

THE KING'S GRACIOUS REPLY WAS AS FOLLOWS:—

"I thank you, my Lord Provost, the Magistrates, Councillors, and Citizens of Edinburgh, for the cordial words with which you welcome Us to your City. The Queen and The Prince of Wales join with Me in this expression of gratitude.

"We are proud that Our eldest Son, who has served with the British Armies, in France, Italy, and Egypt, should be with Us to day.

"We are also touched by your generous allusions to Our dear Daughter, who yesterday started upon a visit to our Hospitals and Women's Work Organisations in France and Belgium.

"Only a few weeks before the War, We were happily residing in Our Scottish Home at Holyrood, and looking forward to the prospect of coming often among Our Scottish People, when the startling events which plunged us into the World War dispelled those hopes: now We are delighted that Our first visit out of London since the cessation of hostilities should be to the ancient Capital of Scotland.

"We have together, in your historic Cathedral, rendered thanks to God for the victory vouchsafed to us and to our Allies. My principal object in being here to-day is to record My admiration of the splendid response made by Scotsmen, not only from the Homeland, but from Our Dominions across the seas, to the Nation's call. Their ready willingness, their zeal and determination to maintain their contributions to the fighting strength of the Empire, have filled Me with unceasing admiration.

"Every theatre of war testifies to the valour and unconquerable spirit of the Scottish Troops. The deeds of the 9th and 15th (Scottish) the 51st (Highland) and 52nd (Lowland) Divisions will live for ever in the honoured pages of history.

"The Seamen of Scotland have played their part in the glorious achievements of the Royal Navy; while the patriotism and endurance of the Scottish Merchant Service and the Fishermen of the East and West Coast, have rendered work of the highest order in the protection of our shores and of our commerce.

"My several visits to the Clyde District—that hive of industry—have made Me more than ever realise the genius of its designers and the skill and activities of its workers, both men and women, and how much we owe to the brains and muscle of Scotland. I am glad that the Lord Provost of Glasgow is with us here to-day.

"As the Sons of Scotland rallied to the Battle-cry, so her Daughters keenly centred their efforts upon the task of providing those Munitions of War which have enabled Our Armies to meet and defeat an enemy equipped to perfection. The Scottish Medical Units and Nurses at home

and abroad, by their self-sacrificing works of mercy, have gained the grateful esteem of the world. Truly all classes of the people of Scotland, professional, industrial, and agricultural, have united in upholding the honour and glory of the Empire.

"Through our rejoicing to-day there flows a deep undercurrent of sorrow for those who have sacrificed their lives, or, it may be, both health and strength in the relentless struggle of the past four years. We do not forget them: We never shall forget them. My Government, as you know, proposes to dedicate your ancient Castle, which through the ages has been the symbol of the defence of Scotland, as a memorial to those who have died that we may live.

"The spontaneous and outspoken demonstration of affection and loyalty, with which the Queen and I have been greeted on every side and by all classes, has deeply moved Me. These manifestations have confirmed Me in the unshaken belief that My People were with Me amidst the trials and often changing fortunes of the War.

"It is with the same confidence in them that I look forward, trusting that with God's help, whatever difficulties may confront us will be bravely faced and successfully overcome.

"Our Scottish visits during these past years have necessarily been restricted, but We look forward to their renewal and to the yearly happy sojourn in Our Deeside home.

"From the depths of My heart I thank you for your real Scottish welcome, and I pray that every blessing and prosperity may be granted to your country in the days to come."

BY THE KING.

A PROCLAMATION

FOR DISSOLVING THE PRESENT PARLIAMENT, AND DECLARING THE CALLING OF ANOTHER.

GEORGE R.I.

WHEREAS We have thought fit, by and with the advice of Our Privy Council, to dissolve this present Parliament which stands prorogued to Friday, the Thirteenth day of December next: We do, for that End, publish this Our Royal Proclamation, and do hereby dissolve the said Parliament accordingly: And the Lords Spiritual and Temporal, and the Knights, Citizens, and Burgesses, and the Commissioners for Shires and Burghs, of the House of Commons, are discharged from their Meeting and Attendance on the said Friday, the Thirteenth day of December next: And We being desirous and resolved, as soon as may be, to meet Our People, and to have their Advice in Parliament, do hereby make known to all Our loving Subjects Our Royal Will and Pleasure to call a new Parliament: