

much of its present position to the kindly interest You have taken in it.

I think Your Majesties will be pleased to hear that the Nurses so appreciated Your kindness that they, principally by their own endeavours, have enabled me to-day to tell Your Majesties that the Fund amounts now to £1,265,000, although the Fund has been able to pay back to Nurses who have retired from the Fund no less a sum than £300,000.

The Fund is now paying annuitants £21,000 a year, thus proving that those who work and save on small incomes can lay by for themselves for their old age.

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

"In behalf of the Queen and Myself I thank you sincerely for your loyal and dutiful Address. We have always taken the warmest interest in the Royal National Pension Fund for Nurses, and it has given the Queen great pleasure to open the new building which will contain the offices of the Fund.

"It has now happily long been recognised that in the alleviation of pain and sickness good nursing is of supreme importance, and that it is in the interest of the community that measures should be taken to obtain skilled and efficient nurses in increased numbers and to procure for them such advantages and prospects as will retain them in their profession.

"In no career has more unselfish devotion been shown than in that of nursing, and it would indeed be hard if those who spend the best years of life in acts of self-denial, in attending the sick bed and ministering to the wants of those unable to help themselves, should be condemned, when age has diminished their capacity for work, to poverty, if not to actual want.

"We are much gratified to learn how largely nurses have availed themselves of the facilities for saving afforded by the Royal National Pension Fund, and how liberal has been the support which has been accorded by the public. I earnestly hope that such support may be continued, that the Fund may find in the future, as it has in the past, many generous contributors, and that its usefulness may be extended and its prosperity increased."

Whitehall, July 13, 1908.

The following Address was presented to The King at Hereford Railway Station on Wednesday, the 8th July, when Their Majesties passed through the City by rail after their visit to Leeds:—

To Their Most Gracious Majesties King Edward the Seventh and Queen Alexandra.

May it please Your Majesties,

We, the Mayor, Aldermen, and Citizens of the City of Hereford in Council assembled, desire to take the opportunity afforded us by Your Majesties' passage through this city, to present to Your Majesties an address expressive on the part of the Citizens of their loyalty and attachment to His Majesty's Throne and Person; and in doing so we wish further to express our hope for long life and happiness to Her Majesty Queen Alexandra to carry on the works of charity and mercy which have enshrined Her Majesty in the hearts of all His Majesty's subjects.

We desire particularly to recognise the great work done by Your Majesties in giving Your support and aid to every movement that tends to the advancement of the educational and material interests of our beloved country.

Your Majesties' present journey is a proof of this; starting from the great manufacturing centre of Leeds, where Your Majesties have shown Your interests in the work of advanced education, Your Majesties are going to the ancient City of Bristol, a centre of commerce and shipping, to open new docks and so extend the material prosperity of that City.

Meanwhile, Your Majesties are passing through our ancient Cathedral City with its many historic memories, always in support of the Throne, a City the centre of a peaceful agricultural population, in a district celebrated for its apples, its cider, and its hops, and still more celebrated for its Hereford cattle, of the breed of which His Majesty The King has been such a prominent and successful supporter; but above and beyond all this we claim that in no portion of Your Majesty's Realm are there more devoted and loyal subjects than Your Majesties possess in this City and County.

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

"It gives the Queen and Myself great pleasure to receive the loyal and dutiful Address of the Mayor, Aldermen and Citizens of Hereford.

"We have noticed with pleasure the fertile country through which We have passed, the produce of which bears so important a share in the prosperity of your ancient City.

"The world-wide celebrity of the fine breed of cattle for which the county is noted is, I am happy to say, still maintained, and I think it should be a source of pride to our agriculturists to find agents from foreign lands constantly visiting our country districts in order that they may purchase horses, cattle, and sheep to improve their own stocks.

"Your welfare and prosperity will always be an object of My warmest solicitude."

*War Office,
9th July, 1908.*

The KING has been graciously pleased to confer the decoration of the Royal Red Cross upon Miss Elizabeth Annie Wildman, Lady Superintendent, Queen Alexandra's Military Nursing Service for India, in recognition of her special devotion and competency in connection with her nursing duties in India.

Whitehall, July 13, 1908.

The KING has been pleased to direct the preparation of Warrants for His Majesty's signature, authorizing Letters Patent to be passed under the Great Seal of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland, conferring the dignity of a Baronet of the said United Kingdom upon each of the undermentioned Gentlemen, and the heirs male of their respective bodies lawfully begotten:—

Sir Joseph Francis Leese, of Send Holme, in the parish of Send, in the county of Surrey, Knight, one of His Majesty's Counsel learned in the Law;