty's most dutiful and loyal subjects, the Mayor, Aldermen, and Burgesses of this your town, port, and borough of Sandwich, humbly beg leave to approach the Throne with our heartfelt expressions of sympathy and condolence on the melancholy event which has deprived your Majesty and the country of our late most gracious Sovereign.

At the same time, we eagerly embrace this opportunity of offering to your Majesty our sincere congratulations on your happy succession to the Crown of these realms, and of expressing our devoted attachment to your Majesty's Royal House and Person.

We feel assured of the welfare and prosperity of the country under the guidance of a Princess so eminently qualified, by nature and education, to preserve the happiness of all classes of her people; and we earnestly pray Almighty God, that He will be pleased of His mercy and goodness to bless your Majesty with a long and happy reign.

Given under our common seal.

[Presented by a Deputation.]