

Conference in Paris engaged upon the high and tremendous task of settling the peace terms. We pray God, through Jesus Christ the Prince of Peace, that by the establishment of a League of Nations, and by other means, such a settlement may be reached as to make impossible the recurrence of a war so terrible, and to ensure, under the same Divine blessing, that the reign of righteousness and peace may be established, and that the nations may dwell together as one family upon the face of all the earth.

With the coming of peace we recognise the emergence or recurrence of problems and difficulties of another kind. In many ways and in different fashions the desire for a new and better England after the war will find expression. The housing question, the industrial conditions of daily work, the due provision for leisure and its wholesome use, and perhaps above all, the education of the young, are matters calling for the urgent attention of Parliament and local authorities in the near future. And we know from the evidence which your Majesty has repeatedly given by word and action, that the truest interests of the people in these respects will be of vital concern to your Majesty.

We desire to assure your Majesty that, for our part as representatives of the National Church, we are eager to give all the help we can to the furthering of those ends. It is in the spirit of Him who for our sakes became poor and came not to be ministered unto but to minister, that we wish to offer our service to our fellow citizens. May God help us in all such service to follow the example of our Master, and to carry Christian principles into every department of our national life.

With regard to one problem affecting the constitution of the Convocation of this Province, and the well-being of the Church in Wales, we recognise the value of the assurance which has already been formally given that care will be taken to obviate the peril that the return of Peace might be marked by financial disaster to the most venerable and not the least distinguished portion of the Church of the Province in whose name we address your Majesty to-day.

In response to your Majesty's Letters of Business, we have for a long time past been engaged in careful consideration of the Rubrics of the Book of Common Prayer, with a view to making recommendations as to modifications of the existing law relating to the conduct of Divine Service. The interruption caused by the war has of necessity postponed our completion and presentation of these recommendations. But we hope that our labours, which have extended over a wide field, are now approaching their conclusion, and that we shall be able ere long to lay the Reply before your Majesty.

Nor are our plans for reform confined to the Prayer Book. For we think it right to add that there is at present under consideration, in our councils, an important scheme, by which, in the opinion of many, the Church would attain a larger liberty of action and a greater capacity for adjusting its organisation to the opportunities of the new age which is opening before us.

We would conclude, as always, with the humble prayer that the blessing of Almighty God our Heavenly Father, through our Lord

Jesus Christ, may rest upon your Majesty and upon every member of the Royal House.

Randall Cantuar,
President.

To which Address His Majesty was pleased to return the following gracious answer:—

It gives me sincere pleasure to receive this loyal and dutiful Address from your Grace, and the Bishops and Clergy of the Province of Canterbury in Convocation assembled.

I cannot look back upon the years which have passed since the last occasion on which I received such an Address without recognizing the heavy burden of private sorrow and national trouble laid upon this country as the result of the Great War.

I appreciate your reference to the long-continued labours of my beloved Father to preserve peace among the nations. Those efforts have seemed for the moment to be in vain, being swallowed up in the most tragic and devastating conflict that the world has ever seen; but I hope and trust that, under the Providence of God, the deliberations of the Peace Congress may result in such an agreement as shall make it far more difficult in future for any nation to plunge the world into the horrors of War.

I share with you the hope that the signing of Peace will be the prelude to a new era in the social life of this Country. While we can now look back upon a succession of reforms and improvements extending over many years, there is still much to do to bring the conditions in which the majority of the people of these islands work and live into harmony with their own desires and with genuinely improved standards of health, education, and comfort, and the necessary opportunities for wholesome recreation.

I am sure that the vivified public spirit which follows the War—a War which both in the battlefield and at home has drawn all classes into one—will be reflected in the activities of Parliament, of the Government Departments and of the local authorities; and I am equally confident that the Ministry of the Church will always be directed towards a high conception and a faithful fulfilment of public duty.

I look forward with interest to the result of your labours in respect of the proposed modifications of the law relating to the conduct of Divine Service. In this and in kindred efforts I am sure your object will always be to adapt the ministrations of the Church to the needs and opportunities of the time, and to recognize its living responsibility as the Church of the people.

I believe that, as the era now opening seems to present problems, alike in religion and in social life, of wide range and great perplexity your efforts, as those of all right-thinking men, will be towards such settlement as will, by the blessing of God, increase the spirit of goodwill among men, without which no problem can be solved, while with it no difficulty is insuperable.

CONVOCAATION OF YORK.

To the King's Most Excellent Majesty

May it please your Majesty.

We, your Majesty's loyal and faithful subjects the Archbishop, Bishops and Clergy of the Province of York in Convocation assem-