

and confidence as to appeal to the mind and conscience of the nation. We believe that this our hope will be advanced if it should presently be found possible so to reform the constitution of the ancient Houses of Convocation as to make them more really representative of those on whose behalf they speak. The Lower Houses would thus sustain with increased efficiency the tasks which have been committed to them in the past, and enter freely and fully into the wideing work which lies before them in the future.

It is the mission and privilege of the Church to serve the poor; we thankfully trust that in many of the poorest parts of our great towns that mission and privilege are being exercised with faithfulness and devotion, and we believe that the deep trials which great poverty involves come home with especial force to those whose office brings them into direct relation to such work. With especial gratitude, therefore, we thank Your Majesty for the appointment of a Royal Commission to investigate thoroughly the urgent and difficult problem of the poverty which weighs heavily on multitudes of our fellow countrymen.

In many of our parishes the Clergy have long been burdened with anxiety by reason of the great reduction of their income through the depreciation of land, the low price of agricultural produce, and the consequent fall in the value of tithe. We can assure Your Majesty that there are many cases in which this anxiety brings real distress into our brethren's homes; and we are sure of Your Majesty's generous sympathy with our earnest desire that the burden may be lightened, and with any well-considered effort which may be made to lighten it.

In Your Majesty's gracious speech at the opening of Parliament it was announced to us that a Bill will be laid before the Houses of Parliament for amending the existing law with regard to education in England and Wales. The tradition of the Church, and the labours of those who have gone before us, bind us to a constant care for the great work of education, and we wish to assure Your Majesty that we are heartily willing to do the best we can so to advance and improve the education of all classes that all may bear their part usefully, faithfully, and religiously for the welfare of the realm. We trust that we shall be found ready to labour to the utmost in that effort for the amendment of national education to which Your Majesty's words have bidden us; always guarding steadfastly those principles which we believe to be essential to the right training of the children of a Christian country.

We pray that the Blessing of Almighty God may for Christ's sake be ever with Your Majesty.

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

"I receive with much gratification your loyal and dutiful Address, and I thank you heartily for your renewed assurance of devotion and attachment to My Throne and Person as well as for your condolence and sympathy in the great sorrow which has befallen The Queen and Myself and My Family through the lamented death of My beloved Father-in-Law the King of Denmark.

"I recall with deep thankfulness to Almighty God My merciful restoration to health from the illness which delayed My Coronation. The anxiety of all classes of My Subjects for My recovery, and their touching tributes of affection

deeply moved Me and will remain an undying memory and a ceaseless source of gratification to Me.

"It is ever, as you know, My earnest desire to do all in My power to contribute towards the maintenance of peace and tranquility throughout the world, and to foster that spirit of goodwill and charity which is characteristic of our holy religion. I share your thankfulness for the peace which has prevailed in Europe throughout My reign, and I rely upon the Christian sentiment of My people for supporting the pacific policy which has consistently guided My counsels. I trust that the visits of the Prince and Princess of Wales to the Colonies and to India will contribute to the maintenance of the concord that reigns throughout My Dominions and will, as you hope, strengthen the bonds of loyalty and affection which unite the people of My Empire.

"I learn with satisfaction of the measures of reform which have been introduced and are contemplated for extending the usefulness of the Church. You may be assured that it will ever be My wish to promote all measures which may tend to encourage the spread of religion and to render the Church an increasingly efficient instrument for promoting the spiritual welfare of My people. I hope that these objects may be furthered by the constitution of the new body to which you refer—the Representative Church Council—and by any proposals for the reform of the ancient Houses of Convocation which gain your approval, and that the blessing of Almighty God may rest upon your labours.

"I rejoice with you in observing the increasing zeal, faithfulness, and devotion manifested by the Clergy and the Laity in ministering to the needs of the poor, and I trust that the Commission which I have appointed to inquire into the problems of the relief of the poor and the distress arising from want of employment may be able to find some means of ameliorating the conditions resulting in the distress which weighs so heavily on many of My poorer subjects.

"I much regret that many of the Clergy are suffering from the effects of the agricultural depression which has been prevalent for so many years. On all matters that concern the welfare of the Church of England you may rest assured of My continued sympathy and interest.

"I am well aware of the great work which has been accomplished by the Church in the advancement and improvement of education, and I feel assured that your efforts for the continuance of this work, which have in the past borne such good fruit, will not be relaxed.

"I thank you for your prayers on My behalf, and I earnestly hope that by the Divine blessing prosperity may be abundantly bestowed on the Church of Christ and its labours, not only within this Kingdom but also in My Dominions beyond the seas, and that your zealous endeavours in the cause of true religion may tend to establish our national welfare on the surest foundations, and to promote the permanent happiness and highest interests of all classes of My people."

Address adopted by the Convocation of the Province of York, on the 22nd February, 1906

To The KING'S Most Excellent Majesty.
The Humble Address of the Convocation of the Province of York.

May it please Your Majesty.

We, Your Majesty's loyal and dutiful subjects, the Archbishop, Bishops, and Clergy of the Province of York in Convocation assembled, approach