

adjacent Counties, to make the premier Agricultural College of England the centre of an organised system of instruction and research in Agriculture, Forestry, and allied subjects, while at the same time maintaining and extending those wider activities in regard to the United Kingdom, the Colonies, and the Empire of India, which have hitherto been their chief concern.

We desire to assure Your Majesty of our profound loyalty and devotion to Your Majesty's Throne and Person, and it is our earnest prayer that many years of health and happiness may be vouchsafed to Your Majesty, in which to continue those untiring and benevolent labours which have contributed so largely to the welfare and prosperity of all classes of Your Majesty's subjects.

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

"I am much gratified by the cordial terms of your loyal Address, and it gives Me great pleasure to visit your County again.

"From My youth I have taken the warmest interest in Agriculture. It is a source of livelihood and support to hundreds of thousands of My people, and upon it the prosperity of the country largely depends.

"In Agriculture, as in all other Industries, scientific research has effected great improvements. The simple methods which the farmers of bygone times found profitable and efficient, have now given place to systems of cultivation which were then unknown. The success of the farmer of to-day is dependent, not merely on his industry and economical management, but on the possession and application of special knowledge. Such special knowledge can only be obtained by instruction and scientific investigation, and I, therefore, cordially welcome the enlargement of the scope of the work of the Royal Agricultural College. Under your new organisation you will have greater opportunities for the efficient performance of your important duties and for the continuance and extension of your invaluable work.

"You may be assured of My warmest good wishes for the increased success of your undertaking."

*Whitehall, July 7, 1909.*

The following Addresses were presented to The King on the occasion of Their Majesties' visit to South Kensington, on Saturday, the 26th June, to open the New Buildings of the Victoria and Albert Museum:—

To the King's Most Excellent Majesty.

*May it please Your Majesty,*

We, the Mayor, Aldermen, and Councillors of the Royal Borough of Kensington, desire, on behalf of ourselves and the 180,000 inhabitants of the Borough whom we represent, to approach Your Majesty, and to tender to You and to Her Majesty Queen Alexandra our dutiful greetings on this Your first official visit to our Borough since Your accession to the Throne, together with an assurance of our loyalty and devotion to Your Majesties.

We are deeply sensible of the interest in our Borough which Your Majesty has graciously shown, and wish to avail ourselves of this opportunity of expressing our heartfelt thanks that one of Your earliest acts as Sovereign of this Realm was to give effect to the desire and aspiration of the people of Kensington by

commanding that the title "Royal" should be applied to our Borough, to commemorate the close ties which ever existed between Queen Victoria and Kensington as the place of Her birth and the home of Her earlier years.

We rejoice that the occasion of Your Majesty's visit to our Royal Borough should be to open a Museum within our borders, which we recognise will be of great educational value to vast numbers of Your loyal subjects, and will possess a special interest to Kensington by reason of its being named after our late beloved Queen Victoria and Her illustrious Consort Prince Albert.

We also desire to express our appreciation of Your Majesty's recent gracious act in commanding that the East Gardens of Kensington Palace should be thrown open to the public, as we recognise therein a further instance of the kindly consideration which Your Majesty is ever showing for the welfare and pleasure of Your subjects.

We view with gratitude the prosperity which is attending Your Majesty's rule throughout the whole of the British Empire, and we earnestly trust that the inestimable blessing "Peace," which has so far marked Your reign, and which Your Majesty has done so much to promote, may long continue throughout Your Dominions and amongst the Nations of the World.

In conclusion, we earnestly pray that the guidance and blessing of Almighty God may be vouchsafed to Your Majesty and Your beloved Consort Queen Alexandra, and that You may long be spared to reign in happiness over a loyal, united and contented people.

Given under the Common Seal of the Mayor, Aldermen and Councillors of the Royal Borough of Kensington, this 26th day of June, 1909.

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

"The Queen and I are gratified to receive your loyal and dutiful Address of Welcome.

"I have always taken the liveliest interest in the welfare of your Borough, so closely associated with the childhood and youth of Queen Victoria, My beloved Mother, and I am glad to know that the opening of the East Gardens of Kensington Palace, where She lived, has been a benefit and a source of pleasure to the inhabitants, and that the great National Museum which is opened to-day will have a special value to those living near it.

"I am glad to see here so many leading representatives of your Borough. England is, happily, never wanting in men of integrity and capacity, who, without remuneration, are willing to devote their time and energy to the task of local self-government; and it is always a pleasure to meet those on whose efficient work the health and wellbeing of their fellow citizens so largely depends.

"You may be assured of Our continued good wishes for the prosperity of the Royal Borough of Kensington."

*May it please Your Majesty,*

On behalf of the Board of Education I humbly desire to thank Your Majesty and Her Majesty The Queen for consenting to open to-day the New Buildings of the Victoria and Albert Museum.

As Your Majesty is aware, the first object of the founders of the Museum, the most illustrious