

PREPARATIONS

FOR

Her Majesty's Reception.

WE have authority for stating that it is definitely fixed ~~Page 2~~ Her Majesty, the Prince Consort, the royal family, and *suite*, in their progress to their Highland home at Balmoral, will visit Doncaster, on Wednesday, the 27th of August, and remain all night at the Angel Hotel. This gracious intention on the part of our beloved Sovereign, was intimated to Mr. Pye, through the medium of Colonel the Hon. C. B. Phipps, equerry to the Queen and private secretary to Prince Albert, by a letter dated Osborne, and received on Tuesday, the 5th August. In compliance with that communication, Mr. Pye left Doncaster on the following day for the purpose of having an interview with the gallant Colonel at Buckingham Palace, on the subject of the gratifying event. When he had received the necessary instructions on Thursday and Friday, he returned to Doncaster, where the intelligence was welcomed with the greatest enthusiasm. The Mayor, George Johnson, Esq, at once gave instructions for a meeting of the Council in committee, to be held on

Tuesday evening. Such was the loyal feeling manifested, and the anxiety to pay every tribute of respect and attachment to the throne and royal family, that the request was most numerous and cordially responded to. The Mayor presided; and after an animated discussion, as to the mode of reception most gratifying to her Majesty, several recommendations were unanimously adopted.

DONCASTER TOWN COUNCIL.

The third quarterly meeting of the members of the Town Council was held on Wednesday, Aug. 13. Members present, the Mayor, Aldermen Maw, Webb, Dunhill, Sir I. Morley, Morey, Wragg; Councillors Dunn, Waite, Walker, Carlton, Reed, Cade, Milner, J. Hatfield, Sheardown, G. Hatfield.

The Town Clerk read the following resolutions come to at a meeting of the council in committee, held the previous evening:—

"Ordered, that the Town Clerk address Colonel Phipps upon the subject of Her Majesty's sojourning at Doncaster on the 27th inst.; it being the wish of the Town Council and the inhabitants to present an address expressive of their loyalty and attachment to her Majesty; and to ascertain the time and place at which it will be most acceptable and pleasurable for her Majesty to receive it.

"Ordered, that an Address be also presented to His Royal Highness Prince Albert.

"Ordered, that the Committee of the Town Council meet a committee of the inhabitants every day except Saturday, at eleven o'clock, at the Mansion House, viz. the Vicar, E. Denison, Esq. M.P. T. Walker, Esq. C. Jackson, Esq. George Rainsden, Esq. Dr. Scholfield, Mr. Whitaker, and Mr. Sheardown; with power to the Mayor to add to their number,—for the purpose of carrying into effect the orders of the council.

"Ordered, that the Town Clerk do respectfully address the Recorder to request that he will oblige the Town Council by preparing an address to the Queen; and that he will further oblige by attending on the occasion to read the address.

"Ordered, that the Guild-hall and the Mansion-house be illuminated on the occasion.

Dr. DUNN, addressing the Mayor, said—Allow me, sir, to congratulate you, and through you the town, on the auspicious event of her Majesty's visit to Doncaster. I am very glad that the council in committee last night

came to an unanimous opinion, and that the corporation have determined to shew that the Queen shall be received with all the affection and loyalty due to so distinguished a Sovereign ; and that at the same time they are anxious not to infringe upon her privacy. I need not dwell upon the virtues of our gracious Queen—the first monarch of the first kingdom in the world, and who has distinguished herself whilst she has filled that distinguished office above all princesses. It would therefore be surprising if Englishmen failed to shew that loyalty and attachment to her person which they have always shewn: I am also glad to find that the general feeling of the town is to join with the corporation in every effort that they may make to shew their attachment and loyalty. And I trust if we do that which is pleasing to her Majesty on the 27th of this month, it will not be the last visit that she will pay to this very respectable, ancient, loyal, and beautiful town. (Hear, hear.) There is perhaps one difficulty in shewing attachment to a person so esteemed without entrenching upon that degree of quiet which must be necessary when the Queen takes up her abode in a house in the public street. But I am sure that the inhabitants will vie with each other in shewing their attachment and loyalty. I congratulate you, Mr. Mayor, on being the Mayor on the occasion of such an event ; and I congratulate the town on this promised visit of her Majesty.

