

*Buckingham-Palace, March 21, 1839.*

THIS day the Right Honourable the Lord Mayor, the Aldermen, Recorder, Sheriffs, Common Council, and Officers, of the City of London waited upon Her Majesty with the following Address and Petition, which was read by the Honourable Charles Ewan Law, the Recorder, and which Her Majesty was graciously pleased to receive on the Throne :

To the QUEEN's Most Excellent Majesty.

The humble Address and Petition of the Lord Mayor, Aldermen, and Commons of the City of London, in Common Council assembled.

*Most Gracious Sovereign,*

WE, your Majesty's most loyal and dutiful subjects, the Lord Mayor, Aldermen, and Commons of the City of London, in Common Council assembled, humbly approach your Majesty, with feelings of unshaken confidence, to solicit your Majesty's aid and protection against a measure, now pending in Parliament, in violation of our most sacred rights and privileges, being assured from your Majesty's most gracious Declaration, in the Guildhall of your ancient City of London, of your Majesty's regard for the great commercial community, the Metropolis of your Empire.

Prior to the Norman conquest the Citizens of London possessed and exercised the important right and privilege of electing their own Magistrates, and of providing, by rules and regulations made by their own municipal authorities, for the protection of their property, and for the preservation of the peace within the City, by the appointment of proper Officers for keeping Watch and Ward within the same.

King William the First, by His Charter, granted and secured to the Citizens of London, the integrity of their rights, customs, and franchises as fully and freely as they were enjoyed in the days of King Edward the Confessor.

Under the said Charter the Citizens of London continued to exercise these rights and privileges, and the same have been confirmed by repeated Charters of your Majesty's Royal Predecessors.

The ancient rights and privileges of London were arbitrarily invaded by a colourable judgment in a *Quo Warranto*, obtained by King Charles the Second, a perseverance in these and such like illegal and unconstitutional proceedings in the reign of His successor King James the Second tended to shake the stability of the Throne, and operated, amongst other causes, by the glorious revolution, to transfer to your Majesty's Ancestors the dominion of these realms. To indemnify the City of London for the past, and to provide a permanent security for the future, to the rights, franchises, and liberties of the Citizens, an Act of Parliament was passed, in the second year of the reign of King William and Queen Mary, intitled "An Act for reversing the judgment in a *Quo Warranto* against the City of London, and for restoring the City of London to its ancient rights and privileges."

By the Bill introduced into the House of Commons by your Majesty's Responsible Advisers, intitled "A Bill for further improving the Police in and near the metropolis," it is proposed to enact,

amongst other things, that the City of London, and the liberties thereof, and all precincts and places within the outer boundary of such liberties, shall be part of the Metropolitan Police district ; and that the Justices appointed, and to be appointed, under the provisions of the Act of the tenth year of the reign of King George the Fourth, shall be Justices of the Peace of the said city, liberties, precincts, and places, and empowered to act therein as fully as if the said city, liberties, precincts, and places had been named in the said Act.

The Bill so introduced is an encroachment upon and a violation of the ancient chartered rights, liberties, and privileges of London, without any reasonable cause of complaint or advantage to the public.

It is to us a matter of deep regret and disappointment to find that your Majesty's Ministers (professing liberal principles of popular representation and self government as opposed to arbitrary power), should be authors of a measure calculated to wrest from the hands of the Citizens of London, and place under the control of a Minister of the Crown, their ancient, unabused and long respected right of protecting their own property, liberties, and lives.

Should such measure pass into a law your Majesty's Citizens of London, will be deprived of a privilege which Parliament in its wisdom has recently conferred without distinction upon all the Municipal Corporations in the kingdom.

We, your Majesty's most dutiful subjects, have established a Police in the City of London, fully adequate to its wants, and equal, if not superior, to the Metropolitan Police, and we therefore feel that there exists no occasion nor pretence for the measure contemplated by the Bill, we are most anxious for a thorough and complete co-operation between the two bodies, and that such an union may be effected as shall carry every wise and salutary principle fully into operation, without interfering with or destroying the immemorial rights and privileges of the Citizens of London.

We cannot but contemplate the proposed measure not only as destructive to the rights of the Citizens of London, but as dangerous to the Constitution, involving as it does a principle of centralization inconsistent with, and in opposition to, the franchises and liberties of the whole people.

We, therefore, humbly and earnestly implore your Majesty's most gracious interposition on behalf of your Citizens of London, and that your Majesty will not countenance your Majesty's Responsible Advisers in a measure calculated to subvert the rights and privileges of our ancient City.

Signed by order of Court,

*Henry Woodthorpe.*

To which Address and Petition Her Majesty was pleased to return the following most gracious Answer:

"The peace and security of the inhabitants of My Capital require My care and the attention of My Government.

"With these objects in view, I have directed measures to be submitted to Parliament, which will,