

Cleary v. Cobbett.

This was an action for a libel published by the Defendant in his Political Register.

A letter, purporting to be written by the Defendant to Mr. John Wright, and dated the 1st April, 1808, which reflected on the character of Mr. H. Hunt, was read by the Plaintiff in the Court during the Westminster Election, in July, 1818.

On the 28th November, 1818, the libel now complained of first appeared in The Political Register, in which it was intimated that the letter was a forgery, and that the Plaintiff was concerned in forging it.

Mr. Chitty having opened the pleadings, stating the libel as above, to which the Defendant had pleaded not guilty of publishing the libel.

Mr. Brougham said, that after what his Learned Friend had opened, it was necessary for him to show them who the Plaintiff was who came to ask a reparation in damages at their hands.

It was only necessary to mention the name of William Cobbett, to call to the imagination the name of the man who, of all others, was the most to be feared for his attacks as a writer; the man who was most to be dreaded for his great talents—talents which it was hardly possible to overrate, and which were only exceeded by the zeal with which he exercised them; but that zeal was even less remarkable than the want of scrupulousity with which he exercised them.

The Gentleman who brought the present action was comparatively an unprotected individual, against whom the great talents of the Defendant had been so zealously, so powerfully, and with so little scrupulousity exerted. The Gentleman had come from the sister kingdom, and was here in a respectable situation; he was now studying the law, and intending to take a higher station in that profession.

When he arrived in this country, he immediately took part in politics, and being an elector of Westminster, he had exercised that valuable franchise; he had early been connected with Major Cartwright, of whose opinions, whatever might be thought, no man could entertain a doubt of the Major's consistency in maintaining them.

Connected as the Plaintiff was with that Gentleman, in habits of intimacy with him, and partaking of his hospitality, it was very natural for Mr. Cleary to be foremost in his cause. Another candidate was Mr. Henry Hunt—and it having pleased Hunt to attack Mr. Cleary, and go beyond even the usual excess of such occasions, and having read a private letter of the Plaintiff, intending to sow discord between him and others, the Plaintiff retaliated upon Mr. Hunt, by reading a letter purporting to be from the Defendant, but which Mr. Cobbett had since thought proper to deny to be his.

It was not necessary to read that letter at this moment; it might be sufficient to state, that it was a letter in which Mr. Cobbett spoke of Mr. Hunt in terms very different from those he subsequently used when speaking of him. That Mr. Hunt should have complained, would have been natural, but why the Defendant should feel himself aggrieved did not seem easy to be accounted for, since of him the Plaintiff had always spoken with reverence and admiration. That he should therefore turn with such vehemence, not to say ferocity, upon him, did appear rather unaccountable.

Why should Mr. Cobbett complain of the publication of a letter in which he spoke differently of a man from what he afterwards did? Was that the only instance of the kind? Was Mr. Hunt the only man whom he had abused one day and laudably praised on the next? Those who had the pleasure of reading Mr. Cobbett's works, and had pleasure in observing the exercise of his great talents, must have seen that those changes were very common with him, and that in fact it would be a great inconsistency in him if such violent changes did not take place.

The Lord Chief Justice—"You have not come to the matter of charge yet."

Mr. Cobbett—"I wish the Learned Gentleman to have full scope, my Lord."

Mr. Brougham.—In consequence of the Plaintiff having used the letter as he had stated, there appeared in the Political Register an article, which, though written in America, was sent, published, and disseminated in this country.

In that, which was addressed to the Editor of The New York Evening Post, the Defendant said, "I declare that you have republished a forgery. I declare this letter a forgery. I accuse Cleary before all the People of America of forgery. I accuse him, as I have done, before all the People of England, in a Register which I have sent there, of having forged that letter; or, what is the same thing, in point of baseness, of having obtained it from a man who had forged it." This libel Mr. Cobbett had, as was his manner, reiterated and repeated in all the ways possible, in verse and in prose; sometimes varying the words, and sometimes repeating the same; until ultimately every one who read his works naturally associated in his mind the idea of Cleary and forgery together, and so the purpose of the calumny was completed.

