

not yet been fulfilled. We have, alas, to confess that in almost all parts of the world Statesmen are faced with confusion and difficulty. The presence in England of the Prime Ministers of Your Majesty's Dominions overseas reminds the whole Nation of the largeness of our outlook and of our responsibilities.

With regard to Ireland we look forward eagerly to the issue of the deliberations between Your Majesty's Government and the representatives of the Irish people, initiated as a result of Your Majesty's gracious speech in opening the North of Ireland Parliament in Belfast. But we cannot fail to realise that these deliberations can only succeed in restoring peace to Ireland after the most searching thought, and patience, and self-sacrifice on both sides, and a genuine determination by all sections alike to secure a true and generous reconciliation between all classes and all counties.

Again, with heartfelt thankfulness we welcome the recent settlement of some of our most urgent industrial disputes. But we cannot forget that much yet remains to be done, and that before permanent peace can be achieved a new spirit must be breathed into our industrial system, and the sense of a new comradeship must inspire the relations of employer and employed, of class and class.

So, too, in international affairs. We rejoice with our whole souls in the establishment of the League of Nations, of which we spoke when we were last allowed audience of Your Majesty, and we desire to give it all the support we may, as a great means of international co-operation, and a great instrument of international peace. But here, perhaps, most of all it is borne in upon us that the most vital factors are moral and spiritual: and that it is only as the world is filled with the Spirit of God that peace can be established among men, or the nations dwell together in unity and love.

At such a time and with such needs before us it is, we believe, pre-eminently the task of the Church of God to set before mankind the eternal truths, to bear witness to the Spirit of God, to plead with men and nations to be reconciled to one another in the Name of God, and to proclaim that only those plans for international or economic well-being can prosper which are fashioned according to His will. In all our deliberations we shall seek to recollect how weighty a responsibility is laid upon us for the discharge of this task. We shall also remember that so great a task cannot be discharged by ourselves alone. The Church of Christ should bear its witness, if it may be, with one voice, and should work and act as one united Church. It is the spiritual leadership of the Catholic Church as a whole for which the world is waiting—so we are reminded by the great gathering of Bishops assembled in conference at Lambeth last year. It will be one of our chief endeavours in this Convocation to learn how best we may join with other Christian disciples in bearing our witness to the things of the Spirit, and how best we may respond to the vision, outlined in the Bishops' appeal, of the reconciliation of all Christian people, and the reuniting in one visible fellowship of all the followers of Our Lord Jesus Christ.

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.

Herbert E. Ryle, Bishop Prolocutor.

6th July, 1921.

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

I am grateful for your loyal and dutiful Address, and for the blessings which you invoke upon Myself and My House.

I note with satisfaction that the new Canon to which I was pleased to assent for giving a larger representation to the parochial clergy in convocation has been lawfully enacted and promulgated, and I trust that this wise and statesmanlike reform will enable the Church to supply with a fuller measure of authority the moral and spiritual needs of this Country.

Two years ago, when I received your last Address, we hoped that with the coming of Peace we should see the advent of a new and better world. With sadness we have to recognise that there are nations still at war and many areas of the globe still unpacified. In this Country the inevitable crisis of a severe depression has brought grave burdens which it is difficult for us to bear. But as history repeatedly teaches us peace has its victories to win no less than war, and it is with enduring patience and unabating faith that we must hold to our determination to create a happier earth. I feel a just pride to have seen the Prime Ministers of My Dominions beyond the seas assembled together, and I rest assured that their broad and representative statesmanship will prove equal to the great tasks before them.

Let us thank God that some measure of response has been vouchsafed to My appeal to My Irish People. With a full heart I pray that their reconciliation may be consummated by the deliberations now proceeding, and that they may be united in making a new era for their native land.

I welcome with you the recent settlements in the industrial affairs of this Country. Without them we could not advance the rebuilding of our commercial prosperity. That rebuilding is a paramount duty on which depends the very life of this Country and to that duty in the spirit of sacrifice every citizen and worker in every rank and class of the State must willingly contribute his or her portion even as he or she did nobly in the war. I feel confident that in this task you will worthily perform your share by preaching the doctrine of comradeship and good fellowship in Christ.

I do not doubt that there is a growing body of opinion which believes that a new strength and vitality would flow from the union of all Christian people in a visible fellowship. Great I know are your difficulties, but I shall watch with interest and intense sympathy your coming endeavours to explore this matter, and I pray that they may receive the blessing of the one Almighty God in whose service you are working.

CONVOCATION OF YORK.

MAY IT PLEASE YOUR MAJESTY.

We the Archbishop and Bishops and Clergy of the Province of York in Convocation assembled desire to offer to Your Majesty an humble