

We pray that it may please Him by whom kings reign and princes decree judgment, long to preserve your Majesty to be the Defender of the Protestant Faith against every assault from without and every desertion from within, and that under your Majesty's gentle and benignant sway, peace and happiness, truth and justice, religion and piety may be established in these realms.

Signed, by order of Court,

*Henry Alworth Merewether.*

To which Address Her Majesty was pleased to return the following most gracious Answer :

"I receive with much satisfaction your loyal and affectionate Address.

"I heartily concur with you in your grateful acknowledgment of the many blessings conferred upon this highly favoured nation, and in your attachment to the Protestant faith, and to the great principles of civil and religious liberty, in the defence of which the city of London has ever been conspicuous.

"That faith and those principles are so justly dear to the people of this country, that I confidently rely on their cordial support in upholding and maintaining them against any danger with which they may be threatened, from whatever quarter it may proceed."

They were all very graciously received, and had the honour of kissing Her Majesty's hand.

*Windsor Castle, December 10, 1850.*

THIS day the Right Honourable the Lord Mayor, the Aldermen, Recorder, Sheriffs, Common Council, and Officers of the city of London, waited upon Her Majesty with the following Address, which was read by the Right Honourable James-Archibald Stuart-Wortley, M.P. and Q.C. the Recorder, and which Her Majesty was graciously pleased to receive on the Throne :

To the QUEEN'S Most Excellent Majesty.

The humble and dutiful Address of the Lord Mayor, Aldermen, and Commons of the city of London, in Common Council assembled :

*Most Gracious Sovereign,*

WE, your Majesty's loyal and dutiful subjects, the Lord Mayor, Aldermen, and Commons of the city of London, in Common Council assembled, approach your Majesty with renewed assurances of our unalterable attachment to your Majesty's Person and Throne, and to the Constitution by which the Protestant succession in the House of Hanover is secured.

Among the highest blessings for which, under Divine Providence, we are grateful to your Majesty's benign government, we acknowledge the establishment of religious liberty and the preservation of the pure and scriptural worship of the Protestant faith free from all foreign dominion or interference. We have seen therefore with astonishment and indignation the recent publication in this country of a Bull or instrument obtained from the Bishop of Rome, which purports to parcel out this land into pretended dioceses dependent on that see, and has been followed by the assumption under it of titles and powers inconsistent with the rights of your Majesty's crown and the liberties of your people, at variance with the spirit of our

laws, and ignoring the very existence of the Protestant religion within these realms.

Your Majesty's dutiful and loyal subjects, the Corporation of the City of London, have ever been foremost in advocating and promoting the admission of every class of their fellow subjects, including Roman Catholics, to the equal enjoyment of civil rights, without reference to religious distinctions; we hope, therefore, that our present course cannot be attributed to any desire to restrict religious freedom, while we humbly but confidently assure your Majesty, that you may rely on the affectionate and loyal support of the citizens of London in repelling the encroachments now attempted by the servants of a foreign Potentate and Ecclesiastic, who assumes to govern and enthral your Majesty's subjects by usurping the royal powers and prerogative, and pretending to establish independent jurisdictions within your Majesty's dominions.

We are further reluctantly impelled to represent to your Majesty that we have from time to time witnessed with deep regret the gradual introduction of unauthorised innovations in the scriptural worship and ministrations of the Protestant Church of England, and the occasional inculcation by some of her clergy of principles and practices nearly allied to those of Rome, which by exalting the power of the priesthood, in derogation of your Majesty's supremacy as its head, and by reviving forms and ceremonies long disused in the Church, with the general acquiescence of its rulers, have bred unseemly dissensions in the bosom of the Establishment itself, and given, as we believe, great encouragement to the enemies of the Reformed religion.

At this juncture we rely with the fullest confidence upon your Majesty, assisted by your Majesty's constitutional advisers, and aided, if necessary, by the wisdom and authority of Parliament, to enforce the laws and devise means sufficient to vindicate the rights of the Crown, to resist this attempted invasion of our liberties by the see of Rome, and to maintain the purity and integrity of the Protestant faith and worship.

It is our fervent prayer that your Majesty's life may be long spared, and that your Majesty and your Majesty's descendants may continue happy instruments, under God, in securing the inestimable blessings of liberty of person and freedom of conscience to a free, enlightened, and religious people.

Signed, by order of Court,

*Henry Alworth Merewether.*

To which Address Her Majesty was pleased to return the following most gracious Answer :

"I sincerely thank you for your renewed assurances of unaltered attachment to my Person and Throne, and to the Constitution of this country.

"Your tried and consistent advocacy of the equal enjoyment of civil rights by all classes of your fellow subjects, entitles the expression of your sentiments on the present occasion to peculiar consideration.

"You may be assured of my earnest desire and firm determination, under God's blessing, to maintain unimpaired the religious liberty which is justly prized by the people of this country, and to uphold as its surest safeguard the pure and scriptural worship of the Protestant faith, which has long been happily established in this land."

They were all very graciously received, and had the honour of kissing Her Majesty's hand.