

measures which have been adopted to secure a general system of education, and the extension of the elective franchise; the increased encouragement given in so many influential quarters to the promotion of habits of temperance and self-restraint amongst the masses of the people. These are but a few amongst the many lessons given us by the half-century now drawing to its close, inviting to thankful recognition and continued persevering effort in the promotion of the great cause of righteousness and truth.

It is in a spirit, we trust, of Christian humility, which we believe will not be misunderstood, that we mingle these our congratulations with the expression of our unfeigned sorrow, that war should have so often disturbed a Reign otherwise so happy and illustrious. It is the King of Kings Himself who pronounces the words, "Love your enemies." We rejoice to know that our beloved Queen has, with her own hand, as a fitting motto for this Jubilee year, commended to her subjects the angelic message announcing His reign, "Peace on Earth, good will towards Men."

Alone, amongst the long line of English Monarchs, it has been Thy peculiar happiness to admit Thy people to a share in the intimacies of Thy domestic life. Permit us to assure Thee that in the review of this eventful period we have not forgotten Thy greatest sorrow. It is our joy to believe that it has pleased the Father of Mercies to grant in no small measure the consolations of His grace in the blessed experience that His chastening is to His children ever a discipline of perfect love.

In the heartfelt conviction that the religion of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ is the only foundation for the true happiness of man, and for the prosperity of nations, it is our fervent prayer that this may continue to be the stability of Thy throne, and to influence all the deliberations of Thy Government; and that when Thy service in this life shall have been accomplished, Thy earthly crown may, in His great mercy, be exchanged for the crown of righteousness "that fadeth not away."

Signed by direction and on behalf of the aforesaid meeting,

By *Richard Littleboy*, Clerk.

To which Address Her Majesty was pleased to return the following Gracious Answer:—

"I thank you for your loyal and dutiful address, and for your affectionate congratulations on the attainment of the Fiftieth Year of My Reign.

"The renewed assurances of the attachment of the Society of Friends to My Throne and Person are very gratifying to me.

"I unite with you in gratitude to Almighty God by whose good Providence so many blessings have been vouchsafed to this nation during My reign, and I pray that the same mercies may be ever continued to My faithful people, and that they may never cease to advance in earthly prosperity and in moral and religious excellence.

Windsor Castle, May 16, 1887.

THIS day the Protestant Dissenting Ministers of the three Denominations residing in and about the cities of London and Westminster, waited upon Her Majesty to present the following Address:—

The Right Honourable Henry Matthews, Secretary of State for the Home Department, was in attendance:

To Her Most Excellent Majesty QUEEN
VICTORIA.

May it please Your Majesty,

The general body of Protestant Dissenting Ministers of the three Denominations (Presbyterian, Independent, and Baptist) residing in and about the cities of London and Westminster, approach the Throne with respectful assurance of its loyalty to Your Majesty, as the honoured head and representative of the Government of the country.

The General Body enjoyed the privilege of offering to Your Majesty sincere congratulations on the auspicious occasion of Your Majesty's accession to the Throne; joining with many in the prayer to Almighty God that the Reign then begun might be happy and lengthened, and that Your Majesty might receive all needed Grace from on High in connection with the unknown vicissitudes of its course.

Moved by like feelings, the body of to-day unites in fervently thanking the Giver of all Good that the reign of Your Majesty has been prolonged to this year of Jubilee, and that under sore personal trials, frequently repeated, including the severest a devoted wife could know, Your Majesty has been enabled to manifest such a spirit that rule has become more and more that of loving influence upon the hearts and affections of a sympathizing people.

This body of earnest Protestant Dissenters recall with interest and satisfaction words used by Your Majesty in the gracious Reply given to the loyal Address of its representatives in 1837,— "I shall always respect the rights of conscience,"—and gratefully acknowledges that the words have ever been made good by deed. It has, among other things, noted the ready assent given by Your Majesty to measures that had passed the Houses of Legislature tending in the direction of religious equality.

This body of Christian Ministers earnestly beseeches the Lord of All that Your Majesty's pure and beneficent Reign may still be long continued, and that its spirit may pass into the rule of the future occupants of the Throne, and prays that when the work and trial of earth are over, Your Majesty may in peace enter into the Heavenly Kingdom through the merits of Jesus Christ, to be by His hands crowned with life everlasting.

To which address Her Majesty was pleased to return the following Gracious Answer:—

"I THANK you for your loyal and affectionate Address.

"It is most gratifying for Me to receive from the General Body of Protestant Dissenting Ministers such warm declarations of continued loyalty and devotion on the attainment of the Fiftieth Year of My Reign.

"I recall, with satisfaction, the assurances of respect for the rights of conscience which I gave to all My subjects at the beginning of My Reign; and I now repeat the like assurances with the full conviction, confirmed by experience, of the beneficial results which flow from a large and generous toleration extended to every form of earnest religious belief."

Windsor Castle, May 16, 1887.

THIS day the Protestant Dissenting Ministers of the Presbyterian Denomination, residing in and near the Cities of London and Westminster, waited upon Her Majesty to present the following Address, which was handed to Her Majesty:—