

name of a humble coffee-man of the 17th century has been adopted by Lines of steamers in many seas and has become a household word in many lands. It has been a long evolutionary process during which vital changes have been made, gradually and often without deliberate intent. From the custom of a few men meeting fortuitously at a Coffee House there has evolved the Corporation of Lloyd's with its world-wide influence, needing for its home the great building which Your Majesty graciously opens to-day.

Behind the material development thus manifested lie those qualities of energy and character which have built up the reputation of Lloyd's, and upon the maintenance of which all else depends. Your Majesty's gracious act in coming amongst us to-day and the presence of Her Majesty the Queen will inspire us all to the resolve that the Lloyd's of the future shall be worthy of those men of character and ability, the result of whose labours we inherit.

Heirs as we are of this great Lloyd's tradition, it is natural for us to think first with pride and gratitude of the high honour that Your Majesty's presence confers on Lloyd's itself. But we are conscious, too, that in thus honouring Lloyd's, Your Majesty is honouring the business of insurance, which in so many ways touches and influences the lives of Your Majesty's subjects. For, wherever Insurance operates, whatever form it takes, it embodies the same beneficent principle—that the strong and the weak, the fortunate and the unfortunate, share their burdens, and by sharing lighten them.

In the sphere of Trade, Marine Insurance, by making possible the exchange of goods overseas, strengthens the bonds between nation and nation, makes for International peace, and is one of many connecting links between distant parts of Your Majesty's Empire.

And as in Foreign Trade Insurance is an International bond, so among Your Majesty's subjects at home it is a great social bond. It gives occasion for the exercise of thrift, mitigates for thousands the fear of an unknown future, and relieves, as nothing else can, the burden of those, who through misfortune, fall out of the race of life.

Speaking when Lloyd's had been but a year in the old Royal Exchange, Edmund Burke used words which may encourage us to-day: "If we are conscious of our station and glow with zeal to fill our places as becomes our situation and ourselves, we ought to elevate our minds to the greatness of that trust to which the Order of Providence has called us." It is in that spirit that we hope to be worthy of the high honour which Your Majesty has conferred upon us.

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

I thank you very sincerely for your loyal and dutiful Address. It gives the Queen and myself great pleasure to come here to-day and to associate ourselves with the inauguration of this magnificent building, of which, three years ago, I laid the Foundation Stone.

The Corporation of Lloyd's are to be congratulated on this splendid addition to the

architecture of the City of London. The size and fine proportions of your new Hall, its dignity of style and skilful adaptation to the practical uses which it is intended to serve, will stamp it as a notable triumph of modern classical architecture. The builders of Roman London who, nearly twenty centuries ago, erected their Basilica on this site, would see in your Hall a lineal descendant worthy of the race.

Lloyd's is one of the greatest representatives of Insurance, especially of Marine Insurance, of which it was the pioneer: and it is the organised system of Marine Insurance which has transformed overseas trade from a daring and hazardous speculation to the orderly and smoothly working exchange of commodities on which modern civilisation depends. The hazards indeed remain, but their disastrous consequences have been averted by the introduction of Lloyd's Policies of Insurance, and the unerring justice in dealing with these Policies which has always been your proud tradition.

Your Address rightly alludes to the beneficent principle which underlies all Insurance, the sharing of one another's burdens. By the development of this ideal the community is linked together by mutual duties and service and in this way a shock, which would have overpowered the individual man, family or partnership, is so widely distributed that it can be harmlessly absorbed. It was a very wise man who, nearly three thousand years ago, said:—"Two are better than one . . . for if they fall the one will lift up the other: but woe to him that is alone when he falleth, for he hath not another to help him". And as Insurance creates a bond of union between citizen and citizen and between nation and nation, so it holds together the fabric of civilised society and is conducive to International Peace.

I congratulate the Corporation of Lloyd's upon the possession of this magnificent building. I know that in your new home will be preserved, unimpaired, your ancient traditions and, above all, the combination of business capacity with scrupulous integrity and liberality of mind which have long made Lloyd's an example of the highest type of British commerce.

May the Blessing of God be with the Corporation in all their activities, and the progress which we thankfully commemorate to-day be a stepping stone to still greater heights of honour and prosperity.

*Lord Chamberlain's Office,
Buckingham Palace,*

3rd April, 1928.

Notice is hereby given, that The King's Birthday will be celebrated in London and at all stations, both at home and abroad, on Monday, the 4th June next.

In the cases of the Customs and Excise Departments and the officers and servants of the dock companies in England and Northern Ireland the day appointed for this celebration will be Saturday, the 9th June next.