In another part of the paper in which the libel was first published, the motive for upholding Sir Francis Burdett, whom he had formerly abused, for no other motive which the Defendant could desire, but for pecuniary reward from his opulent and base employer. The Learned Counsel then proceeded to argue, that, as the Defendant had put no justification on the record, he must be taken to acknowledge the falsehood of the accusation of forgery, though he had repeatedly charged the Plaintiff with it.

It was impossible, he said, to anticipate the line of defence which would be adopted; all topics were open to the Defendant; liberty of the press and liberty of discussion might be alledged by him; but they would remember, that the wildest advocate for the most unlimited freedom of the press never was insane enough to contend that it ought to include the right of attacking private character with impunity. He put it to the Jury to say for what sum they would have been content to be exposed to the attack which the Plaintiff had sustained, and estimate his damages accordingly.

John Wright was called and examined by Mr. Chitty. He said, I am acquainted with the Defendant; I received a letter from him dated April 8, 1808 (a letter was here shown to the witness); that is the letter; I have no doubt it is the Defendant's hand-writing.

Cross-examined by the Defendant.—I never saw your clerk; I was your agent. "It was not a private letter. I showed it at the time I received it to Dr. Mitford. There were accounts to be settled between us in 1810, 1811, and 1812. I never said I would publish your private letters, if you did not give way to me in the settlement of those accounts. I made no such threat, nor instructed any one else to do it. The letter was out of my hands at different times; it was so in 1808, and also in 1818, at the time of the election. I gave it to Mr. Place, at Charing-cross. I was directed by you, in the letter, to take it to the Westminster Committee, which I did, I believe, on the 11th of April, 1808. The letter was produced again in 1818. In consequence of your writing letters, abusing Sir Francis Burdett and praising Mr. Hunt, I thought it my duty to go to the Westminster Committee.

Q. by Defendant.—To the Rump Committee? The Lord Chief Justice—"I know nothing of any Rump Committee."

Cross-examination resumed.—I think Mr. Cleary was not present when I delivered the letter to the Westminster Committee. I heard the letter read at the hustings, and I believe, but am not sure, that the whole was read with the exception of two lines of postscript. I never carried a bundle of your private letters to show to the late Mr. Whitbread, but I have been cautioned by that gentleman against you. I have shown the letter to Mr. Brougham after you charged me with forgery; I never carried a bundle of your private letters to Brooks, in the Strand; I remember Sir Richard Phillips coming in when I was there; and we were comparing the hand-writing, with one or two others of your letters. The letter was put before two glasses for the Public to inspect, and to convince them it was not forged by me. I did not receive a request from your sons to see the letter. I heard they had applied, and I gave directions to take care it should not be watched.

The book of letters was in the Court of King's Bench last winter, and was in the hands of Mr. Scarlett and Mr. Gurney.

John Paul examined.—I know Mr. Cobbett's hand-writing. (The letter of April 1, 1808, shown to witness.) I have no doubt that it is Mr. Cobbett's writing.

John Place examined.—I was present at the election for Westminster in 1818. (The letter shown to witness.) The letter was produced by Mr. Wright, and I gave it to Mr. Cleary. The letter was to be read at the hustings.

Cross-examined by the Defendant.—I gave the letter to Mr. Cleary, to read the whole of it at the hustings, and I did not tell him to leave out any part. The letter was read in 1818, and was for the purpose of excluding Hunt from the confidence of the Rump Committee, and it had that effect.

Wm. Adams examined.—I was present in 1818, at the Westminster Committee. I saw the letter in 1808. I heard Mr. Cleary read it at the hustings. I can't say if all was read, as there was such a noise and confusion; there was the same language, and I have no doubt it was the letter which he read.

Cross-examined by Mr. Cobbett.—I was in the King's Bench prison I first saw you. Lord Cochrane was with me. While Lord Cochrane was in the King's Bench prison, I came down on a message to you from his Lordship. I think I received the letter read just now from his Lordship; he said you were about to go to America, and wanted some one who would have the courage to publish your Register in your absence. Lord Cochrane did not say anything about fidelity; he had no doubt I should be faithful. The manuscript came to Liverpool, and from thence to me by the post. I had a discretionary power as to what I should publish and what I should not publish. I received a letter from you expressive of such powers, and stating, that the whole responsibility was to rest on me. The manuscripts were under my sole control, and I had absolute power to expunge, but I did not think myself warranted to put in any thing of my own.

