

we behold him counselling and abetting the cause of the Infidel.

Whatever important questions may arise between the legal protectors of the public peace, and its dangerous disturbers, we can with the most perfect confidence leave to the just decision of our established tribunals; and we as confidently trust, that under the guidance and protection of the Almighty Disposer of all events, who has so triumphantly conducted us through all the dangers and difficulties of a most perilous war, our Constitutional Parliament, now so wisely assembled by your Royal Highness, in the name and on the behalf of His Majesty, at this eventful period, will adopt such prompt and salutary measures, as, with the assent of your Royal Highness,—whilst they preserve to a free and loyal people, the sacred right of petition lawfully exercised,—will effectually prevent all those menacing meetings, which, under the mask of pretended petitions, give publicity to the most revolutionary principles, and strike at the root of all that affords life and vigour to the wealth, virtue, and happiness of our native land.

Anthony J. Cox, Mayor.

Harwich, Nov. 23, 1819.

[Presented by the Right Hon. the Chancellor of the Exchequer, and the Right Hon. Ch. B. Bathurst.]

To His Royal Highness, the Prince of Wales,
REGENT of the United Kingdom.

May it please your Royal Highness,

WE, His Majesty's most dutiful subjects, the Nobility, Magistrates, Gentry, Clergy and Freeholders of the County of Cumberland, contemplating with deep anxiety the situation of the Country, feel it our duty thus humbly to tender to your Royal Highness, together with every sentiment of respectful affection towards his Majesty and your Royal Highness, the assurance of our constant and zealous devotion to the Constitution in Church and State, as by law happily established within these Realms. Superfluous as such an assurance might be justly deemed, under ordinary circumstances, we trust it will not appear unbecoming at a period marked by efforts openly employed with an activity, a perseverance and a boldness unknown but in the worst times of our history; to mislead to the ruin of themselves and their Country, a great portion of his Majesty's Subjects, and under the specious pretence of reform, and the restoration of the constitution, to inculcate principles of the most dangerous innovation, tending only to its inevitable subversion, while the treasonable intention of insuring by force the effect and success of these principles, is hardly disguised.—Unworthy indeed should we be of the name of Englishmen, unworthy the eminent blessings we enjoy, if, at such a moment, we did not avow and proclaim at every hazard our determination to defend and preserve the sacred Institutions from which they are all derived.

The public distress first artfully turned to excite popular passion, since kept up and exasperated in assemblages of the people, frequent and numerous almost beyond example, the character of those assemblies, the resolutions issuing from them,

the circumstances peculiarly distinguishing them and the doctrines promulgated and insisted upon, the audacious abuse of the liberty of the press, flagitiously perverted to root from the minds of Englishmen every sentiment of respect for the laws, of reverence for religion, of duty to the Sovereign, and of allegiance to the State, can leave to no unprejudiced man a doubt of the ultimate purpose to which the machinations of disaffection are systematically directed, or any other duty to a loyal subject than that of devoting all his powers to render it abortive.

Confiding in the sound reason and uncorrupted hearts of a great majority of our countrymen, we entertain no apprehensions of the result of a contest (come when it may), between the friends and enemies of the Constitution; at the same time we are forced to regret the encouragement and advantage the disaffected cannot fail to derive from the proceedings of some who, we are willing to believe, have far other intentions, which, by their obvious tendency to augment the existing irritation on the public feeling, incalculably aggravate the danger and difficulty of the Country.

While we lament, with a sincerity equal to those who have been loudest in their declamations on the subject, the lives lost at Manchester, and yield to none in the estimation in which we hold as one of the best safeguards of our liberties, the invaluable and undoubted right of petition, we confidently leave it to the regular Tribunals, which we believe fully competent to decide on the merits of transactions which have recently occurred, and to fix on those to whom it justly belongs, the heavy responsibility of having insulted the laws, and invaded the real rights of the people. In doing this, however, we cannot overlook or abstain from reprobating the attempts to misrepresent and exaggerate the circumstances that took place, evidently designed to anticipate the judgment of the case, and to preclude the Magistracy from every chance of justice, by exhibiting them as objects of popular indignation, which, in proportion as they are successful, must have the effect of suppressing in other instances all zeal in the discharge of the magisterial functions, from which the Country has derived so much advantage, and to which it is indebted for so great a portion of its internal peace and safety.

We beg humbly to express our satisfaction at the determination your Royal Highness has announced of speedily resorting to the advice of your Parliament. On your Royal Highness's wisdom, assisted by that advice, and the proceedings emanating therefrom, we place under Providence our firmest hope, and to them we cheerfully commit ourselves and our interests; not doubting that the measures adopted will be the means of guarding and long preserving to us against all the attacks of impiety and treason, the laws, the religion and the estimable blessings of our free and happy Constitution.

[Presented by the Earl of Lonsdale, K. G.]

To his Royal Highness the PRINCE REGENT.

May it please your Royal Highness,

WE, the Nobility, Magistrates, Gentry, Clergy and Freeholders of the County of Westmorland, feel it our peculiar duty, at this period, to offer to