

HOME OFFICE

Whitehall, London S.W.1.
26th February 1965.

The following Addresses were presented to HER MAJESTY at Buckingham Palace on Friday the 19th instant:

CONVOCAATION OF CANTERBURY

To The QUEEN'S Most Excellent Majesty:

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

We are deeply grateful to Your Majesty for the constant example of duty and self-sacrifice shown by the many public engagements and long exhausting tours overseas which Your Majesty has undertaken in recent years and in which You have had the willing and generous support of the members of the Royal Family. This example is a source of inspiration to all Your Majesty's peoples at home and overseas.

In our new Convocation now assembled we shall be much concerned with matters affecting Church and State. We shall do all in our power to assist Your Majesty's Government in their efforts to ease the tension between the countries of the West and those of the East, to prevent the spread of nuclear weapons, to narrow the gap between the rich and the poor nations, and to stimulate and deepen among your people here at home a sense of unity and common purpose. In particular we shall increase our efforts to eliminate all traces of racial discrimination and prejudice and shall support all actions which tend towards the full integration into the community of those of other races now living among us.

While Your Majesty's territories overseas have been attaining independence one after another, the Church has seen and encouraged the emergence and growth within them of autonomous indigenous Churches. These Churches are part of the Anglican Communion; they are aware of their sharing together in their mission to the world, and we shall be giving much thought to ways in which we can help each other and learn from one another.

We are nearing the end of the long and arduous task of revising and restating the Church's Canon Law. Your Majesty has already given your gracious Assent to a number of canons presented to you. We hope to present the remainder in the reasonably near future. The completion of this task will increase among us unity, discipline and uniformity, and will set us free to turn our minds to other, and more important, matters. Chief among these is Liturgical Reform, to make the common worship of the Church better "understood of the people", more flexible and more suited to the needs and conditions of the 20th century.

Another important matter with which we shall be concerned is the urgent one of bringing the laity more effectively into the central government of the Church, so that they may have a voice in determining the many vital issues which confront us.

We are well aware of the continuous movement among Your Majesty's subjects to new centres of industry and population. We are already considering what should be done to facilitate a parallel movement of clergymen so that they may be used where they can most effectively serve to the glory of God and the well-being of His people.

We are deeply conscious of the unhappy divisions which exist between Christians and of the extent to which they weaken and hinder the work of the Church as God's instrument in reconciling the peoples of the world to Himself and to each other. We are in continuing conversation and conference with the Presbyterians and Methodists, and we are not without hope that by God's grace our divisions may be healed. With the Methodists the matter has now reached an advanced stage and a decision will have to be taken by this present Convocation. We pray for God's blessing and guidance in taking that decision.

Your Majesty may rest assured that in all we undertake we shall have in mind not only our duty to promote the health and strength of the Church, but also our duty towards the State. We believe that the Church best serves the State by being true to itself and enabling all its members to do their Christian duty. And their Christian duty includes their duty to the State. In this regard, Your Majesty

sets a notable example of day-to-day performance of Christian and public duty. We pray that God's blessing may rest now and always on Your Majesty and on every member of your family.

Michael Cantuar, President.
G. F. Hilder, Prolocutor.

To which Address HER MAJESTY was pleased to return the following gracious Answer:

I am glad to receive at your Grace's hands this loyal address assuring me of the devotion to the Throne of yourself, the bishops and clergy of the Province of Canterbury. I thank you most warmly for your kind references to me and to the members of my family who so willingly support me in discharging public duties both at home and overseas.

I am gratified by the desire of Convocation to support the efforts of my Government to promote close and friendly relations between nations, to lend aid to poorer countries, and to foster a sense of unity and common purpose among all the people, of whatever race, who live in these islands.

I have been much interested in the emergence and development within the Commonwealth of independent churches of the Anglican Communion, and much encouraged by the support and guidance which has been given to them by the Church of England. I rejoice in their growing stature and influence and trust that they will play an increasingly important part in the work of the Church everywhere.

In this country I welcome the intention to join the laity more closely in the government of the Church and to strengthen and expand the work of the Church in areas to which industry and population are moving.

I have watched the progress that has been made in revising the Church's Canon Law, and I am interested to learn that Convocation will shortly begin an examination of the Church's Liturgy. This work exemplifies our traditional willingness to modify and adapt our well-established practices to meet changing needs. I recognise that the successful accomplishment of the tasks you have set yourselves will call for considerable resources of learning and skill. I am confident that, with God's help, you will accomplish them and in so doing will serve the interests of the Church and of the Nation.

In a world that is often indifferent, and sometimes actively hostile, to Christian teaching, the divisions within the Church must give ground for thought to all who have its true interests at heart. It is a source of particular pride and satisfaction to me that the Church of England is doing so much to bring Christians of different denominations together.

I am deeply grateful for the assurance of your prayers for my family and myself. I pray that God's blessing may rest upon your deliberations and prosper the efforts of all who strive for the advancement of His Kingdom in these islands.

CONVOCAATION OF YORK

To The QUEEN'S Most Excellent 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 are deeply conscious of the many blessings which God has bestowed upon Your Majesty during recent years, and particularly that He has preserved Your Majesty in health, that He has granted You the gift of two further sons to grace Your Royal Family, and that He has given Your Majesty strength to work with such tireless devotion for the welfare of Your subjects both in this country and throughout the world.

Since the last occasion upon which we had the honour of presenting a Loyal Address, many changes have taken place both in the structure of the Commonwealth and in the daily lives of Your peoples, and we rejoice in all signs of human progress in health, education and whatever enables man to fulfil the purposes for which he was created. We realise, however, that in many parts of the world, not excluding the Commonwealth, there is still much disease, ignorance and poverty; and we pledge ourselves to support such causes as may help to relieve suffering and to feed both the minds and bodies of those in need.

We realise, moreover, that, in spite of much progress, man still lives in danger of unimaginable