The cross-examination of the witness continued at great length, and went to show that he had published something not transmitted by Defendant, and that he had altered passages, by expunging strong words, and at the time he was intimate with the Plaintiff. The witness refused to answer to the question, if he had not assisted Cleary in the writing of the pamphlet which he had published against the Defendant, entitled "A Letter to Major Cartwright." He did publish a letter from Cleary in the Register, thinking he was entitled to it as an act of justice, after being attacked. He accompanied the Plaintiff when he went to make an affidavit, the object of which was, he understood, to keep the Defendant in this country till the present action could be brought. The whole of the accounts of printing and publishing were kept in the witness's name.

Re-examined by Mr. Brougham.—The original manuscripts were left with the printer. The Defendant never objected to my insertion of the articles.

By the Judge.—He never made any complaint respecting any thing.

Molinos examined.—I printed the Registers; I received the copy from Mr. Jackson. The manuscript was given up to W. Cobbett, junr.

Cross-examined by Mr. Cobbett.—I think I could distinguish between the hand-writing of you and your son. I saw you once write a note to Tipper and Fry, the stationers, for paper, about three years ago. The witness afterwards added, "I believe I then saw you write."

The Plaintiff's case being closed, Mr. Cobbett rose and addressed the Court. He said he had not the vanity to suppose that he could defend himself with the ability of the Gentleman who sat near him, but as he had to deal with a particular description of men, he was doubtful if he could have prevailed on any of those Gentlemen to deal with them as he had thought it necessary. Mr. Cobbett observed, in very animated terms, on Mr. Brougham's opening, and said, so far was he from being of the character he had described, as so much to be dreaded, and of so much real and with so few scruples, that he had been a writer upwards of 28 years, and yet this was the first action for damages in which he had ever been the Defendant—which he believed was more than any of the Papers, Reviews, or Magazines could say, not even excepting the Evangelical. In the first criminal prosecution he had sustained, he received the copy from a Judge; it was handed to him by a Member of Parliament, and verified by a Marquis. The writer was convicted, but he suffered no imprisonment; on the contrary, a pension of £1200 a-year was fixed on him for life; so that could not have been a very dangerous libel. As for the thing for which he was imprisoned by the Attorney-General, it did him no harm; it gave him a great deal of leisure, which he profited by; he went in sound and came out sound. He had mentioned all the cases in which he had ever been concerned, because he had been held up as so pre-eminent in his zeal; but let them look at any other publication. Even the *Clishma Clearer Review* had been charged, but they had crept out by humiliations, which the gentlemen in the northern part of the kingdom knew how to make, while the stupid southern ran their heads into a goal. Mr. Cobbett next ridiculed the idea of the Plaintiff being connected with Major Cartwright, and asked why that gentleman, who had been subpoenaed to give him a character, had not been put in the box, though he had been sitting in Court all day. The Plaintiff might be as intimate as the Learned Counsel had represented with the venerable Major, even as "Bug is our bed-fellow." He would give the Jury the true history of the Plaintiff. He came to this country in 1812, and was then *Sans Secretaire*, as the French would call it, in the Hampden Club; (in Ireland he had been writer to a scrivener.) He was the last man to reflect on any one for the lawness of their origin, but such was the fact. When here, he became, instead of a servant, *Sans Secretaire*, to that Club he had mentioned before, of which one Davis was the Secretary, and he remembered seeing him at Bury-street, perched behind his desk, like Mart-

from America, for which he was to have one-half of the clear profits. The letter contained the following paragraphs:—"If you get into prison, still the business can be carried on."—"I shall send you the manuscripts of every thing I write, for the purpose of being published here." (The letter was dated London.)

Examination of witness resumed.—I did publish the *Farwell Address*, and received and published afterwards till the 1st January, 1819. I paid the Defendant's proportion of profits to his son, for his use. The witness then proved the publication of the various numbers of the Register in which the libel was repeated.

