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FRIDAY, 23 JUNE, 1950

Whitehall, June 23, 1950.

The following Addresses were presented to His Majesty at Buckingham Palace on Tuesday the 20th instant:—

## CONVOCATION OF CANTERBURY.

TO THE KING'S MOST EXCELLENT MAJESTY.

We, Your Majesty's loyal and faithful subjects, the Archbishop, Bishops and others of the Clergy of the Province of Canterbury, in Convocation assembled, approach Your Majesty with dutiful assurance of our devotion to Your Throne and Person.

When, five years ago, a new Convocation had the honour of exercising its ancient privilege in presenting a loyal Address, Your Majesty's Government and people were preparing to meet the difficult transition from war to peace. That transition has proved to be more exacting and prolonged than was expected; but, in spite of exhaustion and impoverishment due to its valiant efforts in the war, the nation has devoted itself whole-heartedly to the tasks of re-ordering its common life at home, restoring the balance of international trade necessary to its very existence, and taking its due part in the active maintenance of peace, in Europe and throughout the world.

Much has been accomplished in all these directions by the people of this country with the co-operation and help of Your Majesty's Dominions Overseas, the United States of America and other friendly nations.

On the other hand it must be admitted that there are many questions at issue both at home and abroad in which failure and frustration have delayed national and international recovery.

The Christian Faith is encountering threats and attacks from many sides but these are serving to make plain to some who had forgotten it the truth that right relationships between nations and persons are only to be had on certain moral and spiritual conditions. While as yet we cannot speak, as we should like to be able to speak, of a general return to the Christian religion here in England, we believe that there is a more widespread readiness than there was to recognise the claims of that religion on conscience and reason alike, and to attend to what the Christian Faith has to say about God and Man and about the means whereby individuals and nations can be enabled to live together rightly and harmoniously in this present world.

We would assure Your Majesty that the Church is eager, with the help of God, to do all in its power, to commend the divine claims and promises as the true ground of hope in face of the problems which at present beset mankind. The Church of England, during these last five years, has given

much thought and consideration to new methods of presenting the ancient Gospel. The Church is holding out the Word of Life, through its missionaries throughout the World, through its Chaplains in Your Majesty's Forces to the younger generation doing National Service, through qualified leaders to workers in Industry and other recognised groups within the community, and most of all through its parochial clergy in town and country to all sorts and conditions of men.

But the financial resources of the Church are severely strained. The recent great rise in costs and prices in itself makes it difficult for the Church to maintain its work and, very specially, to provide for the training of men for its ministry and the adequate support of those ordained. In many ways the organisation of the Church is being modified to meet new conditions, but re-organisation by itself is not enough and more money is still required. It should, however, be recorded that, notwithstanding all the difficulties, the lay members of the Church in every Diocese have, during these last few years, signally increased their gifts to both diocesan and central Church funds, and the response made by the laity to the heavy demands now made upon them reveals the sincerity of their devotion to Our Lord and to His cause.

Meanwhile the Convocations are devoting much time and energy to a long overdue revision of the Canons of 1604. We are still at the beginning of a complicated task; but we believe that the provision of a modern code of Canons will conduce to good order and unity in the Church, and thus assist it to fulfil its primary duties with a single mind.

In all our tasks and in all the perplexities of our times, we are greatly encouraged by the example of untiring service which Your Majesty, Her Majesty the Queen and other members of the Royal Family, keep ever before us, and by Your Majesty's constant and practical recognition of the true place of Christian conviction and conduct in public affairs as well as in family and personal life.

We would conclude, as always, with the humble prayer that the Divine Blessing, through Our Lord Jesus Christ may continue to rest upon Your Majesty, upon our Gracious Queen and upon every member of the Royal House.

Geoffrey Cantuar, President.  
R. L. Whytehead, Prolocutor.

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

I thank you most sincerely, My Lord Archbishop, for the Loyal Address presented by the Bishops and other Clergy of the Province of Canterbury in Convocation assembled, and for the assurance of their duty and devotion.