

approach Your Majesty to offer our humble, heartfelt, and loyal congratulations upon the completion of the Sixtieth Year of Your Majesty's Most Glorious and Beneficent Reign.

Under Your Majesty's Gracious Rule the boundaries of the British Empire have been vastly extended, numerous beneficial measures have been adopted for the welfare of all classes of Your Majesty's subjects, civil and religious liberty has increased, commerce, industry, and the arts have flourished, and the unexampled progress which has been made in every branch of invention and discovery has greatly added to the happiness and prosperity of Your Majesty's people.

As loyal and patriotic Magistrates of the County of Buckingham we humbly offer thanks for these and all the blessings of Your Majesty's Reign; and we pray that Your Majesty may long be spared in health and strength to reign over us, and be a witness of the prosperity of Your people, and the happiness of Your Majesty's Children and their Descendants.

*H. W. Cripps*, Chairman.

County Hall, Aylesbury, June, 1897.

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

"I THANK you for your loyal and kind congratulations.

"It has ever been a source of satisfaction to Me to note the continual progress made in every direction that conduces to the happiness of My people; and I reflect with pleasure upon the combination of justice and mercy displayed by the Magistrates of My Realm in the performance of their highly important and responsible duties."

To the QUEEN'S Most Excellent Majesty.

*May it please Your Majesty,*

WE, the Aldermen and Councillors of the Buckinghamshire County Council, humbly approach Your Majesty, and desire to join most loyally and heartily in the universal congratulations to Your Most Gracious Majesty upon the completion of the Sixtieth Year of Your Reign—a Reign which, while it has been conspicuous for the rapid progress of the Nation in population, wealth, and general well-being, and for the vast extension of the Empire, has been most especially characterized by its civilizing and humanizing influences, and by its admirable efforts for the advancement of freedom; and we humbly trust that Your Majesty may be mercifully spared to continue to reign over us to Your own glory and happiness, and for the greater peace, prosperity, and contentment of Your subjects.

*Cottesloe*, Chairman.

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

"I THANK you for the loyal congratulations which you tender to Me upon the completion of the Sixtieth Year of My Reign.

"It is with pride and pleasure that I reflect upon the very great improvement which has been effected in the administration of local affairs, and for the efforts made for the advancement of freedom since I ascended the Throne."

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, Vice-Chairman, and Members of the Urban District Council of Slough, in the county

of Buckingham, in Council assembled, desire humbly to approach Your Majesty with our most loyal and dutiful congratulations upon the completion of the Sixtieth Year of Your Majesty's glorious Reign, which, throughout its happy deviation to a length of years unique in our history, has been so especially marked by progress in scientific knowledge and education generally, and in prosperity, peace, and happiness throughout Your Majesty's vast Empire.

We deeply appreciate your Majesty's most gracious permission to offer in person the assurance of our loyal and dutiful greeting, and our grateful recognition of Your Majesty's increasing and gracious care for wise government, and Your ever ready and devoted sympathy with the joys and sorrows of all classes, not only of Your own subjects, but also of the people of other nations during the whole of Your beneficent Reign.

We desire to join with all Your Majesty's subjects in every part of the United Kingdom, the Empire of India, and every Colony under Your Majesty's rule, in the humble and fervent prayer that, by the blessing of Almighty God, Your Majesty's benign influence may long be continued to us, and that supported by the love of Your Sons and Daughters and secure in the ever-deepening loyalty and attachment of Your people, Your Majesty may long be preserved in health, peace, and happiness.

Given under the Common Seal of the Urban District Council of Slough at a meeting held on the 14th day of June, 1897

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

"I THANK you for the loyal Address of congratulation which you have presented to Me.

"It has been one of the pleasures and consolations of My life that I have received so many assurances of the dutiful regard and sympathy of My subjects who are My neighbours at and around Windsor, and elsewhere; and I am sincerely gratified that you have again taken the opportunity of expressing your attachment to My Throne, and your sense of the many blessings which have been granted to this Country during the last Sixty Years."

*May it please Your Majesty,*

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

Your Majesty's Reign, which has, by God's Providence, been extended to a greater length than that of any of Your Royal predecessors, has also, as we believe, been a time of greater movement Social, Educational, and Political, than any like period in the history of our country. At no time has there been greater activity of thought in the various provinces of human knowledge, nor has any like period been so rich in important scientific discoveries, and in the development of material resources. It will ever be a source of deep gratitude in the mind of Your Majesty's subjects, that under the influence of Your Majesty's wise and enlightened rule, a time of so much movement and activity should also have been a time of orderly progress and continued improvement as seen in the growth and expansion of the Empire, in the rise of new and powerful communities, especially