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CELEBRATION OF HER MAJESTY'S DIAMOND JUBILEE, 1897 :—

On Sunday, June 20th, 1897, The Queen attained the 60th Anniversary of Her Majesty's Reign, this being at the same time the longest Reign recorded in the History of these Realms.

In the early part of the year it was determined to celebrate these happy events in such a manner that all Classes of Her Majesty's Subjects, in all parts of Her Majesty's Dominions, might take part in it, and also that all Foreign States might have the opportunity of congratulating Her Majesty on the auspicious occasion—which was named with Her Majesty's approval, "The Queen's Diamond Jubilee."

Under the Presidency of His Royal Highness The Prince of Wales, at a Meeting held in London, it was determined that the Celebration should take place in the week beginning Monday, June 21st, and The Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs was instructed to enquire from Her Majesty's Representatives at all Foreign Courts and Countries whether they would wish to send Representatives to congratulate The Queen on this occasion.

The Secretary of State for India intimated to the native Princes of India that Her Majesty The Queen-Empress would gladly welcome them if they came to England, but that, sympathizing deeply with the distress caused by the famine in India, she recognized that many of them might consider it their duty to remain, and that she regarded their sense of duty as a primary consideration.

Contingents of the Native Army, and of the Imperial Service Troops maintained by the Native States, were detached and sent to England to act as Her Majesty's Escort in the Procession and at other ceremonies.