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FRIDAY, 21 FEBRUARY, 1930.

Whitehall, February 19th, 1930.

The following Addresses were laid before
The KING on the 28th August, 1929:—

CONVOCAATION OF CANTERBURY.

TO THE KING'S MOST EXCELLENT MAJESTY.

WE, Your Majesty's loyal and faithful subjects, the Archbishop, Bishops, and Clergy of the Province of Canterbury, in Convocation assembled, approach Your Majesty with dutiful assurance of our devotion to Your Majesty's Throne and Person.

The opportunity of presenting an Address to Your Majesty afforded by the Opening of a new Convocation is to us a precious privilege. It reminds us and others of the peculiar place and responsibility which still happily belong to the Church of England in the common life of this Realm. It reminds us no less of Your Majesty's constant care for that Church's well-being and for its faithfulness to its proper tasks.

His late Majesty King Edward the Seventh directed in 1906 that Letters of Business be issued authorising us to debate, consider, consult and agree upon various matters, and among them the desirability, form and contents of any modifications of the existing law relating to the conduct of Divine Service. In April, 1920, the Convocation of Canterbury made answer that they had accordingly agreed upon certain recommendations contained in certain Schedules humbly submitted to Your Majesty, but that they were of opinion that

the changes which they recommended should not at that time be introduced into the text of the existing Book of Common Prayer, but be embodied in another volume to be sanctioned by Authority for optional use for such period as might thereafter be determined. In accordance with this Resolution, action was taken in the National Assembly of the Church of England later in 1920, and with the consent of the Convocations two successive Prayer Book Measures were subsequently introduced and passed through all their stages in that Assembly. But neither of these Measures was approved by the House of Commons, and neither was in consequence submitted for Your Majesty's Royal Assent.

It is a disappointment to us that we are thus unable to report to Your Majesty the issue to our labours in the Revision of the Forms and Ordering of our Public Worship, which the Church Assembly with the consent of the Convocations desired. But, as far as in us lies, we shall strive to find a way through our present difficulties without bitterness and without impatience.

During the last few years and by the co-operation of the Church Assembly and Parliament Your Majesty's Royal Assent has been given to many notable Measures designed to improve the conditions under which the clergy live and work, to provide for their support in old age and to insure that, as far as possible, the flock of Christ shall not suffer through the conduct of those who are called to attend it.