



The London Gazette.

Published by Authority.

From Saturday, December 5, to Tuesday, December 8, 1812.

Lord Chamberlain's Office, December 8, 1812.

NOTICE is hereby given, that the Levee intended to have been held by His Royal Highness the Prince Regent, at Carlton-House, on Thursday, is postponed till Monday next the 14th instant, at two o'clock.

THE following Address has been presented to His Royal Highness the Prince Regent; which Address His Royal Highness was pleased to receive very graciously:

To His Royal Highness George Prince of Wales, REGENT of the British Empire.

WE, His Majesty's dutiful and loyal subjects, the Protestants of the county of Westmeath, most humbly approach his throne with our sincere assurance of fidelity, devotion, and attachment to his sacred person, and to his government of these united Kingdoms, as directed by your Royal Highness.

Deploring, as we do, that calamity which has rendered it necessary to transfer from our beloved and revered Monarch the exercise of the royal duties, we nevertheless feel it a subject of gratitude to the Almighty Disposer of events, and of loyal congratulation to our fellow subjects, that the administration of affairs should have been vested in your Royal Highness; whose government in this most difficult and awful crisis, has been marked by the steady maintenance and support of those most sacred principles of our constitution, which have placed your illustrious house on the throne of these realms, and which (under the blessing of Providence) have exalted them to a degree of liberty, prosperity, and public happiness, unparalleled in the history of nations.

Zealously attached to these principles, we most dutifully approach your Royal Highness, and respectfully submit our opinions upon one of the many important points which now press forward for consideration.

Unwilling to agitate the public mind, or to increase the already too great ferment created by repeated discussions and declarations from various quarters, upon the claims of our Roman Catholic fellow subjects, we have hitherto abstained from the public expression of our sentiments upon this most interesting subject; but when we see lan-

guage of petition converted into that of demand, when that which was requested humbly as a boon, is required peremptorily as a right, we deem it a duty we owe to our country, ourselves, and our posterity, to assemble, and thus make public declaration of our sentiments and feelings; and the more so, as it has actually been assumed and asserted (even in Parliament), that the great body of Protestants in Ireland are favourable to the unqualified removal and repeal of all disabilities now affecting the Roman Catholics.

We are influenced by no illiberal or bigotted spirit of exclusion or oppression; most gladly should we accede to the extension of every privilege, the removal of every disability, consistent with the perfect safety of those establishments in Church and State, under which we have enjoyed security and increasing prosperity for so long a period.

But when the Roman Catholics allow themselves to be urged on to claim unqualified concession, unmodified extension of every privilege, at the same time refusing to submit their establishment to those wholesome ties, by which ours is connected with the State, we then deem it our duty to declare, that such extension of privilege is absolutely incompatible with the spirit and security of the British constitution, especially as tending to subvert the Protestant settlement of this country, on which we are convinced the connexion between Great Britain and Ireland, and ultimately the security of the empire, depends.

We further beg leave to submit to your Royal Highness our firm hope, that should it be deemed proper to repeal any part of those laws which now impose restriction or disability on the Roman Catholics, such repeal may be so guarded, as to afford full and perfect security to our establishment, which we consider vitally interwoven with the welfare and stability of the Protestant state, and to protect it from all dangerous innovations and encroachments.

We dutifully and gratefully approach your Royal Highness as our guardian and our protector; and we place the most implicit reliance and perfect confidence on your Royal Highness's character, firmness, and constancy, which have been proved to be superior to the specious delusions of theory, the