

the progress among men of whatsoever things are pure and lovely and of good report. But we are persuaded that behind the League, and directing every such instrument of human well-being, must be the Spirit of Christ working in men's hearts, over-ruling their passions and prejudices, persuading and drawing them to peace.

We desire to find the Church of Christ speaking, if it may be, with one voice in different lands, to remind the nations of their brotherhood, and to bid them keep the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace. But the bond of peace, if it is to be firm and beneficent, must mean more than the mere absence of open strife. It must rest and rely upon principles of righteousness and justice. Those principles we try to foster. For those gifts we pray.

And beyond all question it is the duty of the Christian Church to lift up its voice in urgent appeal for the relief of the hundreds of thousands of unhappy sufferers, especially in the Near East, who have been driven from their homes to find shelter where they can. Their needs—the needs chiefly of women, little children, and old men—are unspeakably great. Their cry is tragic: "Come over into Macedonia and help us." It is our duty, as Ministers of Christ, to call attention to these things.

But happily there are other matters before us at this time upon which we can look with gladness and hope. It is our privilege, as representatives of the National Church, to offer to Your Majesty our dutiful congratulations upon the happy birth of the first Grandson of Your Majesty and of Her Majesty the Queen, and to express at the same time the pleasure with which the whole Nation has learned of the approaching marriage of His Royal Highness the Duke of York. In connection with both of these auspicious events we earnestly pray that the Divine blessing may be vouchsafed to each and every member of Your Majesty's family and home.

In regard to the organic life of the Church of England, we are well assured that Your Majesty shares the satisfaction with which we record the success which has attended the deliberations of the National Church Assembly during the last year. No less than seven Measures passed by the Assembly during the early period of its life have already been accepted by Parliament, and have now received Your Majesty's assent. It is our confident hope that we may be able, in the near future, to submit for the like gracious assent further Measures now under careful discussion for promoting improvements in the system of the Patronage and Tenure of Benefices, the Care of Parsonage Houses, and the Union of small Parishes in our country districts. A weighty Commission on the Administration of the Property and Finance of the Church is now at work upon many pressing questions, and will, we hope, find itself able to recommend wise reforms. Many of these questions bear closely upon the poverty which is now oppressing many hundreds of parish clergy throughout England, and hampering their efforts for the common good. Relief is imperatively and even urgently required in that important matter. In other ways of yet higher importance the Convocation which we represent is earnestly seeking new methods of deepening and extending the ministry of the Church, both clerical and lay.

Meanwhile we are engaged to the utmost of our power in the endeavour to promote united efforts among the followers of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ, to set forward more worthily, both at home and in the Mission Field, the purpose of His Gospel, and the up-building thereby of His Divine Society among men.

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.

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 share your anxiety at the difficulties and distresses that still remain both on the Continent of Europe and in Ireland, and I am specially grieved to observe the suffering of those of my people who are without employment. I join with you in your prayers to Almighty God for His blessing on all works that make for peace.

You have said truly that it is the duty of the Church to draw attention to the terrible sufferings and urgent needs of the refugees in the Near East, and I trust that Christian men will generously respond to your appeal on their behalf.

I note with satisfaction the evidence of the activities of the National Church Assembly, and am gratified to learn that further measures affecting the organic life of the Church of England are receiving your careful consideration. The work performed by the Parish Clergy, so important for the moral and spiritual well-being of the Nation, is at present hampered by the material difficulties under which so many of them labour, and I trust that the investigations of the Commission, referred to in your Address, may lead to the wisest and most efficient use of the resources of the Church for the improvement of the conditions of these devoted men.

The Queen joins with me in thanking you heartily for your congratulations on the birth of a son to our dear daughter and on the forthcoming marriage of our beloved second son. We are grateful for your prayers on behalf of Myself and My House.

I earnestly pray that the blessing of Almighty God may rest on you in all your labours and deliberations.

CONVOCAION OF YORK.

TO THE KING'S MOST EXCELLENT MAJESTY.
THE HUMBLE ADDRESS OF THE CONVOCAION OF
THE PROVINCE OF YORK.

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 assembled, approach Your Majesty with the dutiful assurance of our devotion to Your Majesty's Throne and Person.

We desire in the first place to express to Your Majesty the pleasure with which we in common with all Your Majesty's loyal subjects have learned the approaching Marriage of His Royal Highness the Duke of York, and