

To the King's most Excellent Majesty,
The humble Address of the Bishop of London, the Dean and Chapter of the Cathedral Church of St. Paul, and the Clergy of the Cities of London and Westminster.

Most Gracious Sovereign,

WE your Majesty's most dutiful and loyal Subjects, the Bishop of London, the Dean and Chapter of the Cathedral Church of St. Paul, and the Clergy of the Cities of London and Westminster, beg Leave to condole with your Majesty upon the Death of your Royal Father, our late Gracious Sovereign, whose paternal Care over his People, together with his unwearied and successful Endeavours to secure to us our Religion and Liberties against the many Attempts to deprive us of them, must make his Memory dear to us and our Posterity.

We humbly present to your Majesty, as the first Tribute of Duty, our sincerest Congratulations upon your peaceful and happy Succession to the Throne of your Ancestors; most thankfully acknowledging this signal Instance of the Divine Favour to us, in filling it with a Prince, whose innate Goodness, Clemency and other Royal Virtues, will always make him affectionately desirous of the Happiness of his People, and whose Experience, Conduct, Vigilance and Resolution, will, we doubt not, accomplish his Desires, under the Divine Direction and Assistance; for which we shall not fail to offer up our constant Prayers to Almighty God.

The early Declaration which your Majesty has been pleased to make, that the Preservation of the Constitution in Church and State, as it is now happily established, shall be your first, and always your chief Care, demands the Acknowledgments of your Bishops and Clergy in a particular Manner; and we sincerely promise your Majesty, that we will always labour to promote the same great Ends, and endeavour in our several Stations to render your Administration Easy, and your Reign Prosperous.

May God direct all your Counsels to His Glory, and the Welfare of these Nations, which His wise and good Providence hath committed to your Care: May the Divine Blessings daily descend upon your Majesty, your Royal Consort our Gracious Queen, and your Royal Issue: May Righteousness, Truth, and Peace be the Stability of your Time; and may we long continue a happy and flourishing People under your Majesty's wise and auspicious Government.

To which Address His Majesty was pleased to give the following most gracious Answer.

THIS early Testimony of your Duty and Loyalty, and the just Sense you have of my affectionate Concern for the Established Church, and for the Happiness of my People, are very pleasing and acceptable to me. And you may be firmly assured, that the Protection of the Church and Clergy, in the Enjoyment of their Rights and Privileges, shall be my particular Care through the whole Course of my Reign.

His Majesty was pleased to receive them very graciously, and they had all the Honour to kiss His Majesty's Hand.

They were afterwards introduced to the Queen by the Right Honourable the Earl of Grantham Lord Chamberlain of Her Majesty's Household; and the Bishop of London spoke to Her Majesty as follows,

THE Clergy of London and Westminster have attended the King, with their hearty Congratulations upon his peaceable and happy Accession to the Throne; and they now desire to tender the like sincere Congratulations to your Majesty. At the same Time they beg Leave to recommend themselves to your Majesty's Protection; being firmly persuaded, both from your immovable Adherence to the Protestant Religion Abroad against the Temptations of a Crown, and from your constant Regard to the Constitution of our own Church, that both the Church and her Clergy will upon all Occasions find in your Majesty a sure Friend and a powerful Advocate. We, on our Part, shall always pray, that the King and your Majesty may, together, enjoy a long, a happy, and a glorious Reign; and that your Majesties and your Royal Issue may ever remain under the peculiar Care and Providence of God, and be enriched by Him with all Manner of Blessings both Spiritual and Temporal.

Her Majesty was pleased to receive them very graciously, and they had all the Honour to kiss Her Majesty's Hand.

Westminster, June 27.

HIS Majesty came this Day to the House of Peers, and being in his Royal Robes seated on the Throne, with the usual Solemnity, Sir Charles Dalton, Gentleman-Usher of the Black-Rod, was sent with a Message from His Majesty to the House of Commons, commanding their Attendance in the House of Peers; the Commons being come thither accordingly, His Majesty was pleased to make the following most gracious Speech to both Houses.

My Lords and Gentlemen,

I Am persuaded that you all share with me in my Grief and Affliction for the Death of my late Royal Father; which, as it brings upon Me the immediate Care and Weight of the Government, adds very much to my Concern; lest I should not be as successful in my Endeavours, as I am, above all Things, desirous to make you a Great and Happy People.

I heartily wish, that this first solemn Declaration of my Mind in Parliament could sufficiently express the Sentiments of my Heart, and give you a perfect and just Sense of my fixed Resolution, by all possible Means, to merit the Love and Affection of my People, which I shall always look upon as the best Support and Security of my Crown.

And as the Religion, Liberty, Property, and a due Execution of the Laws are the most valuable Blessings of a free People, and the peculiar Privileges of this Nation, it shall be my constant Care to preserve the Constitution of this Kingdom, as it is now happily established, in Church and State, inviolable in all its Parts; and to secure, to all my Subjects, the full Enjoyment of their Religious and Civil Rights.

I see, with great Pleasure, the happy Effects of that Vigour and Resolution, which was exerted, in the last Session of Parliament, for the Defence of the Rights and Possessions of this Nation, and for maintaining the Tranquillity and Balance of Power in Europe; The strict Union and Harmony which has hitherto subsisted among the Allies of the Treaty of Hanover, has chiefly contributed to the near Prospect of a general Peace; I have therefore given all my Allies the strongest Assurances of pursuing the same Measures, and of making good the Engagements entered into by the Crown of Great Britain.