The recommendations of the council in committee were confirmed, which concluded the business of the meeting.

PUBLIC MEETING IN DONCASTER.

On Monday evening, the 18th of August, a public meeting of the inhabitants was called, convened by the Mayor, in accordance with the following requisition, signed by about sixty inhabitants :—

"TO THE WORSHIPFUL THE MAYOR OF DONCASTER.—We, the undersigned inhabitants of Doncaster, respectfully request your worship to call a public meeting, in order to consider the propriety of presenting addresses to her Majesty and his Royal Highness Prince Albert, and the best method of displaying our loyalty, on the occasion of her auspicious visit to this ancient borough.—Doncaster, August 16, 1851."

Soon after six o'clock the meeting was attended by a considerable number of persons, including those of all ranks and denominations in the town.

The MAYOR, on rising, said—I have great pleasure in taking the chair this evening. It is a most auspicious event, and a great honour conferred upon this borough, that our gracious Majesty has selected it for her resting-place on her journey to Scotland, on Wednesday, the 27th inst. ; and I trust that such arrangements will be made as will reflect infinite credit upon the town, and be pleasing and satisfactory to her Majesty.

The Rev. Dr. SHARPE, the vicar, rose to propose the first resolution. Having been one who signed the requisition, he had great pleasure in rising to propose the resolution which had been placed in his hands. He would observe in doing so that the people of this country (and of course those of this town) had been long distinguished for their loyalty and attachment to the Sovereigns of this country. And of all the blessings with which a kind and merciful Providence had favoured us as a Christian nation, it was not the least of those mercies that we had been blessed under the government of an amiable and virtuous Queen. (Hear.) A Queen who not only ruled the mighty destinies of this great and powerful nation,—the mightiest and greatest upon earth—so as to gain the admiration of all the surrounding nations, but also so faithfully discharged all the duties of a wife and mother as to be an example to all, and to live in the hearts of all her subjects. (Hear.) No sooner was it known that it was her Majesty's gracious intention to honour Doncaster with her presence for one night, than the Corporation with a promptitude and an alacrity which did them infinite credit, immediately took steps to secure for her Majesty a loyal and proper reception, such as it would become her Majesty to receive, and such as would become the loyal borough of Doncaster to offer to her. It was well known that her Majesty disliked all public ostentation and shew when such could be dispensed with. (Cheers.)

Sir ISAAC MORLEY seconded the resolution.

After a long discussion, it was agreed that the addresses prepared by the Recorder be presented to her Majesty and Prince Albert.

Dr. SCHOLFIELD proposed the next resolution, which was—

“That on Tuesday afternoon, the 26th inst., being Prince Albert's birth day, the various day and Sunday schools of the town be regaled in some convenient place, in celebration of Her Majesty's visit to Doncaster.”

The Rev. W. HARCUS, Independent Minister, seconded the resolution and expressed the pleasure he felt at being

permitted to take a part in these proceedings. They owed much to her Majesty for her conduct in her official as well as private capacity. Not only as a queen was she worthy of all praise, but also as an example to all the mothers and wives in the kingdom. It was highly necessary to impress the fact of a royal visit upon the minds of the rising generation. He believed a monarchical government was one which was compatible with the genius of the British people. (Hear.) And it was one which was calculated to benefit us as a nation, and just the right one for us. (Hear.) He trusted that those who had sufficient of this world's goods would be induced to give something in support of such a design; and that the Corporation would not hesitate to give a liberal sum in support of it. (Hear.)

The resolution was put and carried unanimously.

The MAYOR acknowledged the compliment, and the meeting separated.

THE RAILWAY STATION.

