

Windsor Castle, July 15, 1897.

THIS day the Protestant Dissenting Ministers of the Presbyterian Denomination residing in and near 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 the QUEEN's Most Excellent Majesty.

May it please Your Majesty,

WE, Your Majesty's loyal subjects, the body of English Presbyterian Ministers in and near the Cities of London and Westminster, rejoice to avail ourselves of the special privilege of separate access to the Throne, which, having been granted more than two hundred years ago, was disused for a while early in the present century, and then first exercised again in tendering our homage and congratulations on Your Majesty's accession. To no one present then and now can the intervening sixty years dim the interest of that memorable scene of promise. Its hopes have long become realized memories; and a loyalty, then waiting for the confirmation of experience, has set into a habit assured and trustful. In Your Majesty's rule over an eminently domestic people there is a pathetic fitness; their hearts are deeply touched by sorrows that do not spare the Royal House; and rarely do conspicuous strokes of private calamity escape the keen eye of Your Majesty's compassion, or fail to draw forth prompt messages of sympathy and help.

Apart from these claims on personal affection, Your Majesty's Reign has witnessed an impressive development of responsible citizenship at home, and a remarkable expansion of the national life abroad from insular to imperial. By various measures for extending and improving elementary education, by the opening of the older Universities to all Your Majesty's subjects without distinction of creed, by successive steps in the progress of social, municipal, and commercial freedom, by the advance of civil and religious liberty, Your Majesty's Reign is rendered unique not only for the years which it covers, but better still, for its beneficent and far-reaching results. Your Majesty's Sovereignty, it is true, extends to many a dependency, colonial and foreign, less happy than these home islands.

But so sure is the effect of just and beneficent rule, that not one of these components of our "Greater Britain" would accept back its condition of sixty years ago. British ships were the first to watch the seas and baffle the guilty slave trade, heralding the greater act by which, in 1834, the Nation redeemed the bondsmen it had wronged, and pre-engaged the first years of the new reign in repeated measures for their education and citizenship.

Among the many involuntary testimonies to the wisdom and justice of Your Majesty's Reign, none is more impressive than the way in which our fellow subjects in the Colonies unite loyal attachment to Your Majesty's Person and confidence in the equity of Your rule with the free development of their own resources and institutions. The magnificent result thus produced becomes apparent, as we remember that of the vast multitudes of Your Majesty's loyal subjects the inhabitants of these home islands form but a tenth part.

That, sustained by the devotion of Your people, rich in the love of children and children's children, and crowned by the perfect peace of God, Your Majesty may spend the years still vouchsafed, is

the heartfelt prayer of Your grateful and venerating servants.

Signed on behalf of the Ministers by the hand of their senior member, *James Martineau.*

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

"I THANK you for your dutiful Address, and for the warmth with which you renew on this memorable occasion the expressions of loyalty and attachment that you have so often testified to My Throne and Person.

"I rejoice with you to witness the advance in the well-being of My people, and especially the growth in civil and religious liberty which has heralded and accompanied the expansion of My Empire, and I pray that the same principles may ever endure and bring the happy fruits of contentment and prosperity to My subjects both at home and beyond the seas."

Windsor Castle, July 15, 1897.

THIS day a Deputation of the Society of Friends 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.

From a Meeting representing the Religious Society of Friends in Great Britain held in London, the 7th day of the 5th month called May, 1897.

To VICTORIA, QUEEN of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland, and the Dominions thereunto belonging:—

May it please the Queen,

IT is with thanksgiving to our Heavenly Father that we approach Thee, our beloved Sovereign, with the expression of loyal and respectful congratulation on the completion of the Sixtieth Year of a Reign extending beyond that either of Thy venerable Grandfather, or of any other of Thy predecessors on the English Throne.

Marked as Thy experience was by the hallowed joys of more than 20 years of unbroken domestic happiness, crowned with the divinely ordered blessing of children and children's children, it has pleased the Lord to prove Thee by many tokens of His chastening love. The death in the prime of life of Thy devoted husband was a bereavement which, whilst seeming for the time almost overwhelming, has been a means in the Lord's overruling goodness of binding Thee to the hearts of all classes of Thy people in the bond of ever deepening sympathy and love.

Occupying Thy exalted position at a period marked by agitation in other parts of Europe, in India and in America, and nearer home, by the terrible famine in Ireland, Thy reign, in the gracious providence of our Heavenly Father, has been one of steady progress to the nation, and of mercies more than can be numbered.

Whilst we would in a spirit, we trust, of Christian humility, mingle our words of congratulation with those of unfeigned regret that war should have so often disturbed a reign otherwise marked by so much blessing, we have thankfully remembered that it was with Thy own hand Thou wast pleased to commend to Thy subjects as a fitting motto for the Jubilee Year the Angelic anthem announcing the Saviour's reign, "Peace on earth, goodwill toward men."

We have learned with great satisfaction that thy Government has taken the initiative in preparing a measure for the settlement by arbitration