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Whitehall, December 1, 1862.

THE following Addresses of Congratulation to the Queen, on the attainment of his Majority by His Royal Highness the Prince of Wales, having been transmitted to the Right Honourable Sir George Grey, Baronet, Her Majesty's Principal Secretary of State for the Home Department, for Presentation, have accordingly been presented by him to Her Majesty, who has been pleased to receive the same very graciously:

To the QUEEN'S Most Excellent Majesty.

May it please your Majesty,

WE, the Mayor, Aldermen, and Burgesses of the borough of Kidderminster, in the county of Worcester, in Council assembled, desire most humbly to approach your Majesty with our loyal and hearty congratulations on the joyful occasion of His Royal Highness the Prince of Wales coming of age.

Impressed with the importance of this auspicious event we hail with peculiar and heartfelt delight this period of your Majesty's reign as affording to your Majesty's loyal subjects an omen of a long continuance of your Illustrious House.

We sincerely pray that His Royal Highness may long be spared to follow the noble example of his late illustrious father, the deeply lamented Prince Consort, and that when divine providence shall see fit to call upon him to rule over England (which event we devoutly pray may be long distant), he will tread in the footsteps of your Most Gracious Majesty, and thus secure the affections of a loyal and faithful people.

Given under our Corporate Common Seal, at Kidderminster, this 10th day of November, 1862.

Wm. Roden, M.D., A.M., Mayor.

And the following on the same subject: from

The Mayor, Aldermen, and Burgesses of the borough of Middlesborough.

The Mayor, Aldermen, and Burgesses of the borough of Stockton, in the county of Durham.

The Provost, Magistrates, and Town Council of the Royal Burgh of Peebles.

Foreign Office, December 2, 1862.

CORRESPONDENCE respecting the Schleswig Holstein Question.

No. 1.

*Earl Russell to Mr. Paget.**

Sir, *Foreign Office, September 24, 1862.*

IT appears from the accounts received from various quarters that the correspondence between Austria, Prussia, and Denmark, which it was asserted would lead to a settlement of the dispute so long subsisting between Germany and Denmark in regard to the obligations of Denmark in the affairs of Holstein, Lauenburg, Schleswig, and the common Constitution of the Danish Monarchy, has grown more and more bitter. The longer the lapse of time, and the further the negotiation is carried, the wider is the space which separates the two parties, and the stronger the language which they use towards each other.

Upon considering, with pain and regret, this unsatisfactory aspect of the affair, and contemplating the unfavourable results which may be expected from further direct communications between Powers so adverse in their opinions, Her Majesty has directed that you should be furnished with instructions which may, it is hoped, tend to the long-desired settlement.

In framing these instructions it is advisable to throw out of the calculation, in the first place, those matters upon which controversy may be said to be exhausted.

The first of these matters relates to the question whether any taxes can be imposed, or any laws enacted, in Holstein or Lauenburg without the express consent of the Representatives of those Duchies.

This question has been resolved in the negative by the German Confederation, of which the Duchies of Holstein and Lauenburg are members.

Another question which need not be further discussed is the Constitution of 1855.

It is clear that whether a representation according to numbers of the Kingdom, as well as the Duchies, be a good or a bad Constitution, yet, not having been accepted by the Duchies, the Constitution of 1855 has no force in Holstein, Lauenburg, or Schleswig.

Neither is it necessary to discuss the rights of Denmark in reference to her Rigsraad. It is

* Identical despatches were addressed on the same day to Mr. Lowther and Mr. Fane.