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FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 24, 1893.

Windsor Castle, February 23, 1893.

THIS day the Archbishop of Canterbury, accompanied by certain of the Bishops and Clergy of the Province, waited upon Her Majesty to present the following Address :—

To the QUEEN's Most Excellent Majesty.

May it please Your Majesty,

WE, Your Majesty's most faithful subjects, the Archbishop and Bishops and Clergy of the Province of Canterbury in Convocation assembled, humbly approach Your Majesty with the expression of our loyal and devoted attachment to Your Majesty's Throne and Person.

We rejoice that it has pleased Almighty God to keep Your Majesty in continued health and strength, and we pray that Our Heavenly Father may long preserve Your Majesty to reign over a loyal and united People.

At a time when the depreciation of agricultural values upon the one hand and the massing of population in the great towns of England upon the other, result in widespread anxiety and distress among large classes of the community both in town and country, it is a satisfaction to us to know how keen is the interest taken by Your Majesty in all measures for the relief and prevention of such distress, and we note with profound thankfulness that the thoughtful and kindly care which Your Majesty has been pleased to give to all such questions is shared by other members of Your Majesty's Royal House.

We welcome the announcement that His Royal Highness the Prince of Wales, who in 1884 and 1885 was a member of Your Majesty's Commission on the Dwellings of the Poor, is now again serving the country as one of Your Majesty's Commissioners appointed to consider "whether any alterations in the system of poor law relief are desirable in the case of persons whose destitution is occasioned by incapacity for work resulting from old age, or whether assistance could otherwise be afforded in those cases." With such questions the Clergy of the Church of England, are, from the very nature of their daily work among the homes of the poor, specially conversant, and it can hardly be necessary for us to assure Your Majesty of our anxious desire to promote by our deliberations, and by such action as may follow therefrom, all efforts which may conduce to the social and moral well-being of the working classes of this country.

The same economic causes to which we have

referred have also seriously affected the incomes of a very large proportion of the Clergy. We are now anxiously considering measures for remedying the impoverishment of those benefices which have suffered most severely, and in this we feel sure that we shall have the ready sympathy of Your Majesty and of Your Majesty's people.

We view with grave anxiety as affecting the well-being of the whole Church of England, the indication of an attempt to begin an assault upon the integrity of this Province, and to prepare to sever therefrom four ancient Bishoprics, which from an early period of our national history have been part of this Church of England, and have been represented for ages in this Convocation of Canterbury. By any such act of severance we are persuaded that the interests of true religion would grievously suffer, and the steadily advancing work of the whole Church of England be seriously impeded.

We further deprecate any interference with the endowments provided for the maintenance of a Christian ministry in Scotland, and guaranteed by the Act of Union with this country.

We are confident that even since the time when we had the honour of addressing Your Majesty at the opening of the last Convocation continued advance has been made by the Church of England, both in directly spiritual efforts and in the work of moral and social improvement of the people.

In material work which can be more easily measured, such as the building and restoration of Churches, the building and maintenance of Schools and Training Colleges, we are fully justified in stating that the voluntary expenditure in these two departments only has amounted to not less than two millions a year for the last twenty years.

We are persuaded also that by the blessing of Almighty God the Church of England has been enabled to render lasting services to Your Majesty's subjects throughout the world, and especially by missionary zeal and devotion to bear spiritual blessings to remote lands now happily under Your Majesty's protection, and to aid the noble efforts against the slave trade which have so largely characterised Your Majesty's long and beneficent reign.

We pray that the blessing of Our Heavenly Father may rest upon Your Majesty, and upon every member of Your Royal House.

Dated 10th February, 1893.

Edw. Cantuar, President.