Cross-examined by Mr. Cobbett.—It was in the King's Bench prison I first saw you. Lord Cochrane was with me. While Lord Cochrane was in the King's Bench prison, I came down on a message to you from his Lordship. I think I received the letter read just now from his Lordship; he said you were about to go to America, and wanted some one who would have the courage to publish your Register in your absence. Lord Cochrane did not say anything about fidelity; he had no doubt I should be faithful. The manuscript came to Liverpool, and from thence to me by the post. I had a discretionary power as to what I should publish and what I should not publish. I received a letter from you expressive of such powers, and stating, that the whole responsibility was to rest on me. The manuscripts were under my sole control, and I had absolute power to expunge, but I did not think myself warranted to put in any thing of my own.

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the receipt of custom. The *Sans Secretaire* had told him that he travelled as a man of apostle of liberty, with his pocket of instructions for the formation of Hampden Club, &c. mentioned this to show what damages he was entitled to.

Mr. Cobbett then reviewed the conduct of the Plaintiff at the Westminster election, contending that he had given the first prosecution, in publishing his private letter, ten years after it was written, and not then giving the whole of it, but omitting the date, the name of the person to whom it was addressed, and other important particulars, which fully justified him in calling it a forgery; for as he had seen it in calling it a forgery it was a forgery; since they called it a forgery it was a forgery; and he added to a blank-note, or the name altered or added. The forged had been done by the Learned Counsel, and the breach of trust and confidence slipped over; but he was confident that no man who heard him, not even excepting the Plaintiff's Advocate himself, but would say that the act of publishing a letter, after a lapse of ten years, was a most atrocious one. Yet though the beginning and end of the letter were left out, he was only sorry for one expression in that letter—he meant that in which he alluded to the lady with whom Mr. Hunt had been living for twenty years. Mr. Cobbett then animadverted with great severity on the evidence of the witnesses, which he compared to that of Mephistopheles and Demost, and contended that Mr. Brougham would find it a difficult matter to draw any tangible distinction between them and the Plaintiff and his witnesses. Mr. Brougham had said, that Ompeda had attempted to pick locks; but for what purpose did he do that? Did he expect to find the Queen and Borgia in one of the drawers? No, certainly, but he expected to find letters and other documents. Now, though Ompeda had died with the blessing of a Cardinal on his head, yet he (Mr. Cobbett) believed him to be a great villain, though he had not been guilty of a greater villainy than the publication of a private letter. The Learned Gentleman had told them that the White Horse champion was now a student at law, and intended to be called to the bar. "I was," continued Mr. Cobbett, "alarmed at that; and knowing how scarce Gentlemen of that profession are, and how difficult it is to get law for love or money; so to have subtracted one member from that profession would be a very great offence, and it has lain heavy on my conscience ever since I heard it."

Mr. Cobbett went on to state hypothetically, (being prevented by his Lordship from stating it directly,) that if he had on his landing in England received a challenge from the Plaintiff which he took no notice of, and if that challenge was afterwards published in all the Papers, in addition to two pamphlets before published; in short, if the Plaintiff had taken every means to revenge himself, for what he had himself said no injury to him, what damages could they think small enough to award him? Mr. Cobbett again reverted to the conduct of the witnesses, and charged two of them with the grossest ingratitude towards him, and begged the Jury to look at the state of insecurity every man, and every woman too, would be placed in, if breaches of trust and confidence were to be reckoned justifiable. He justified his changes of opinion, as being opinions of men, not measures, and were changes from bad to better, whilst some near him had changed from bad to worse. He concluded a very long and forcible address by an exposure of the bardship of being held to bail for such a matter as he was charged with, because a man could be found to swear he believed he was about to leave the kingdom, though, at the same time, it was notorious he was just arrived in England, and was going down to Batley to reside. He besought the Jury not to sanction by their verdict a system of espionage and treachery. He did not ask them to consider him or his family, but to convince the world that there still existed in the breasts of Englishmen an irreconcilable antipathy to every thing base and treacherous.

Mr. Cobbett concluded his address, after being several times interrupted by the Defendant's Counsel, and admonished by the Court, for opening matters which he did not intend to prove by evidence.

Mr. Brougham submitted that he was entitled to a reply under the circumstances, as Mr. Cobbett had gone so largely into matters of which he had offered no proof; but as the Defendant's speech was only in aggravation of the libel, he was contented to waive his right.

