

We are deeply sensible of the great honour which Your Majesties have conferred upon us in coming amongst us for the purpose of opening the "Royal Edward" Dock, an occasion of great moment to all Citizens of Bristol who look upon the new Dock as a means of increasing trade and commerce not only with His Majesty's Dominions beyond the Seas but in all quarters of the world, thereby fostering a closer intercourse between the Nations which will tend to promote the international friendliness and peace which Your Majesties have so much at heart.

The thousands who are here to-day join in our appreciation of the unfailing kindness and solicitude which Your Majesties have ever shown in all matters which concern the welfare and happiness of Your people, and we would crave leave with all respect to thank Your Majesties for this fresh proof of Your goodwill.

That the King of Kings may grant to Your Majesties long life and health to further exercise that benign influence which has spread over the whole world, and has everywhere made for peace and content, is the earnest and devout prayer of Your loyal and devoted subjects.

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

"I thank you most sincerely in behalf of The Queen and Myself for your loyal and dutiful Address, and the hearty welcome which We have received.

"It gives Me great pleasure to visit your City, so celebrated in history and romance, so rich in traditions, so renowned for its wealth and commerce.

"The natural position of the City, situate at the gates of the Western Ocean, has, since the discovery of the Americas, endowed it with an importance which has been fostered by the energy, zeal, and ability of your Citizens. Its natural advantages have not been allowed to fall into disuse, and its trade has developed with changing circumstances, and will, I trust, be further stimulated by the opening of the magnificent Dock which is the occasion of My visit to-day.

"Nor, amidst the countless occupations of commercial activity, has your City ever failed to produce public-spirited men willing to devote their time and experience to the efficient performance of municipal duties.

"You may be assured that the prosperity and welfare of your City will always be a subject of My warmest wishes."

To The King's Most Excellent Majesty, and to Her Most Gracious Majesty Queen Alexandra.

*May it please Your Majesties,*

We, the Chairman and Members of the Committee to whom the Council of the City and County of Bristol have entrusted the management of their Dock undertaking, most humbly offer a heartfelt greeting to Your Majesties, on the occasion of Your coming amongst us to open the Royal Edward Dock.

We beg leave to remind Your Majesties that our City and Port is rich in associations with the history of these islands and of the British Colonies over the Seas, and that it has had no mean share in building up the mighty Empire

over which His Majesty wields so beneficent a sway.

Many of the privileges which the City of Bristol now enjoys have been bestowed in times past by Your Majesties' illustrious predecessors, in return for services dutifully rendered, and we would venture to recall to Your memory the fact that a fleet of vessels, fitted out and manned by Bristol men, and sailing from the banks of the Avon, discovered the mainland of North America, an event which has added to His Majesty's dominions one of His most prosperous and devoted Colonies.

The Dock, which Your Majesties have so graciously opened to-day, has been designed to further the work which has been so long carried on by the Port of Bristol, and we believe that our enterprise will lead to a large increase of trade and commerce between our Port and foreign lands, and more especially with His Majesty's world-wide possessions.

We look upon Your presence here to-day as a harbinger of the success of the new undertaking upon which the citizens of Bristol have embarked, and we humbly tender our thanks to Your Majesties for so graciously consenting to be with us to encourage us in our endeavours to extend and cement the trade of the Empire.

We pray that He who rules over all kingdoms will grant to Your Majesties health, joy, and honour, and that He may influence Your subjects, of whatever race and creed, always to serve Your Majesties with one heart and mind, so that under His Divine Providence the blessings of peace and prosperity may rest upon our land.

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

"I thank you in behalf of The Queen and Myself for your loyal Address, and for the cordial terms in which it is expressed.

"No ceremony affords Me greater pleasure than to inaugurate an enterprise designed to increase the prosperity of Our country and to aid the development of trade.

"In maritime commerce England, by long years of labour and accumulated experience, has gained pre-eminence. That pre-eminence can be retained in the face of the rivalry of other nations only by, on the one hand, upholding the old character of the English sailor for skill, courage, and endurance, and, on the other, by adopting the most efficient means of transport and increasing the facilities enjoyed by our shipping.

"The splendid Dock, which I gladly permit to be called by My name, and which I am pleased to open to-day, will, I am sure, prove a powerful stimulus to your trade, and so increase the wealth and prosperity of your City.

"This Dock, constructed at great expense, by vast labour, and with exceptional skill, will be capable of receiving through its fine entrance piers the largest ships of all the nations.

"I shall watch with great interest the success of your undertaking."

To Their Most Gracious Majesties King Edward VII and Queen Alexandra.

We, the Master Wardens and Commonalty of Merchant Venturers of the City of Bristol, humbly desire to present to Your Majesties an Address of welcome on the auspicious occasion