On Wednesday morning the "note of preparation" was sounded in right good earnest at the Station of the Great Northern. First we may mention that at the outside of the Station an awning was placed, in order to protect her Majesty and suite against any unfavourable weather. In the interior, two platforms were erected for ladies and children. On the one on the right side was placed a state chair from the Mansion-House, for the accommodation of the Mayoress. The platforms, as well as the floor along which the Queen had to pass, were covered with crimson cloth. After the arrival of the up train at half-past nine in the morning that side of the Station was barricaded, and all the other trains each way were received at and departed from the side appropriated for the down trains. The pillars of the platform were tastefully decorated by Mr. Appleby with wreaths of evergreens and flowers. Some beautiful bouquets were also placed near the doors, and festoons of flowers over the doorways. About twelve o'clock the Station became a scene of

some excitement. A train from the north arrived, conveying Lord Cathcart, the nobleman to whom was committed the charge of the military. His lordship was received by Captain Warre (son of Major General Warre) as his lordship's aide-de-camp, and by Captain Cooke. Captain Hepworth, of the Third West York Militia, was also present on the platform. Immediately after the arrival of his lordship, about a hundred and fifty men (including officers and band) of the 85th Infantry, arrived from Hull. Having alighted from the carriages, they assembled in rank, and marched into the town, the band playing a popular air. They proceeded at once to the Guild Hall, of which they took possession as the place allotted them for the night. The soldiers were accompanied by their officers, and on marching through the streets were soon joined by a numerous crowd, which continued to increase as they advanced to their destination. They were to form a guard of honour, to be stationed at the Angel Hotel on the arrival of her Majesty and the Royal Family.

THE ANGEL HOTEL.

The preparations for the reception of her Majesty and suite at Mr. Pye's, the Angel Hotel, were on the most liberal scale, neatness and comfort being the leading features throughout. On entering the approach to the vestibule, an endless display of fuschias, geraniums, and laurels presented themselves. A temporary barrier had been erected in the entrance yard, in order to render it more private. This was tastefully covered with evergreens; and flowers in pots, consisting chiefly of our choicest productions from the gardens of Mr. Keyworth, of High-street, to whom the arrangements were entrusted, were placed on shelves in front, forming a *coup d'œil* at once striking and beautiful. Besides these was a profusion, along the passage, of similar elegant ornaments. Advancing towards the vesti-

bule, a most magnificent bouquet, formed of the choicest productions of Flora, was placed. It was of immense size; and the labour bestowed upon it must have been great. It was from the gardens of R. J. Coulman, Esq. of Wadworth Hall. On one side was a beautifully constructed crown of flowers from Lady Charlotte Copley, surrounded with a splendid display of *Amaranthus gigantus*. From Lady Charlotte was also a most splendid bouquet of flowers, consisting of *Achimenes venusta*, *Begonia nitida*, *Begonia parvifolia*, *oncidium flexuosum*, *Aloia citradora*, &c. in addition to choice varieties of carnations, roses, &c. This beautiful bouquet was sent to the Angel Hotel for her Majesty, which, we believe, was most graciously received. The design and execution of the crown were entrusted to Mr. Andrew Porter, the gardener, and were admirably completed. The time-piece was beautifully wreathed with flowers. The door-ways were festooned with evergreens, which contributed to give to the whole a delightful and charming appearance. Ascending the staircase, and on the landing, there was another admirable display of flowers and evergreens. Above the window, was a well-executed crown of flowers. We are then introduced into the Queen's drawing-room, which is elegantly fitted up for the occasion. The same landing leads to the bed-room, and to other apartments for the august visitors. The whole of the rooms are matchless for neatness and comfort; and though no magnificent furniture meets the eye, there is combined, nevertheless, taste and elegance. Three apartments, appropriated to her Majesty and Prince Albert, are accessible from one to the other. The Prince of Wales and Prince Alfred have separate beds in one room, as well as the Princess Royal and the Princess Alice. The Countess of Desart and the Hon. Miss Byng, the maids in waiting on her Majesty, are also on the same landing. Mr. Birch, the tutor to the Prince of Wales, and Miss Hildyard, the governess to the Princesses, have apartments on the third floor. Lord John Russell, Sir James Clarke, the Hon. Colonel C. B. Phipps, and Colonel Gordon took up their abode in the adjoining residence of Mr. Alderman Dunhill, which was fitted up in a style which showed that every care and attention had been bestowed for their accommodation. Her Majesty's household amounted in number to twenty-three. Viewing the whole of the arrangements, whether in the dining-room, drawing-room, or

other apartments, it was evident that Mr. and Mrs. Pye had evinced great anxiety in having every thing provided that could possibly add to the comfort and pleasure of the illustrious travellers.