

which has been effected in the last decade; but we are quite unable, with our present resources, to cope with the increasing demands made upon us. It might be thought that a large output would bring in large profits, but this is not so. As most of our readers are in far from affluent circumstances every volume is sold at a price below the cost of production. It is our pleasant duty, however, to point out to Your Majesties the kind liberality of authors and publishers alike, who, almost without exception, readily consent to works of which they possess the copyright being embossed and published by us.

The difficulties surrounding the Institute led the Council a few years ago to realise the necessity of obtaining larger premises and improved plant. We hope that the new building which Your Majesties are opening to-day will, when completed and adequately equipped, fully deserve to be known as the Blind Man's Press. We feel that any check to the legitimate attempt of the Council to meet the growing requirements of the English-speaking blind would be a most deplorable calamity for every blind man, woman, and child.

The Council were emboldened to enter upon their undertaking of a new building by the munificent gift of £10,000 from an anonymous donor, and by other contributions from liberal friends. We still want some £30,000 to complete and equip the new building, and as much in addition to form an endowment fund as a generous public will afford. That we shall obtain an ample sum we trust with confidence to the generosity of the public, for who can be blind to the needs of the blind?

The Lord Mayor of London has promised to open a Mansion House Subscription List to further this purpose, and many large employers of labour have already agreed to subscription lists being opened to enable work-people to help their poorer brethren who do not enjoy the blessing of sight. We are confident that the greater efficiency of this Institute tends to increase the happiness and welfare of the blind not only in the United Kingdom, but also in Your Majesties' Dominions beyond the seas.

On behalf of all of them, we beg leave to thank Your Majesties for Your gracious presence here to-day.

A. W. G. RANGER,
Chairman of the Council.

HENRY STAINSBY,
Secretary-General.

19th March, 1914.

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

The Queen and I were very happy to accept your invitation to open these new buildings, and we have listened with deep interest to the Address which has been read to Us.

We join heartily in the tribute you have paid to Dr. Armitage, and are glad that his work should be so fittingly commemorated in the name of this Hall. There is no sadder affliction than that which closes to the blind one great channel of common experience and common intercourse, and cuts off the sufferers from the chief fields of knowledge and activity. A great service was rendered to humanity when Louis Braille devised the system of read-

ing and writing which partially restores to the blind the lost means of intercourse with their fellows, and gives them freer access to the world of literature, of science, and of music. This discovery, like so many others, we owe to France, but it has been the distinction of Dr. Armitage and of your Society to develop the work which Braille began, and to give the Bible, the works of Shakespeare, and a rich store of literature and science to the blind throughout Our Empire.

We rejoice that your work, which has brought solace and hope into many lives, has met with such a response that the enlargement of its scope has now become necessary; and We wish you all success in your efforts to bring increased advantages to a yet greater number of Our blind subjects. It is a commonplace that men do not realise the value of that which they have never lost, but I am confident that your appeal for funds to extend and develop your undertaking will stir the imagination of many who unreflectingly enjoy the blessing of sight.

I am happy to learn that the Lord Mayor of London will open a Mansion House Subscription List to further your objects, and I cannot too strongly urge upon all the duty of showing practical sympathy with your devoted efforts to break down as far as may be the barriers which shut out the blind from a full share in the common interests and pleasures of life.

We hope that you will speedily be relieved of all anxiety on the score of funds, and We wish God-speed to the work of the National Institute for the Blind.

ELECTION OF A REPRESENTATIVE PEER FOR IRELAND.

*Crown and Hanaper Office,
20th March, 1914.*

IN pursuance of an Act passed in the fortieth year of the reign of His Majesty King George the Third, entitled "An Act to regulate the mode by which the Lords Spiritual and Temporal, and the Commons, to serve in the Parliament of the United Kingdom, on the part of Ireland, shall be summoned and returned to the said Parliament," I do hereby give Notice, that Writs bearing teste this day, have issued for electing a Temporal Peer of Ireland, to succeed to the vacancy made in the House of Lords of the said United Kingdom by the demise of Dayrolles Blakeney, Baron Ventry, which said writs are severally directed to the following Peers, whose right to vote at the elections of Temporal Peers of Ireland has, upon claims made on their behalf, been admitted by the House of Lords of the said United Kingdom:—

James Albert Edward, Duke of Abercorn.
Arthur Wills John Wellington Trumbull Blundell, Marquis of Downshire.
Geoffrey Thomas, Marquis of Headfort.
George Ulick, Marquis of Sligo.
John Henry, Marquis of Ely.
Charles Stewart, Marquis of Londonderry.
Victor George Henry Francis, Marquis Conyngham.
James Edward William Theobald, Marquis of Ormonde.
Hubert George, Marquis of Clanricarde.
Charles Henry John, Earl of Waterford.
Charles Spencer Canning, Earl of Cork and Orrery.