

and to Your Royal Consort, a loyal and hearty welcome. We rejoice in our British heritage. We count it an inestimable privilege to be members of so great a nation, and we are deeply thankful for the consciousness we have that our devotion to Your Royal Person finds a parallel in the kindly interest and affectionate regard which Your Majesty ever bears to the humblest of Your subjects.

We devoutly trust and pray that Your Majesty may, by the grace of God, long be spared in health and strength to reign over a happy and contented people; that Your Throne may ever be maintained by their love, and Your life made happy by their unceasing fidelity.

Given under our Corporate Seal this eighth day of July, in the year of our Lord one thousand nine hundred and seven.

John E. Wood, Mayor.

Geo. I. Gough, Town Clerk.

L. S.

To which Address His Majesty was pleased to return the following gracious Answer:—

The Queen and I thank you most heartily for your loyal Address of welcome, and are touched by the expressions of esteem for Our Persons which are contained in it.

We have enjoyed Our visit to your charming neighbourhood, with its diversified and truly English scenery, and regret that the time at Our disposal has not enabled Us to prolong Our visit.

The interests of agriculture, with which the well-being of your town is so largely bound up, have always occupied a considerable portion of My thoughts and interests, and you may be certain that I shall continue to feel the warmest solicitude for the prosperity of this most important industry.

Whitehall, August 2, 1907.

The following Addresses were presented to Their Majesties The King and Queen on the occasion of Their Majesties' visit, on the 24th July, to the Royal Victoria Patriotic Asylum, Wandsworth Common, in commemoration of the Jubilee of its Foundation and Endowment as a National Memorial for the benefit of Orphan Daughters of the Nation's Sailors, Soldiers, and Marines:—

To Their Most Excellent Majesties King Edward and Queen Alexandra.

The Loyal and Dutiful Address of the Mayor, Aldermen and Councillors of the Metropolitan Borough of Wandsworth, under their Common Seal.

We, Your Majesties' most loyal and dutiful subjects, humbly approach Your Majesties, and desire to express our deep gratification at Your visit to this borough in commemoration of the Jubilee of the foundation in the year 1857 of the Royal Victoria Patriotic Asylum for Orphan Children of Soldiers, Sailors and Marines.

We rejoice that Your Majesties have shown in the welfare of this Institution the same warm interest with which it has been honoured by Her late beloved Majesty Queen Victoria and by many other Members of the Royal Family, to whose sympathy and support it is deeply indebted. The site of the Institution comprises

forty acres, formerly part of the common by which it is surrounded, and as an open space is of great value to the large population of the two adjoining Boroughs of Battersea and Wandsworth. During the fifty years which have elapsed since the Institution was established this population has increased from about 60,000 to over 500,000, and is still rapidly increasing.

It is less than a month since Your Majesties graciously opened in an adjacent borough the Union Jack Club, also for the benefit of men serving in the Army and Navy, and Your presence on this interesting occasion is another instance of the readiness of Your Majesties to promote the success of institutions established for the advancement of the best interests of the Services of the Crown.

It is our earnest hope that Your Majesties may long live to reign over a loyal and prosperous people.

To which Address His Majesty was pleased to return the following gracious Answer:—

In behalf of the Queen and Myself, I thank you for your loyal and dutiful Address. I am glad to take this opportunity of meeting the representatives who have been chosen by My people to regulate the affairs of this important Borough.

The object of My visit, to which you allude with so much sympathy, is one which must appeal to all those who have the welfare of their country at heart.

The men of My Navy and Army have ever been distinguished for bravery and devotion, and no public effort is more worthy of support than the endeavour to provide for the orphan girls of those who have died in the service of their Country.

I rejoice in the success of an institution which bears the name of Queen Victoria, My dear and ever to be lamented Mother. I wish it every success in the future, and I share with you the gratification which we must all feel in the promotion of this worthy and patriotic object.

May it please Your Majesty,

I have, on my own behalf as President and on behalf of the Royal Patriotic Fund Corporation, to thank Your Majesty for graciously visiting the Royal Victoria Patriotic Asylum in commemoration of the Jubilee of its erection and endowment in 1857 by command of Her Majesty Queen Victoria.

Upon a mural tablet at the entrance of this building there is the following inscription:

"This Asylum for the Orphan Daughters of the Soldiers, Seamen and Marines of the Realm

"is erected and endowed by command of
"Queen Victoria,
"from part of the Patriotic Fund formed
"in 1854-55 by the Donations of the People
"of Great Britain and Ireland, the British
"Colonies and India, aided by many contributions from other parts of the world."

During the fifty years which have elapsed since 1857, 2,413 girls have been admitted into the Institution, receiving a sound elementary education and a practical training, fitting them to earn their own living in domestic employment.

The most gratifying reports have been received from employers of those who have passed out, testifying to the good service rendered by the girls.