# SPEECHES BY THE RIGHT HONORABLE SIR ROBERT PEEL DURING HIS ADMINISTRATION; ALSO HIS ADDRESS TO THE ELECTORS OF BOROUGH OF TAMWORTH

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ROBERT PEEL

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Trieste

# SPEECHES

OF THE

RIGHT HONORABLE

# SIR ROBERT PEEL,

BART., &c. &c.

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# AN ADDRESS

TO

# THE ELECTORS

OF THE

## BOROUGH OF TAMWORTH.

*December*, 1834.

# TO THE ELECTORS

OF THE

# BOROUGH OF TAMWORTH.

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GENTLEMEN,

ON the 26th of November last, being then at Rome, I received from his Majesty a summons, wholly unforeseen and unexpected by me, to return to England without delay, for the purpose of assisting his Majesty in the formation of a new Government. I instantly obeyed the command for my return, and, on my arrival, I did not hesitate, after an anxious review of the position of public affairs, to place at the disposal of my Sovereign any services which I might be thought capable of rendering.

My acceptance of the first office in the Government, terminates for the present my political

connexion with you. In seeking the renewal of it, whenever you shall be called upon to perform the duty of electing a representative in parliament, I feel it incumbent upon me to enter into a declaration of my views of public policy—as full and unreserved as I can make it, consistently with my duty as a Minister of the Crown.

You are entitled to this from the nature of the trust which I again solicit—from the long habits of friendly intercourse in which we have lived—and from your tried adherence to me in times of difficulty, when the demonstration of unabated confidence was of peculiar value. I gladly avail myself also of this, a legitimate opportunity, of making a more public appeal—of addressing, through you, to that great and intelligent class of society, of which you are a portion, and a fair and unexceptionable representative—to that class which is much less interested in the contentions of party than in the maintenance of order, and the cause of good government—that frank exposition of general principles and views, which appears to be anxiously expected, and which it ought not to be the inclination, and cannot be the interest, of a minister of this country to withhold.

Gentlemen, the arduous duties in which I am engaged, have been imposed on me through no act of mine. Whether they were an object of

ambition coveted by me--whether I regard the power and distinction they confer, as any sufficient compensation for the heavy sacrifices they involve, are matters of mere personal concern, on which I will not waste a word. The King, in a crisis of great difficulty, required my services. The question I had to decide was this: Shall I obey the call; or shall I shrink from the responsibility, alleging as the reason, that I consider myself, in consequence of the Reform Bill, as labouring under a sort of moral disqualification which must preclude me, and all who think with me, both now and for ever, from entering into the official service of the Crown? Would it, I ask, be becoming in any public man to act upon such a principle? Was it fit that I should assume that either the object or the effect of the Reform Bill has been to preclude all hope of a successful appeal to the good sense and calm judgment of the people, and so to fetter the prerogative of the Crown that the King has no free choice among his subjects, but must select his Ministers from one section, and one section only, of public men.

I have taken another course; but I have not taken it without deep and anxious consideration as to the probability that my opinions are so far in unison with those of the constituent body of the united kingdom, as to enable me, and those