

THE SUPREMACY OF THE SOVEREIGN.

I Peter ii. 17.

"FEAR GOD—HONOUR THE KING."

ON the present anniversary of the nativity of our most Gracious Sovereign Lady, Queen Victoria, it is to me, my brethren, a subject of the deepest gratification, to be, by a gracious Providence, permitted to address so large and orderly an assemblage of my fellow Christians, upon the duty which we, as loyal subjects of her Majesty, are now desirous to discharge, in the most becoming manner.

To us, and all who have the privilege of living under the broad and glorious canopy of the British constitution,—a constitution, remember, the most excellent and auspicious of all others, because the most agreeable to the example and dictates of Holy Writ,—it becomes a duty of no mean importance, to hail every event which calls to the recollection past favours from the hands of our all-wise Creator and supreme Governor. And, therefore, is it our *special* duty, *at this time*, with joyful and grateful hearts, to commemorate the birth-day of our beloved Queen; who, from the period of her accession, down to the present eventful crisis, has ever swayed the sceptre with "justice and mercy," over the land of our forefathers, as well as over this portion of her Majesty's other dominions. The passage of Scripture which I have now placed before you, involves, in the most explicit and convincing language, this important duty; to which I would invite your serious attention.

The apostle Peter, in our text, seems fully to sustain that character which divines usually give him, of bringing forward