His Lordship then summed up the evidence to the Jury with his accustomed discrimination, and told them, if they were satisfied of the proof of publication, they would find the Defendant guilty, as no man could doubt the matter published was libellous; and then the next question was, as to the amount of damages, on which he thought one observation of the Defendant very material—he meant the fact of the publication ten years after the letter was first written, and for a purpose which the parties must have known the Defendant would not have sanctioned had he been present.

The Jury retired for an hour and a quarter, and at eight o'clock returned a verdict for Plaintiff, damages 40s. costs 40s.; and a verdict for the Defendant on the last count of the declaration.

The trial occupied the whole of the day. The Court was crowded to excess during the whole period.

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ADDRESSES TO THE KING.

PRESENTATION OF THE CAMBRIDGE UNIVERSITY LOYAL ADDRESS.

His Majesty having been graciously pleased to command Thursday as the day on which he would receive the Address from the University of Cambridge, the King held a Court, principally for that purpose, at his Palace in Pall-mall.

At two o'clock, a guard of honour, composed of a detachment of the Grenadier Guards, in white gaiters, preceded by their band in state uniforms, marched into the Court-yard of the Palace.

A detachment of the Life Guards, with their band of trumpets, trombones, and kettle-drums, in their splendid state uniforms, marched into Waterloo-place, opposite the Palace, at the same time. Each of the bands played alternately some delightful marches, overtures, &c. Sir R. Baker, the Chief Magistrate of the Police, with Townend, Sayer, and a numerous assemblage of Police-officers, were in attendance.

The Porters at the gates appeared in their new state liveries, with embroidered sashes and stars. The Marshals, Gentlemen Porters, and Under Porters, appeared at the grand and side entrances to the Palace. In the Grand Hall were the Pages and Gentlemen Porters, in their purple and gold uniforms. The Yeomen of the Guard lined the Grand Hall. The Grooms of the Great Chamber, and other attendants, were in waiting in the Octagon Hall.

Several of the distinguished Members of the University of Cambridge, who are in the habit of attending Court, arrived at the Palace previous to the general procession of the University reaching it, they having assembled at Willis's Rooms in King-street, St. James's, with the University Officers, &c. from which place they began to move in grand procession a few minutes before three o'clock, guarded through the streets by Livree, the Bow-street officers, and a numerous body of peace-officers. The procession was headed by two Esquire Bedells, in their full robes, carrying their silver insignia of office, followed by the Vice-Chancellor, the Caput, the Proctors, the Proctors, Taxers, Moderators, and Scrutators.

On their arrival at the Court-yard of the Palace, they were received by the Guard of Honour with presented arms, the band playing a salute, the whole presenting an interesting scene of one of the most Learned Bodies in the World, composed of the eminent characters of the age for learning and general great talents, and of which an extraordinary numerous assemblage of that Learned Body took place on Thursday, especially considering the season, when such numbers of Members of the University are distributed at great distances from the metropolis; they consisted of about 200 to attend the loyal Address, strongly expressive of their dutiful attachment to his Majesty's Person and Government.

Among the distinguished M-embers present were—

The Archbishop of Canterbury; the Bishop of Ely; the Earl of St. Germans; the Rev. Dr. Walsley; Sir Henry Russell; the Rev. Harcourt Blackman, of Trinity College; Mr. George Luce Broughton, of St. John's College; Sir J. Coppley; Sir Wm. Congreve, Trinity College; Mr. Mainwaring, St. John's College; Dr. Richard Yates, Jesus College; the Honourable Mr. Temple; Mr. Edward Finch Hatton; the Rev. Dr. Stanier Clarke; Mr. F. Pollock, Trinity College; Mr. Becket; the Rev. John Taylor; Rev. J. W. Cunningham; the Rev. P. Dodd; the Rev. Henry Boulton; Dr. Litchin; Rev. W. H. Springer, M. A.; Mr. J. W. Bellamy, M. A.; Rev. G. Clark, M. A. Trinity College.

Their appearances in their academic robes had a very splendid and novel appearance. They were shown into the crimson drawing-room and ante-room on their arrival at the Palace.

