

of the City of Birmingham, desire to express our deep sense of the honour conferred upon us by Your visit in this auspicious Year, as the Representative of Her Most Gracious Majesty the Queen.

We beg to offer to Your Royal Highness, and to His Royal Highness Prince Christian and to Her Highness Princess Victoria, a hearty welcome to our city.

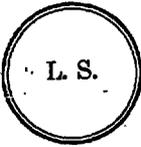
We remember with pleasure the visit which Your Royal Highness paid to Birmingham in the Year 1883.

In the present year, when we, in common with our fellow-subjects in all parts of the Empire, are commemorating the unparalleled length and glory of Her Majesty's Reign, it is especially gratifying to us to be honoured by a visit from a daughter and grand-daughter of the Queen, and it seems most fitting that the object of the visit of Your Royal Highness should be to open one of those noble hospitals for the sick and suffering, the growth and development of which Institutions constitute one of the most interesting features of Her Majesty's Reign.

We desire to offer to you our hearty thanks for this visit, and we earnestly pray that every blessing may continue to rest upon Her Majesty the Queen, upon Your Royal Highness, and upon every Member of the Royal House.

Given under our Common Seal this 7th day of July, 1897.

*James Smith, Lord Mayor.
E. O. Smith, Town Clerk.*



To which Her Royal Highness Princess Christian, on behalf of Her Majesty, gave the following most gracious Answer:—

"IT gives me very great pleasure to visit the City of Birmingham on behalf of the Queen, my Dear Mother, and, in Her name, I thank you for your loyal and dutiful Address.

"Her Majesty desires me to express the great gratification with which She hears of Her People at Birmingham having made this latest addition to the Hospitals, which from time to time have been erected in your City, and whilst She rejoices to review the vast increase that has been made in the number of such noble institutions since the commencement of Her long Reign, She looks forward with confidence to this grand work, proving, throughout years to come, a source of true relief to the varied forms of human suffering, and to the help of those whose career of honourable labour has been stayed by accident or by sickness.

"I thank you most heartily for the cordial welcome which you have granted to me and have extended to my husband and my daughter, and I will not fail to convey to Her Majesty—who has charged me to say that She retains the most happy remembrance of Her last visit to your City—the expression of your affectionate attachment to Her Person and to the Members of Her Family."

New General Hospital.

Address to be read to Her Royal Highness at the Opening Ceremony at the Hospital, July 7th, 1897.

To Her Royal Highness the Princess Christian of Schleswig-Holstein.

*May it please Your Royal Highness,
WE, the President, Officers, and Committee of*

the New General Hospital, desire to tender to Your Royal Highness our sincere and grateful thanks, and to assure You that we esteem very highly the honour which You have conferred upon us in consenting, in behalf of our Most Gracious Majesty the Queen, to mark with Your illustrious sanction and presence the important ceremony of declaring our New General Hospital open for the relief of those who may from time to time come within its walls.

We further desire to assure His Royal Highness Prince Christian, and Her Highness Princess Victoria, of our warmest appreciation of their presence on this interesting and important occasion.

We are deeply mindful of the gracious interest taken in our new Hospital by our Illustrious and Beloved Queen, and we sincerely rejoice in the thought that the whole Nation has so recently, heartily, and loyally joined in the happy commemoration of Her Majesty's great and glorious Reign of Sixty Years.

In humbly offering our assurance of profound loyalty to Her Majesty, we earnestly pray that She may long be spared to rule over a prosperous people, and that "peace and happiness, truth and justice, religion and piety, may be established among us for all generations."

We desire to welcome Your Royal Highness, not only as a Member of the Royal House, but also as one who has always taken the deepest interest in the visiting of the sick and needy, the alleviation of suffering, and in the merciful art of nursing.

We venture to think that all such splendid and noble services rendered by Your Royal Highness in the cause of charity are especially befitting Your gracious presence here to-day to open our New General Hospital, the foundation stone of which was laid by His Royal Highness the Duke of York.

We desire to record the fact that for upwards of one hundred and sixteen years the great work of ministering to the relief of suffering has been successfully carried on in the old and revered General Hospital. This now gives way to the present building containing 346 beds, which has been erected to meet the growth of the city, and the modern advances in science and skill at a total cost—including the site—of over £200,000.

We assure Your Royal Highness that the countenance given by Her Majesty the Queen and Members of the Royal Family to the good work in which the Committee are engaged will not only act as a stimulus and encouragement, but will exercise an important influence in assisting us to carry the same to a complete and successful issue.

We earnestly pray that the blessing of the Almighty may rest upon Your Royal Highness, and that You may be long spared with health and happiness to carry on Your good and blessed work in the cause of charity and mercy.

Signed on behalf of the Committee,

Calthorpe, President.

John C. Holzer, Chairman.

John E. Wilson, Treasurer.

Walter N. Fisher, Hon. Secretary.

Birmingham, July 7, 1897.

To which Her Royal Highness Princess Christian, on behalf of Her Majesty, gave the following most gracious Answer:—

"IT affords me much pleasure to be present on this interesting occasion and on behalf of the Queen, My dear Mother, to testify to Her great gratification on hearing of the completion of the