

THE DEPUTATION TO THE QUEEN.

It is a circumstance of rare occurrence when a personal interview is granted by the reigning monarch of the British Empire to deputations from Nonconformist bodies. Several such have, however, been given during the past few weeks of Jubilee celebration. The Society of Friends possesses a special privilege, which was granted to it in the time of William Penn, by which it has the right of personally presenting its Addresses to the Throne. This opportunity was accorded to twenty Friends, who went as a deputation from the Meeting of Sufferings, to present an address of congratulation to the venerable Sovereign of these realms on the sixtieth anniversary of her accession. Sixty years ago an audience was granted on the occasion of the Queen's coronation, and another ten years ago when John Bright accompanied the deputation.

The 15th ult. was the day appointed, and the deputation met at Windsor under the efficient leadership of John Edward Ellis, M. P. It was one of the most beautiful of summer afternoons. Nature had put on her most charming smile; bright with unclouded sunshine, yet cooled with a soft northern breeze, nothing was left to be desired for such an occasion as a visit to the Royal Home at Windsor. Nor was the reception accorded by our courteous and aged Queen any less gracious.

Strikingly in contrast is the favoured position of the Society of Friends to-day with that once occupied by the adherents of George Fox, when they had to pass through such bitter persecution for their steadfast allegiance to conscience and truth. Multitudes suffered imprisonment, and many martyrdom, because they would not take an oath, and swear loyalty to King and Crown. They strove to live their loyalty as peaceable citizens, whilst faithfully serving God and man. If we

pause to note the change that has come about, it is that we may honor the fidelity of those who purchased our liberties and wrought out our religious freedom by the sacrifices they made, and, in our day of Christian toleration, worthily uphold the name we bear.

The deputations passed through the ancient gateway, and under the shadow of the stately towers whence Norman, Tudor, and Guelph have for centuries directed the destinies of the nation, and guided or sanctioned the legislation of successive ministries and parliaments; whence our Queen has exercised her generally wise and beneficent rule during the longest period that it has been permitted to any monarch to sway the sceptre of this great Empire. Ample time was allowed the visitors to stroll about the State Apartments, which overlook the park, and to inspect the treasures of ancient and modern art, and the collection of interesting historical mementoes which are carefully preserved. Deputations from the Baptist and Congregationalist, and from the Presbyterian and Unitarian bodies were received; after which that from the Society of Friends was ushered into the Green Drawing room. The Queen was seated in a richly upholstered and gilded chair, herself a model of simplicity in her attire; on her left was the Princess Beatrice, wearing the symbols of early widowhood, whilst the Duchess of Buccleuch, and other Ladies-in-Waiting, the Earl of Lathom, the Duke of Portland, the Home Secretary, and several other attendants made up the courtly group.

The Queen listened attentively to the Address, which was impressively read by J. Ed. Ellis. In response she said, "I thank you, gentlemen, very warmly for your kind and loyal address." The Queen then handed her formal reply to J. Ed. Ellis, which, with the Address, will be found in another column. J. Ed. Ellis then stepped forward, stooped, and kissed the royal hand; after which he introduced Jona-