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Whitehall, March 18, 1901.

THE following Address was presented to His Majesty at Saint James's Palace on the 12th instant:—

To the KING's Most Excellent Majesty.

WE, Your Majesty's loyal and faithful subjects, the Archbishop, Bishops, and Clergy of the Province of Canterbury, in Convocation assembled, approach Your Majesty with dutiful assurance of devotion to Your Majesty's Crown and Person.

At this time of universal sorrow we desire to express our deep sympathy with Your Majesty in Your grief at the death of Your Royal Mother, our late Most Gracious Queen. We cannot express too strongly our sense of the loss which has in that sad event been sustained by the Church, by the Nation, by the Empire, by the whole world, and we receive with heartfelt thankfulness the assurances which Your Majesty has graciously given that it is Your desire to follow in the footsteps of so great and good a Sovereign.

We regret that troubles in South Africa and in China should have saddened the close of Her reign, but we can never forget that these troubles were the occasion of an outburst of loyal feeling and warm affection from all parts of this vast Empire unexampled in our history. Her reign has left us a heritage of united attachment to the throne, which we humbly trust may ever continue to animate Your subjects, and which we doubt not will be further strengthened by the visit of the Heir Apparent and His Royal Consort to Australia, New Zealand, and Canada, graciously sanctioned by Your Majesty in the interests of the Empire, even at a time when it may add some anxiety to the burden which Your Majesty has to bear.

We acknowledge with devout gratitude to God the increasing activity of the Church at home, and, in consequence of that activity, its wonderful expansion abroad during Her Majesty's reign, nor can it be doubted that the Church's activity was largely due to the care which Her Majesty bestowed on all that concerned the Church's work whenever opportunity offered.

We thankfully recognize the profound influence which Her personal character and example have exercised upon the life of Her subjects throughout the Empire.

We look forward with strong hope to the use which the Church of England will make of the openings now before her for the spread of the

Gospel over the whole world. The facilities for obeying our Lord's last command are such as the world has never seen before, and this country, beyond all others has the means of reaching all nations and giving them the message of the Gospel, and we humbly trust that she will not be slow to discharge the duties imposed on her by her unique position.

We rejoice that Your Majesty will be supported in Your high responsibilities by a Gracious Consort whose sympathy with the poor and suffering and with every good cause, has greatly endeared Her during so many years to the hearts of the whole people.

We conclude with prayer to Almighty God to bestow upon Your Majesty, upon Your Gracious Consort, and upon Your Royal House the fulness of His grace, and blessing, and to make Your Majesty's reign as prosperous, glorious, and beneficent as that of the great and good Sovereign whose place Your Majesty is called to fill.

18th February, 1901.

F. Cantuar.

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

"I AM deeply gratified by the expressions of loyalty and affection contained in your dutiful and sympathetic address, and by your heartfelt sympathy with My grief."

"I am touched by your appreciation of the goodness of My dear Mother and of Her devotion to the best interests of the Church of England, the growth of which during Her reign and its beneficent activity, not only within this Kingdom, but also beyond the seas, were to Her a source of profound satisfaction and gratitude to Almighty God."

"I am confident that during My reign your pious efforts in the cause of religion will be equally blessed and that you will see their fruit in the spread of peace, charity, and all good works throughout My Realm."

"You may ever feel assured of My fidelity and encouragement, and I shall omit no effort that under My guardianship the Church may retain unimpaired and may extend Her power for good."

"I appreciate the warmth of the affection which you express for My Consort. The universal sympathy and loyalty which have reached Us from all quarters have been a priceless consolation to Us in the times of anxiety through which We have passed and in the crowning sorrow of My dear Mother's death."