

and contentment of Your subjects, and the happiness of Your children and their families.

County Hall, Aylesbury,
June 22, 1887.

To which Address Her Majesty was pleased to return the following most Gracious Answer:—

"IT gives Me much pleasure to receive your loyal and dutiful Address of congratulation on the completion of the Fiftieth Year of My Reign.

"The remarkable development of the British Empire since the year when I began My reign has laid a heavy responsibility on Myself and on My subjects to meet the difficulties, to ward off the dangers, and to promote the happiness of the nation, both for the present and for future generations. So far, notwithstanding many and serious troubles and anxieties, by God's blessing a large measure of success, has attended the exertions of the nation.

"I pray that we may never slacken in our efforts to preserve the blessings we now enjoy."

To Her Most Excellent Majesty VICTORIA, by the Grace of God QUEEN of Great Britain and Ireland.

May it please Your Majesty,

WE, Your Majesty's faithful subjects, the Chairman and Members of the Local Board for the District of Slough, in meeting assembled, desire humbly to approach Your Majesty with our most loyal and cordial congratulations upon the completion of the Fiftieth Year of Your Majesty's glorious Reign.

We deeply appreciate Your Majesty's most gracious permission to offer in person the assurance of our loyal and dutiful greeting, our thankful acknowledgment of the signal blessings of Your beneficent rule, and our sincere devotion to the Throne.

During half a century of the most eventful period in the history of the nation Your Majesty has exhibited the deepest concern for the true welfare and best interests of all classes of Your Majesty's subjects.

It is our humble and fervent prayer, that by the blessing of Almighty God Your Majesty's life may long be spared to rule the destinies of this Great Empire, and to reign in peace and happiness, secure in the loving allegiance of a prosperous, united, and loyal people.

Given under our Common Seal at a Meeting of the Slough Local Board, on the 22nd day of June, 1887.

To which Address Her Majesty was pleased to return the following most Gracious Answer:—

"I RECEIVE with great satisfaction your loyal and dutiful Address, on the occasion of the completion of the Fiftieth Year of My Reign.

"I rejoice that the inhabitants of Slough, like the rest of My people, have taken advantage of the opportunity to express their sense of the many blessings with which it has pleased God to favour this nation since I have ascended the Throne."

May it please Your Majesty,

WE, Your Majesty's most dutiful and loyal subjects, the Provost, Fellows, and Masters of Your Royal College of Eton, desire to approach Your Majesty with the expression of our heartfelt congratulations on the completion of the Fiftieth Year of Your Majesty's Reign.

We recall the many blessings which under God's Providence we owe to Your Majesty's beneficent rule, with feelings of gratitude shared by all Your Majesty's loyal subjects, but especially due from the members of this College, which owes its foundation to one of Your Majesty's Royal Predecessors, and has received so many marks of Royal countenance and favour alike from them and from Your Majesty. We cannot forget that the period of Your Majesty's Reign has been marked by an unparalleled activity and progress, and the necessity of dealing with some of the most difficult problems which can try the wisdom of rulers. At no time has a like period been marked by so many scientific discoveries, such development of material resources, such a growth of new and powerful communities, and by such changes in the habits and requirements of the people. Among those requirements none have been more urgent than the need of increased facilities and improved methods of education. Few things are more characteristic of Your Majesty's Reign than the extension of popular education, and the efforts for the promotion of culture and the improvement of taste among all classes, which we owe so largely to the noble example of the lamented Prince Consort. And it will ever be one of the chief glories of this reign that, in a time of so much activity and expansion, the influence of Your Majesty's just and constitutional rule and solicitous regard for the welfare of all classes, has resulted in a peaceful and orderly progress, in a general improvement in the condition of the people, and in most cordial relations between Your Majesty's subjects in the Colonies and the Mother Country, while the example of Your Majesty's domestic life, alike in times of prosperity and times of sorrow, has drawn the hearts of Your Majesty's subjects more closely to Your Royal person, and strengthened the ties of loyalty and affection which unite the people to the Throne.

In offering to Your Majesty our earnest and respectful congratulations, we join in the hope and prayer that, under God's favour, Your Majesty may long be supported in the exercise of Your high office by the blessings of a quiet and prosperous Reign, and the assured possession of the affection and loyalty of a happy and united people.

To which Address Her Majesty was pleased to return the following most Gracious Answer:—

"I AM much gratified at your loyal and dutiful Address, on the occasion of the completion of the Fiftieth Year of My Reign.

"It is an infinite satisfaction to Me to join with you in marking the great progress made since the beginning of My Reign, in bringing the means of education within the reach of all classes of My subjects, and in raising the general standard of culture and of taste.

"I am confident that this great College will never cease to distinguish itself as it has hitherto done, as a place where sound learning and healthy moral training are imparted to so many of the rising generation, amongst whom will probably be found the future leaders of the English people."

May it please Your Majesty,

WE, the King's Scholars and Oppidans of Your Royal College and School of Eton, humbly ask permission to approach Your Majesty with the most loyal and dutiful utterance of our heartfelt