

ADDRESS,

BY

HORATIO ROSS, Esq. OF ROSSIE,

TO THE

CONSTITUENCY OF THE MONTROSE DISTRICT,

ON HIS RETIRING FROM THEIR REPRESENTATION,

In December, 1834.

TO THE ELECTORS OF MONTROSE, ARBROATH, BRECHIN, FORFAR, AND INVERBERVIE.

GENTLEMEN,

Edinburgh, 2d December, 1834.

I feel it to be my duty to lose no time in apprising you that, in the event of a dissolution of Parliament, it is not my intention again to offer myself as a Candidate for the honour of representing your District of Burghs.

I beg to acknowledge my grateful sense of the distinction which you have conferred on me by twice returning me to Parliament. During the four eventful years which have elapsed since I entered public life as your Representative, I have endeavoured to discharge the duties intrusted to me to the utmost of my ability. I conscientiously supported the great measure of Parliamentary Reform, believing, as I did at that time, that it was absolutely necessary; and I trust that the advantages which it was intended to secure may be promoted, by a calm and dispassionate exercise, on the part of the electors, of that franchise which was conferred for the valuable purpose of ensuring a proper representation of the people in the Commons House of Parliament. Acting under the same impression, that I should best promote the public good, I also supported the Bill for intrusting to you the management of your own Municipal affairs. I supported the Bill for removing the evils of Slavery from all the Colonies under the dominion of Great Britain; and I likewise gave my cordial aid for placing the Children employed in our Manufactories in such a situation that they should not be exposed to harsh treatment, either by unfeeling parents or avaricious masters. I cordially co-operated in the plan for opening a new and wide field for your commercial enterprise in the East; and I have done every thing in my power to promote all rational measures for enforcing a rigid economy, and for relieving the people from taxation, so far as consistent with the faith due to the national creditor, and the preservation of the most important interests of the country at large.

I believe you will also give me credit that, while I pursued the course best adapted, in my opinion, for preserving the character of the country, and the welfare of the public, I did not fail in attending with punctuality to the local business of the District; and have spared no pains in affording such assistance as might be in my power, for promoting your Shipping and Manufacturing Interests.

While acting consistently with that steady and rational reform which has in view the removal of practical abuses, I have, at the same time, felt the necessity of offering my most determined opposition to the schemes of those reckless men who, for the sake of mere innovation, or of a passing popularity, wish to undermine our most venerable and sacred Institutions: I never could approve of, far less sanction or support, the attacks which have been made on the Protestant Established Church in every part of the British Empire; and I view with indignation and alarm the extent to which the opposition to our National Church has been carried. I shall, in like manner, always resist to the uttermost any attempt to interfere with the just and acknowledged prerogative of the Crown, which I consider the surest safeguard of the rights of the people. Nothing can, in my opinion, be more disgraceful than the attempts which are now making in several quarters to interfere with his Majesty's undoubted privilege of selecting such Ministers as he may think fit, for aiding his Councils in the government of this Empire; and it is with peculiar pain that I have observed measures of so unconstitutional a tendency encouraged and supported within a District to which I feel sincerely attached, and to which I am so deeply indebted. I also respect the privileges of both Houses of Parliament; and I consider the preservation of the rights and dignities of the House of Peers to be essential for preserving the proper balance among the Three Estates of the realm, by which the people, on the one hand, are preserved from any oppression on the part of the Executive, and, on the other, from the still more dangerous thralldom of Democracy.

From the sentiments which have been expressed in the various Addresses presented to his Majesty from your district, regarding the recent exercise of his Royal Prerogative, I fear that my re-appearance as a Candidate might, instead of allaying, tend to increase that excitement which unfortunately prevails; and I therefore feel it my duty at once to announce the resolution which I have taken. I sincerely hope, however, that before the day of election arrives, there may be an end to that irritation, so inconsistent with the dispassionate exercise of the important franchise with which you have been intrusted under the Reform Constitution. I sincerely hope that you will not intrust your interests either to a reckless demagogue, or destructive; but that you will find one far more able to advocate your rights, while he at the same time upholds our valuable institutions in Church and State, and feels the same attachment, as I do, to everything that is venerable and sacred within the land; and is equally anxious, while resisting oppression and opposing corruption wherever it exists, to honour the King, and to reverence the laws. Be assured that the momentous struggle in which the country will, in all probability, be shortly engaged, can never terminate for your advantage, unless the privileges of the Three Estates of the realm are preserved—the Church held in veneration—faith kept with the public creditor—the rights of the agricultural, manufacturing, and commercial interests considered as identified—and the laws by which property and personal liberty are secured, equally and faithfully administered.

Again thanking you for the honours I have received at your hands, and with the most anxious wishes for your political and personal welfare, I remain,

GENTLEMEN,

Your faithful servant and well-wisher,

(Signed)

HORATIO ROSS