

Her Majesty, who was attended by The Right Hon. E. Stanhope, Secretary of State for War, returned the following gracious reply:—

“The loyal and dutiful expression of the congratulations of My Army and Auxiliary Forces upon the completion of the fiftieth year of My reign is a source of deep satisfaction to Me, and I accept with pleasure this tribute of love and devotion.

“Whenever during that reign I have had occasion to call upon My Army to perform its duty in any part of the world, it has never failed to justify the confidence and to earn the gratitude of Myself and of My people by its gallantry and self-devotion.

“I have no doubt that, should the occasion unfortunately arise, I can rely with equal confidence upon the co-operation of My Auxiliary Forces.

“And when those who have died abroad for their country have left to our charge their widows and orphans, I have always striven to convey to them in the name of their fellow countrymen and women the expression of our own deep sympathy.

“But, however confident I may feel in the valour and endurance of My troops, there is no blessing which I at this season more earnestly ask Almighty God to extend to My people during the remainder of My reign than that of peace.”

After which the whole force gave three cheers for The Queen.

General The Viscount Wolseley, K.P., G.C.B., G.C.M.G., Major-General Sir R. Biddulph, G.C.M.G., and Major-General G. B. Harman, K.C.B., Military Secretary, with the Head-Quarter Staff, received The Queen on Her arrival. Lieutenant-General Sir Archibald Alison, Bart., G.C.B., commanding the Aldershot Division, and Staff, was also present.

The troops then marched past in the following order:—

The Royal Engineers, under the command of Colonel Harrison, C.B.

The Cadets of Royal Military College, Sandhurst, under the command of Colonel Cameron, C.B., *H.C.*

The 1st Division of Infantry, under the command of Major-General P. Smith, C.B.

The 2nd Division of Infantry, under the command of Major-General W. Cooper.

The 3rd Division of Infantry, under the command of Major-General A. J. Buchanan, C.B.

The 4th Division of Infantry, under the command of Major-General A. J. Lyon Fremantle, C.B.

The Volunteer Corps d'Armée, under the command of Major-General Sir Evelyn Wood, G.C.M.G., *H.C.*

The Artillery, under the command of Major-General Williams, C.B.

The Cavalry Division, under the command of Major-General Sir R. Drury Lowe, K.C.B.

Field-Marshal His Royal Highness The Prince of Wales, K.G., joined Her Majesty at the Saluting Point, and marched past at the head of the Household Cavalry and of the 10th Hussars, and His Royal Highness The Prince Albert Victor of Wales, K.G., was in his place as Captain in the latter Regiment.