His Majesty soon afterwards received the report of the effective state of the three regiments of Foot Guards, and gave the military pass-words to the officer commanding the Guard of Honour.—The King afterwards proceeded to take his seat on his Throne, when he was surrounded by the Cabinet Ministers, the Great Officers of State, the President of the Council, the Treasurer of the Household, the Marquis of Headfort, as the Lord in Waiting, Sir W. Knapp, as Groom in Waiting, Sir George Balfour, as Esquire in Waiting, the Page of Honour in Waiting, and the Honourable Corps of Gentlemen Pensioners. Every thing being properly arranged for the reception of the Members of the University, Mr. Mash, the Gentleman Usher in Waiting, announced his Majesty's readiness to receive them, and conducted them into the Royal Presence. After the usual obeisances to the Sovereign, the Vice-Chancellor advanced to the front of the Throne, and delivered the loyal Address, in the most energetic and feeling manner, appearing to breathe his own spontaneous sentiments.

His Majesty, in answer, delivered a most firm, dignified, and appropriate reply.

The Noblemen and Gentlemen composing the assembly were most graciously received, and had the honour to kiss the King's hand.

"I thank you for this loyal and dutiful Address. "What the most wicked and daring efforts have been unremittently used to spread infidelity and sedition throughout my Kingdom, I have felt a perfect conviction that in our Academic Establishments such efforts would not only prove abortive, but would be regarded with the strongest sentiments of disgust and reprobation.

"The manner in which the University of Cambridge has justified this confidence has afforded me the highest satisfaction.

"I am well assured that you will persevere with unabated zeal in cherishing and inculcating a pious reverence for our Holy Religion, and a just sense of the inestimable blessings which are derived from the Laws and Constitution of the Country.

"You may rely on my firm determination to protect and uphold your venerable Institutions, in the stability of which are deeply involved the preservation and security of all that is dear and valuable to us as a Nation."

PRESENTATION OF THE LOYAL ADDRESS OF THE COURT OF ALDERMEN.

Friday his Majesty held a Court at his Palace in Pall-Mall. A guard of honour, preceded by the band of the First Regiment of Foot-Guards, marched into the Court-yard of the Palace, soon after two o'clock; a detachment of the Life-Guards, with their band of trumpets, trombones, kettle-drums, &c. marched into Waterloo-place about the same time. Townend, Sayer, and a numerous assemblage of the Police, were in attendance.

The Officers of the Court and the Personal State Attendants upon the King were the same as on Thursday, on the reception of the Address of the University of Cambridge.

A few minutes before three o'clock, the Lord Mayor and Court of Aldermen, with a loyal Address, expressive of a firm attachment to his Majesty's Person and Government, the Constitution, and a determination to support the laws, came in the following order and procession:—

Four Marshalsmen, two and two, in their uniforms of blue and red.

Six of the Lord Mayor's footmen, two and two, in their costly and splendid liveries.

The two City Marshals, Messrs. Wottner and Brown, in their rich uniforms of scarlet and gold, resembling a General's uniform; they were mounted on two excellent horses, their saddle-cloths embroidered with gold lace.

The State Carriage, newly decorated, and six boys, followed, containing the Lord Mayor in his splendid robes and gold chains; his Lordship was attended by the Mace, the Sword of State, and Cap of Maintenance, also by his Lordship's Chaplain. His Lordship was accompanied by the following Aldermen—Sir Charles Flower, Sir William Curtis, Sir William Leighton, Austley, Birch, Bridges, Hergate, C. Smith, Maguay, and Atkins; Sir John Silvester, the Recorder, Mr. Sheriff Williams, T. Tyrrel, Esq. the Remembrancer, the Town Clerk, and the Comptroller.

The Court was received with the Guard of Honour presenting arms, and the band playing "The Duke of York's March."

The Lord Mayor and Court of Aldermen were shown into the crimson drawing-room and ante-rooms.

In a short time after, the King being seated on his throne, dressed in a General's uniform, surrounded by the Cabinet Ministers, the Great Officers of State, &c. the Lord Mayor and the Court of Aldermen were conducted into the Royal Presence by Mr. Mash, the Gentleman Usher in waiting, an arched to the throne being formed by the Hon. Corps of Gentlemen Pensioners. His Lordship and the rest of the Court having made their dutiful obeisance to the Sovereign, Sir John Silvester, the Recorder, approached the King, and read the loyal Address, in a firm, distinct, and expressive manner, which his Majesty received most graciously, and returned a most dignified and appropriate answer.

