

Your Royal Mind, and afford to the Country the surest Pledge that the Wisdom of Your Royal Highness's Councils will secure to us a Continuance of those Blessings, and of that Freedom and security, which, under the benign and prosperous Reign of Your Royal Father, it hath pleased the Almighty that we should so long have enjoyed, and which have rendered these Kingdoms so pre-eminently happy amidst the Ruin of surrounding Nations.

Given under our Common Seal this 19th of March 1811.

[Presented by Sir Leonard Worsley Homes, Bart. one of the Representatives in Parliament for the said Borough.]

To the PRINCE REGENT.

The dutiful Address of the Inhabitants of the Town and Suburbs of Paisley.

May it please Your Royal Highness,

WE, with most sincere Attachment to your Person and Interests, as will appear from the undisguised and upright Sentiments impressed upon our Hearts.

It is with the most lively Emotions of Sympathy we commiserate Your Royal Highness on the late melancholy Event which induced the Two Houses of Parliament to place in your Hands the Reins of Government.

At the same Time we observed, with marked Indignation, the Conduct of the Servants of the King Your Father, who annihilated in your Person, for a Time, some of the distinguished Prerogatives of the Regal Power, derogatory to your Character as a Man and injurious as a Prince—Restrictions which we consider as altogether unnecessary when we reflect on the much-admired filial Affection and other amiable Virtues of Your Royal Highness.

Thoroughly convinced that your Mind is actuated by every Principle which is truly noble, generous, and good; and that your superior Wisdom has preserved you free from the Fetters of any Party.

We presume to lay before Your Royal Highness Grievances which we hope, from your known Complaisance, will meet with that Attention which the Importance of the Subject demands.

The general Shock which public Credit has received throughout the Nation, and the numerous Bankruptcies which have taken place in consequence of that Shock, has produced in our Minds Sensations in the highest Degree alarming; that Confidence so essentially necessary in a commercial Country is entirely gone, and nothing but impending Ruin stares us in the Face. Almost every Description of Society is labouring under Privations unexampled in the Annals of our History; and Numbers who were formerly in very easy Circumstances are reduced to the sad Alternative of receiving Relief from the Benevolence of their more opulent Neighbours.

Under Circumstances so afflicting we observed, with the deepest Concern, that in a select Committee of the House of Commons, it was reported that the low State of Trade has arisen chiefly from wild Speculations entered into by our Merchants to South America; we also observed that the said Report mentions other Causes which led to this Depression, without explaining them.

We are of Opinion that no Evil can be remedied

without particular Attention being paid to the Origin of that Evil; and it appears evident to us that the accumulated, and still accumulating, Distress proceeds from the Exclusion of our Commerce from the Continent of Europe. We are fully aware that the shutting of the Continent against us was the Result of our Orders in Council and the blockading System, a Scheme highly impolitic and dreadfully prejudicial to the Interests of Commerce, and which affords irrefragable Proof of the blind Policy adopted by an imbecile Administration, whose public Conduct shew them utterly incompetent for managing the weighty Affairs of a great Empire.

It was this same System which shut the Continent of North America against us; and, if still persisted in, will in all Probability end in a Rupture with that Country, and render our Condition still more alarming.

We deeply lament the long Continuance of the War in which we are involved, carried on at a vast Expence of Blood and Treasure, and daily adding to our already enormous Taxation, Burthens too heavy for us to bear, without the smallest Prospect of attaining the End for which it was undertaken.

Although these corroding Evils prey deeply on the very Vitals of the Constitution, they are but the Effect of a System, which, if still persevered, will in the End destroy that venerable Edifice, once the Pride and Glory of Britons, reared by the Wisdom and sealed with the Blood of our Ancestors.

It is a System that has its Origin in Corruption, and consigns to Infamy all who come within the Sphere of its Attraction; its primary Object is Oppression and Injustice, alike hostile to the true Interests of the Crown, and subversive of the just Rights and Liberties of the Subjects.

It is the Source of Wars, unnecessary and unjust, destructive to the Happiness and fraught with Misery to the Human Race. Under the Influence of this baneful System, the established Laws of the Realm have been evaded. And, in a late Instance, when two of His Majesty's Cabinet Ministers were charged before the House of Commons with trafficking for Seats in Parliament, which was offered to be substantiated by Evidence at the Bar of their House, it was rejected by a Majority of its Members, because "the Frequency of the Practice was as notorious as the Sun at Noonday."

Men of great Talents, eminent Virtue, and superior Wisdom, may give a temporary Relief, but it is only by a Change of System that a permanent and radical Cure can be effected; and that Change can only be accomplished by granting to the People an adequate Share in the Representation of their Country, founded on the eternal Basis of Justice, fair, free, and equal.

As a preliminary Step to the Attainment of these desirable Objects, we would hail with Joy the Dismissal of those Men from your Councils who are unworthy of your Confidence, and the happy Selection of Men of Virtue and Talents, who might be the means of restoring the Blessings of Peace and Commerce to a brave, loyal, and affectionate People.

In Name and by Appointment of the Meeting,
(Signed) James Davies, President.
John M. Naught, Secretary.

Paisley, 30th March 1811.

[Presented by Lord Archibald Hamilton.]

