

administration of them, and in the caution and the prudence of the public; but no legislative regulation should be omitted which can increase and ensure the stability of establishments upon which commercial credit so much depends.

My Lords, and Gentlemen,

His Majesty has more especially commanded us to bring under notice the state of Ireland, and the wisdom of adopting all such measures as may improve the condition of that part of the United Kingdom. His Majesty recommends to your early consideration the present constitution of the municipal corporations of that country, the laws which regulate the collection of tithes, and the difficult but pressing question of establishing some legal provision for the poor, guarded by prudent regulations, and by such precautions against abuse as your experience and knowledge of the subject enable you to suggest.

His Majesty commits these great interests into your hands, in the confidence that you will be able to frame laws in accordance with the wishes of His Majesty and the expectations of His people. His Majesty is persuaded, that should this hope be fulfilled, you will not only contribute to the welfare of Ireland, but strengthen the law and constitution of these realms, by securing their benefits to all classes of His Majesty's subjects.

By the KING,

A. PROCLAMATION.

WILLIAM R.

WHEREAS by an Act, passed in the sixth year of Our reign, intituled "An Act to provide for the regulation of municipal corporations in England and Wales," it is, amongst other things, enacted, that if the inhabitant householders of any town or borough in England and Wales shall petition Us to grant to them a charter of incorporation, it shall be lawful for Us, by any such charter (if we shall think fit, by advice of Our Privy Council, to grant the same) to extend to the inhabitants of any such town or borough within the district to be set forth in such charter, the powers and provisions in the said Act contained: provided, nevertheless, that notice of every such petition, and of the time when it shall please Us to order that the same be taken into consideration by Our Privy Council, shall be published by Royal Proclamation in the London Gazette one month at least before such petition shall be so considered:

And whereas, the inhabitant householders of the town and parish of Ramsgate, in the county of Kent, have presented a petition to Us, setting forth therein, amongst other things, that the town and parish of

Ramsgate, wherein there are three acting justices of the peace, who are appointed by the Lord Warden of the Cinque Ports, one of whom only constantly resides there, is a limb of the town and port of Sandwich, one of the Cinque Ports, and within the liberties thereof, which latter place contains only about three thousand souls:

And further, that the town of Ramsgate is at present governed by two local Acts, made and passed in the twenty-fifth and thirty-sixth years of the reign of His late Majesty King George the Third, the one intituled "An Act for the better paving, cleansing, repairing, lighting, cleaning, and watching the highway, streets and lanes of and in the vill of Ramsgate, in the county of Kent, and for removing and preventing annoyances therein, and for erecting a market-house and holding a public market in the said vill;" and the other intituled "An Act to enlarge the powers of the last-mentioned Act;" which said two several Acts, from the lapse of time, the greatly increased population, and extent of the town (which, in the year one thousand eight hundred and twenty-seven, was, by an Act of Parliament, separated from the parish of Saint Lawrence, and made a distinct parish), and its altered circumstances, are wholly insufficient for the purpose intended and therein set forth:

And further, that the undersigned, most dutiful and loyal subjects, the inhabitant householders of the town and parish of Ramsgate, are desirous of being incorporated by charter, agreeably to the provisions of the first recited Act, inasmuch as the population of the town and parish of Ramsgate amounts, at present, to about nine thousand souls, and during a great part of the year, very many strangers resort thereto:

And further, that the said town of Ramsgate has an extensive harbour for the accommodation and protection of English and Foreign ships, and their crews, who frequently take shelter there, in great numbers, to the amount, sometimes, of between three and four hundred sail of vessels:

And further, that the population of the town and parish of Ramsgate, being oftentimes greatly increased, from the several causes above related, the petitioners most humbly beg to shew the necessity for a strong and vigilant government, such as the powers conferred by the Municipal Corporation Act would furnish them with, thereby enabling them to regulate and maintain the peace and quiet of their town, and to afford protection and security to the lives and property of all:

And further, that the petitioners, being also desirous of having a commission of the peace assigned to their town, for the convenient and speedy administration of justice, humbly beg to show that to subject them to the authority of justices of the peace to be assigned to a town (Sandwich) in the one case, seven miles distant, and in the other (Dover), twenty-one miles distant, would be a great grievance and inconvenience, putting them to much expence and trouble:

The petitioners, therefore, most humbly pray, that under the circumstances above stated, and from the increasing population and prosperity of the town of Ramsgate, We would be graciously pleased, by the advice of Our Privy Council, to grant them a charter