The Lord Mayor and Court of Aldermen were most graciously received, and had the honour to kiss his Majesty's hand.

The King gave an audience to Viscount Sidmouth.

TO THE KING'S MOST EXCELLENT MAJESTY.

"The Dutiful and Loyal Address of the Court of Lord Mayor and Aldermen of the City of London."

"MOST GRACIOUS SOVEREIGN,

"We, your Majesty's most dutiful and loyal subjects, the Lord Mayor and Aldermen of the City of London, approach your Royal presence with renewed assurances of our most inviolate attachment to your sacred Person and Government."

"Impressed as we are with veneration for your Majesty's crown and dignity, we view with hor-

ror and detestation the unprincipled efforts of the disaffected in every direction which infatuated malice can devise, and a licentious press promote, to withdraw the usages and timor from their allegiance to their Sovereign, and in the result to overwhelm this free and happy land with anarchy and confusion.

"For this base purpose, calumnies of the most mischievous tendency have been circulated against all the Constituted Authorities of the realm, with restless and unabating rancour; the Parliament, the Courts of Judicature, the Alter, and the Throne, as established by our sacred and glorious Constitution, have become the objects of the most profligate abuse and insulting derision.

"We feel, Sir, that in order to avert the dire calamities threatened by such a torrent of impiety and sedition, it becomes the bounden duty of all the large subjects of the realm to stand forward without delay, and avow their determination to support the principles of the British Constitution, in the true spirit of British loyalty; to rally round the Throne, and guard the Religion and Law of the Country from outrage and insult."

"The Lord Mayor and Aldermen of the City of London are therefore most anxious, Sir, to testify to the Country at large, in this evil hour, their resolution to defend the Monarchy, as well as the other branches of the Constitution, against the attempts openly and industriously made by the instigators and abettors of sedition and infidelity; and, to their utmost endeavour, in their respective stations as Magistrates, under the sanction of the Law, to transmit to their children's children the blessings they have derived from the wisdom and bravery of their ancestors, and which they enjoy under your Majesty's paternal care."

"We beg to add our most fervent prayers to the Almighty Disposer of all events, that your Majesty's reign may be long, prosperous, and happy, in the affections of a faithful, grateful, and loyal People."

Signed, by order of the Court, "HENRY WOODHOUSE."

To which Address the King was pleased to return the following most gracious answer:—

"I return you my warmest thanks for this loyal and dutiful Address.

"It is peculiarly gratifying to me to receive, at this time, such an assurance of your unshaken attachment to my Person and Government, and of the feelings with which you regard the attempts so unceasingly made to extinguish all that has, hitherto been held sacred amongst us, and to destroy all the sources of British freedom, prosperity, and power."

"A spirit similar to that by which you are actuated happily predominates throughout the Kingdom, and I will know the implicit confidence which is due to the spirit and loyalty of the great body of the Nation, who are manifesting their just sense of the blessings they enjoy, by the most decisive proofs of their zealous determination to defend and preserve them."

"You may rely on my constant support in the discharge of the duties which arise out of the present extraordinary conjuncture."

"We are engaged in a common cause, and I feel most deeply that the honour of my Crown, and the happiness of my R-ign, are inseparably interwoven with the maintenance of our established Constitution, and with the true interests and welfare of the People."

MIDDLESEX ADDRESS.

TO THE KING'S MOST EXCELLENT MAJESTY.

"SIR—We, the Freeholders of the Metropolitan County of Middlesex, impelled by urgent necessity, feel it to be an imperative duty to approach your Majesty, in the humble posture of supplication, to solicit your Majesty's most earnest attention to our Petition.

"The Nation, Sir, over which your Majesty, by virtue of your august inheritance, is destined to preside, was once happy as it was powerful and great. It now exhibits the mournful spectacle of a great Empire distracted in its councils; its finances exhausted; the cultivation of its arts, agriculture and commerce impeded; and its mass of population rapidly retrograding their former advances towards the acquirement of wealth and happiness.

"The causes of this melancholy change are manifestly to be attributed to the pernicious measures and baneful influence which have been invariably pursued and exercised by those

