



The London Gazette.

Published by Authority.

SATURDAY, JANUARY 20, 1821.

THE following Addresses, having been transmitted to Viscount Sidmouth, one of His Majesty's Principal Secretaries of State, by the several persons whose names are respectively subjoined to each Address, were presented by His Lordship to His Majesty, who was pleased to receive the same very graciously :

To the KING's Most Excellent Majesty.

May it please your Majesty,

WE, your Majesty's dutiful and loyal subjects, the Bishop, Archdeacon and Clergy of the County Palatine of Durham, having seen an Address purporting to be an Address to your Majesty, from "a Meeting of the Nobility, Gentry, Clergy, and Freeholders," of this County, feel it incumbent on us to declare that we abstained from attending at that meeting, and that we disclaim all participation in its proceedings.

If those proceedings had been confined to the only object for which the meeting was called, widely as our real opinions differ from them, it might be sufficient for us simply to record our dissent ; but since other high matters, the general state of the nation, grievances of various kinds under which it is said to labour, and the disastrous consequences to be apprehended from them to the power and tranquility of the empire, matters not in any way included in the proper business of the day, form a large and prominent part of the Address to your Majesty ; we cannot content ourselves without protesting against even the semblance of a right in persons convened for a very different object, to answer to your Majesty on these grave subjects, for the sentiments of any but themselves.

Very different, Sir, is the view we take of the real dangers of the times ; instead of dreading any "disastrous consequences" from the measures of your Majesty's paternal Government, we do indeed see cause of alarm and of profound affliction in the successful attempts of evil-minded men, by reviling and misrepresenting all those measures, to seduce the lower orders of your Majesty's subjects from their allegiance.

Much, doubtless, of the mischief has been caused

by the rashness of headstrong declaimers, heedless or ignorant of the tendency of their own folly ; but much, likewise, (it cannot and ought not to be dissembled), must be ascribed to the too prevailing apathy of wiser and better men. While war raged around us the awakened energy of the nation repressed the hopes, if it silenced not the murmurs, of the disaffected ; but when, by the blessing of Providence, the anxious struggle with our foreign enemy was closed by the proudest series of triumphs which history records, security unnerved the vigorous and manly feeling which danger had excited ; the good were too ready to surrender themselves to the enjoyment of well-earned repose, and the bad were prompt to convert even the fruits of our constancy into snares for our destruction.

From that period, during the course of more than five turbulent years, every evil principle has pursued its career with increased and increasing boldness ; secret conspiracy and open violence have by turns invaded public peace ; the liberty of the press, the dearest possession of freemen, has been prostituted to the base uses of sedition, leagued with blasphemy and infidelity ; every topic which can mislead the judgment or inflame the passions of the multitude has been enforced, in all the varied forms of exaggeration or falsehood. Not only the imputed errors or deficiencies of human policy, but even the inflictions of Providence and the irresistible course of nature have all been employed with rancorous malignity, as means of exciting the populace to defiance of the laws, and hatred of their rulers.

But it is not the populace alone in whom the evil spirit of the times has wrought its baneful work ; we have seen, with feelings which we forbear to express, men of exalted rank and distinguished talents fostering and stimulating the discontents of the multitude ; availing themselves of delusions which they despise, and of vices which they reprobate, to forward the miserable objects of party ambition. We have seen in the highest places, instances of turbulence and contempt of lawful authority, which would disgrace the lowest.

These lamentable indications of corruption, these real grounds of anxious apprehension cannot have escaped the notice of the most careless observer,