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*Windsor Castle, July 15, 1897.*

THIS day the Protestant Dissenting Ministers of the three Denominations residing in and about the Cities of London and Westminster waited upon Her Majesty to present the following Address:—

The Right Honourable Sir Matthew White Ridley, Bart., Her Majesty's Principal Secretary of State for the Home Department, was in attendance.

To Her Most Gracious Majesty QUEEN VICTORIA.

WE, the general body of Protestant Dissenting Ministers of the three Denominations, Presbyterian, Independent, and Baptist, residing in and about the Cities of London and Westminster, approach the Throne on the auspicious occasion of the completion of the Sixtieth Year of Your Majesty's Reign with respectful assurance of profound loyalty and with humble and heartfelt congratulations.

On Your Majesty's accession to the throne the general body to which we belong had the privilege of approaching Your Majesty when they offered their sincere congratulations and united in the many prayers presented to Almighty God, the Supreme Ruler of men, that he would vouchsafe all needed grace, wisdom, and strength for the discharge of the manifold duties that would devolve upon You through all the changes of the future.

We rejoice in recognizing that these prayers have been answered, and that God has blessed Your Majesty and the people You have been called to govern with an unparalleled measure of benediction during the Sixty Years of Your beneficent reign.

We look in vain in history for a period of equal progress in literature, art, science, and commerce.

Their application to human welfare has been experienced in every grade of society, especially in the humbler walks of life.

The spread of education amongst the people has also been a marked feature of Your Majesty's Reign. In every part of Your Majesty's dominions, too, Your subjects find their condition better and happier to-day than it was sixty years ago.

We are pleased to recognize that Your Majesty's rule has been one of settled government where "Freedom broadens slowly down from precedent to precedent." To a far larger proportion of Your subjects than before Your accession there has been granted a voice in the framing of the laws

by which they are governed, and hence has arisen, we believe, a greater respect for law and order. This with the consequent growth of that sturdy love of liberty which has ever marked the people who rejoice in Your Majesty's rule, has united them to Your Throne in a bond of love such as no other monarch has ever enjoyed.

Your Majesty's most gracious reply to our body when it approached You at Your accession was "I shall always respect the rights of conscience."

This assurance has never been forgotten by Your Majesty; so that we are able to rejoice with exceeding joy in the great advance made in religious liberty during Your long Reign. Your Majesty has given a ready assent to all the measures of increased Religious Equality which have been approved by Parliament.

We are specially glad that we can congratulate Your Majesty, that amongst all classes of Your subjects, and in all the institutions of our country, there is an increased and growing regard for the principles of true and vital religion.

As we thus rejoice on account of the unparalleled blessings which have come to the nation during Your Majesty's Reign we earnestly pray for still more abundant prosperity during Your remaining years. May these years be many, and may they bring much personal comfort and happiness to Your Majesty, and all the Members of Your Royal House.

And when Your Majesty is called upon to lay aside the earthly crown which You have so long and so worthily worn, may it be Yours to receive "the Crown of Life that fadeth not away."

*J. Hunt Cooke, Chairman.*

*Alex. Jeffrey, Secretary.*

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

"IT gives Me much pleasure to receive your Address, and I thank you for the loyal and dutiful expressions which it embodies.

"I rejoice in realizing that religious liberty has made it possible for My subjects of all shades of belief to render good and honourable service to Myself and to their Country. I look back with pleasure on the improvement in education, and in all the arts of life which have marked the past sixty years, and I am glad to be assured that My people feel their condition to be better and happier to-day than at the time of My Accession.

"I thank you heartily for the prayers and good wishes that you offer to Almighty God for the welfare of Myself and My Family."