

the termination of the War in which your Majesty has been engaged.

We recall to mind, with deep thankfulness to Providence and strong affection to your Majesty, the tranquillity and prosperity which the Empire had enjoyed during the previous part of your Majesty's auspicious reign, and we cannot doubt that those years will be reckoned among the happiest portions of English history.

Yet it will not fail to be regarded as an addition to the glories and benefits of that reign, that it included a War, undertaken for the maintenance of right and justice, and the security of future generations; carried on with a courage and energy, on the part of your Majesty's soldiers and sailors, which no age or Nation has surpassed; softened by truly Christian ministrations to its victims; marked by the extinction of ancient enmities and rivalries; and ending in a satisfactory settlement of the questions for which it was begun:—a Peace truly glorious to the Nation, as being free from any impress of selfish purpose.

That this glory should have been added to the peaceful blessings of your Majesty's reign at the cost of only two years of war, we esteem a peculiar felicity, on which we beg leave to offer our warmest congratulations. In proportion as we look upon War as a condition which, even when necessary, is deplorable, and even when successful is calamitous, we are deeply thankful to the goodness of God which has spared us the continuance of such a state, and put a speedy end to its concomitant evils.

May the Providence, which has hitherto been so gracious, continue its favour to your Majesty in all the events, public and domestic, in which your Majesty is concerned, and preserve and bless you through a long series of peaceful and happy years.

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

"I receive with sincere gratification your loyal and dutiful address.

"I fully share your feelings of thankfulness to Divine Providence for the many blessings with which this Country has been favoured both in Peace and War.

"While I heartily appreciate the zeal and resolution of my people in the prosecution of a just War, the distinguished courage and endurance of my soldiers and sailors who have been engaged in it, and the signal examples which it has afforded of a truly Christian charity in ministering to the sick, the suffering, and the bereaved, I accept with unfeigned satisfaction your congratulations on the attainment of the objects with which the War was undertaken, and I trust that the Peace which has been concluded with the concurrence of all the Great Powers of Europe will long continue to promote the happiness of my people, and the welfare and best interests of mankind."

BUCKINGHAM PALACE, June 6, 1856.

THIS day the Protestant Dissenting Ministers of the Presbyterian Denomination of the cities of London and Westminster waited upon Her Majesty to present to Her Majesty the following Address, which Her Majesty was graciously pleased to receive on the Throne:—

To The QUEEN'S Most Excellent Majesty.

*May it please your Majesty,*

WE, your Majesty's dutiful and loyal subjects, the Protestant Dissenting Ministers of the Pres-

byterian Denomination, residing in and about the cities of London and Westminster, in the exercise of a privilege enjoyed by our predecessors from the Revolution to the present day, approach the Throne with sentiments of devoted attachment, to offer to your Majesty our sincere congratulations on the Peace which has terminated what we believe to have been a just and necessary War, and which we rejoice to think is honourable, and fervently hope may endure.

We recall with patriotic pride the unanimity of sentiment, the zeal and devotedness in your Majesty's service, and the cheerful readiness to bear increased burdens, which pervaded all classes of the community through the costly and sanguinary conflict in which we have been engaged, and from which we now retire with a profounder consciousness of national strength and national security. The short trial of War has taught us the inestimable value of Peace, and rendered us more deeply sensible of those social blessings which can only be enjoyed under a free Government, and under a wise and enlightened rule.

We have been touched with your Majesty's personal sympathy in the sufferings, and interest in the welfare, of your brave soldiers; your Majesty could give no better pledge that nothing but a solemn sense of duty could induce your Majesty to encounter the terrible evils of War.

With the return of Peace, fostered by the influence and encouraged by the example of your Majesty and your Majesty's Illustrious Consort, may the industry which enriches, the art which adorns, the knowledge which enlightens, and the religion which sanctifies a Nation, spring up with a new life in the midst of us. May impartial legislation draw all ranks and all sects into closer union with each other. Long may your Majesty be permitted to uphold by a high moral influence a just and righteous Peace among the Nations of the earth; but should War ever become again an unhappy necessity of your reign, we have full confidence that your Majesty will be found then, as now, at the head of a free and united people, calmly but energetically sustaining those eternal principles of justice and humanity on which alone can permanently rest the tranquillity of Nations and the stability of Thrones.

In conclusion, we fervently offer up our prayers to the Sovereign Disposer of all Good, that He would be pleased to shower down every blessing, public and private, on your Majesty, on your Majesty's Illustrious Consort, on your Children, and on every Member of your Royal House.

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

"I thank you sincerely for the loyal and dutiful Address which you have presented to me on the happy occasion of the termination of a War undertaken from a deep sense of its justice and necessity, and conducted to an honourable and satisfactory termination, with the zealous, patriotic, and unanimous support of my people.

"I am deeply sensible of the gratitude we owe to Divine Providence for restoring to us the inestimable blessings of Peace, and I fervently pray that, based as I believe this Peace to be on the principles of justice and humanity, it will long continue to foster and promote those high interests with which the happiness and welfare of mankind are so essentially connected."