

*Guildhall, April 19, 1855.*

THIS day the Right Honourable the Lord Mayor and the Deputation of Aldermen and Common Councilmen of the city of London, waited upon His Imperial Majesty the Emperor of the French with the following Address, which was read by the Right Honourable J. A. Stuart Wortley, M.P., the Recorder, and which His Imperial Majesty was pleased to receive very graciously :

To His Imperial Majesty the EMPEROR of  
The FRENCH.

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

*May it please your Majesty,*

WE, the Lord Mayor, Aldermen, and Commons of the city of London, in Common Council assembled, desire to offer to your Majesty our heartfelt congratulations on the arrival of your Majesty and the Empress of the French in this country, as the guests of our Most Gracious Queen, and, on behalf of our fellow citizens and ourselves, we humbly tender to your Majesties the warmest expression of our gratitude for the welcome visit by which you have deigned to honour our city on this memorable day.

The attention of Europe and the world is already fixed on the attitude of dignity and united strength displayed by France and Great Britain in the present war, and the coming of your Majesty, invited by our beloved Queen, at such a time, will draw closer the bonds of mutual friendship and common interest so happily uniting the two countries.

The cordial alliance of two such mighty Powers, cemented and sealed by intimate and frank intercourse between their rulers, must sway the destinies of all; will abate the pride of our common enemies, increase the confidence of our allies, and give new vigour to our arms.

By the wise policy of your Majesty's reign all our ancient jealousies have been appeased, and the flags of France and England now mingle their colours alike in the Baltic and in the East; ranged together in a righteous cause, braving like hardships, and shedding their blood side by side in victory, the soldiery of our united armies and the seamen of our combined fleets, have learned to regard each other with the love of brave and generous comrades, second only to the love they bear their respective countries; and while such are the feelings of our heroes in the field, we rejoice that sentiments akin to these are growing daily and sinking deeply into the breasts of the people of these great and neighbouring nations.

None can doubt that the allied forces thus animated, led in perfect harmony by commanders of tried skill and valour, and guided by united counsels at home, will achieve by arms the just and unambitious objects of the present war; unless, as we may hope, the efforts of assembled statesmen shall yet avert the calamities of protracted warfare by the speedier negotiation of an honourable and enduring peace.

This cordial reception, therefore, of the chosen and puissant Emperor of the French, by the illustrious Sovereign who reigns over these realms, and lives in the hearts of the British people, we regard as the type of a close and lasting friendship between the two nations, and the happiest augury of a returning time when, undisturbed in the onward course of civilization, the nations of

Europe may again lay aside the sword and resume their exalted rivalry in the works of beneficence alone.

We are earnestly anxious further to express to your Imperial Majesty the lively pleasure and respectful admiration with which we have seen you accompanied on this happy occasion by your illustrious consort, Her Majesty the Empress of the French. We tender to your Majesty the expression of our confident hope that you may ever find in the affections of domestic life the best solace and support which this world can afford under the cares and weight of the high destiny you are now fulfilling with such conspicuous power and moderation; and we fervently pray that life and health may, by the blessing of Providence, be vouchsafed to your Majesties for many years to come.

Signed by order of the Court,

*H. A. Merwether.*

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

*My Lord Mayor,*

AFTER the cordial reception I have experienced from the Queen nothing could affect me more deeply than the sentiments towards the Empress and myself, to which you, my Lord Mayor, have given expression on the part of the city of London; for the city of London represents the available resources which a world wide commerce affords, both for civilization and for war.

Flattering as are your praises, I accept them, because they are addressed much more to France than to myself; they are addressed to a nation whose interests are to day everywhere identical with your own; they are addressed to an army and navy united to yours by an heroic companionship in danger and in glory; they are addressed to the policy of the two Governments, which is based on truth, on moderation, and on justice.

For myself, I have retained on the throne the same sentiment of sympathy and esteem for the English people that I professed as an exile, while I enjoyed here the hospitality of your Queen; and if I have acted in accordance with my convictions, it is that the interest of the nation, which has chosen me, no less than that of universal civilization, has made it a duty. Indeed, England and France are naturally united on all the great questions of politics and of human progress that agitate the world, from the shores of the Atlantic to those of the Mediterranean, from the Baltic to the Black Sea, from the desire to abolish slavery to our hopes for the amelioration of all the countries of Europe. I see, in the moral as in the political world, for our two nations but one course and one end.

It is then only by unworthy considerations and pitiful rivalries that our union could be dissevered; if we follow then the dictates of common sense alone we shall be sure of the future.

You are right in interpreting my presence among you as a fresh and convincing proof of my energetic co-operation in the prosecution of the war if we fail in obtaining an honourable peace. Should we so fail, although our difficulties may be great, we may surely count on a successful result; for not only are our soldiers and sailors of tried valour, not only do our two countries possess within themselves unrivalled resources, but above