

We gladly avail ourselves of this great privilege of welcoming your Majesty and your Royal Consort on this the third visit to our Borough since your Majesty's accession to the throne of this Realm.

We recall with gratification the fact that Southwark has been greatly honoured in the past by its associations with the doings and destinies of the Sovereigns of this realm.

James I. of Scotland (the Poet King) was married at the Cathedral Church to Joan, niece of Cardinal Beaufort. At our local Church of St. George the Martyr, King Henry V. sought the Divine Blessing when setting out for his victorious campaigns in France, and it was also within our ancient Borough that your Royal namesake His Majesty King George I. was received upon his accession to the British Throne. Many of us still remember with pride the visits to our Borough of your Majesty's illustrious Father, King Edward VII. and revered Grandmother, Queen Victoria, of blessed memory, both of whom graciously received from our predecessors in the Council similar tributes of respect to that which we now offer to your Majesty.

It is a matter of great satisfaction to our inhabitants that your Majesty has once more evinced your deep interest in all that concerns the welfare of your subjects by your presence in our midst to-day for the purpose of opening the new Bridge on the site of Southwark Bridge as another means of facilitating industrial, commercial and personal intercourse between your Majesty's subjects south of the Thames and the capital City of the Empire.

We humbly commend your Majesty and your Royal Consort to that Divine Providence which watches over the destinies of Sovereign and subject alike, and we earnestly pray that your Majesty may long be spared to rule over this great Empire to the promotion of the best interests of which your Majesty's efforts have ever been directed.

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

I thank you for your loyal Address, and I am grateful for your prayers and good wishes. I am touched by your reference to My Father and Grandmother, and I am glad to learn that you retain so vivid a recollection of their visits. I recall with pleasure my own previous visits to your ancient Borough at the beginning of My reign, and it is a great satisfaction to Me to be with you again to-day on the occasion of a ceremony which is of so much interest and importance, both to the whole Metropolitan area, and more particularly to the people of Southwark.

We can all understand and sympathise with that pride in your long and honourable municipal history which breathes through your Address. Southwark was the earliest offshoot thrown out by the original City, the first step in that vast process of expansion which has caused London to overflow its Roman walls for miles on every side. It owed its beginning and its early celebrity to its position at the head of the Bridge which connected London with the South of England and the Continent of Europe. From those early times until to-day its communications with the City have been, and still are, of the first importance to its civic and commercial life.

In olden times Southwark was an accepted scene of State ceremonial and splendour, and it still retains, in the changed circumstances of to-day, its own importance in the life of modern London. The growth of its commerce and the character of its industry make adequate intercourse with the City and with London north of the Thames of vital interest to its citizens. It is My earnest hope that the new Southwark Bridge may fulfil its object of facilitating traffic between your Borough and its northern neighbours, and may foster and increase its trade and prosperity.

CORPORATION OF WARDENS OF ST. SAVIOUR'S, SOUTHWARK.

To

THEIR MOST GRACIOUS MAJESTIES KING
GEORGE V. AND QUEEN MARY.

MAY IT PLEASE YOUR MAJESTIES,

We, your Majesties' loyal and devoted subjects, the Corporation of Wardens of the Parish of St. Saviour, Southwark, crave leave to humbly offer to your Majesties our heartfelt greetings and cordial welcome on the occasion of your progress through our ancient parish in connection with the re-opening of Southwark Bridge to the convenient use and advantage of your people.

It may please Your Majesties to be reminded that the Monks of Southwark were the builders of London Bridge, in the immediate vicinity, in the tenth century.

We are proud of the ancient and ecclesiastical character of our Corporation, which originated in Letters Patent granted by His Majesty King Henry VI., in the twenty-seventh year of his reign, to certain of our parishioners, for the formation of a corporate body of Wardens as a perpetual guild or fraternity in honour of the assumption of the Virgin Mary, their duties amongst others being the care of the Collegiate Church of St. Saviour (the Cathedral of to-day), which, with its history of a thousand years, has been described as the finest mediæval building in London after Westminster Abbey.

We also remember with pride the many associations of England's Royal House with Southwark, but particularly we recollect with profound gratitude the interest displayed by the late King Edward VII. and the well-beloved Queen Alexandra in the elevation of our Church to the dignity of a Cathedral, their presence at the dedication ceremony giving great satisfaction to the dwellers in this portion of the great Metropolis of the Empire over which you exercise beneficent sway.

The rich legacy of literary fame to which this neighbourhood is heir is well known to your Majesties, but may we be permitted to mention our connection with the great cause of education which your Majesties have so closely at heart; Dulwich College and the great University of America being erected upon foundations laid three centuries ago, respectively, by Edward Alleyn and John Harvard, both of this parish.

May we also be permitted to remind your Majesties that the Bible declared by the great and good Queen Victoria to be the secret of England's greatness, was first issued in our language in this country from the press of a Southwark printer in the Hospital of St.