

Majesty a loyal and hearty welcome to our ancient City.

Rochester has been greatly honoured in the past, not only by Grants of Royal Charters (commencing with one in the Reign of King Henry the First), but also by visits of many of the Kings and Queens of England and Members of the Royal Family.

We highly appreciate and are proud to be able to record the great honour Your Majesty now confers upon us by Your Presence in our City; and we beg most respectfully to assure You of our earnest prayers that You may long reign over our Great Empire, and that Your active interests to bring about peace among all nations may have a speedy and lasting success.

Sealed with the Common Seal of the Mayor, Aldermen, and Citizens of the City of Rochester, in the County of Kent, at a Meeting of the Council of the said City held on Wednesday, the twenty-sixth day of July, 1905, in the presence of

*Frederick F. Smith*, Mayor.  
*Apsley Kennette*, Town Clerk.

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

“I thank you for your loyal and dutiful Address, and for the hearty welcome and good wishes which you express.

“It is a great pleasure to Me to pay this visit to your ancient City, which is so rich in historical and ecclesiastical associations reaching back to the earliest times of which Our Nation’s annals bear record. I trust that prosperity may always attend you.”

To His Most Gracious Majesty the King.

*May it please Your Majesty,*

We, the Mayor, Aldermen, and Burgesses of the Borough of Chatham, humbly approach Your Majesty and desire with heartfelt devotion to welcome Your Majesty to our Town.

We recall with much pleasure that Your Majesty has recently and on former occasions visited our Town; especially do we remember the outburst of enthusiasm that greeted Your Majesty and our Gracious Queen when launching the “Alexandra” in 1875.

The loyalty always shown for Your Majesty’s Person and for that ancient Throne which You now adorn has increased with succeeding years, and our Borough Motto “Loyal and True” is more than ever the sentiment of the inhabitants of Chatham.

There are few towns in Your Majesty’s Dominion more closely connected than is our Town with the well-being of the Empire, both on sea and land; and from this centre many men have gone forth to serve their King and Country. The Memorial which Your Majesty will to-day unveil to the Officers and men of the Royal Engineers who have given their lives for their country will, we trust, long remain in our midst, reminding us of brave deeds bravely done.

Your Majesty has always evinced the greatest interest in everything that pertains to the health, happiness, and well-being of Your people. This abiding interest is again shown by Your presence to-day to give a Royal opening to the New Naval Hospital, an Institution which will do so much

for the relief of suffering, and for the benefit of the men of Your Majesty’s Navy.

That Your Majesty and Your Gracious Consort may long be spared to reign in health, peace, and happiness over a prosperous and united people is our earnest prayer.

Given under our Common Seal the 26th day of July, A.D. 1905.

*W. Driver*, Mayor.

*H. P. Mann*, Town Clerk.

L. S.

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

“I thank you for your loyal Address, and I am much gratified by the hearty welcome with which the Town of Chatham again receives Me.

“It is My sincere wish that constant progress and a full measure of prosperity may be granted to your Town, which has such close relations with My Naval and Military Services, and I am glad that one of the purposes of My present visit is the opening of a new and fine Hospital for the relief and benefit of men belonging to My Navy.

“I cordially associate Myself with you in hoping that the Memorial, which is to-day unveiled, may be treasured in your midst as a record of the loyal devotion and heroism of Officers and men of the Royal Engineers who have consummated their services to their Country by dying in her cause.”

To His Most Excellent Majesty King Edward VII.

We, Your Majesty’s loyal Subjects, the Mayor, Aldermen, and Burgesses of the Borough of Gillingham, in the County of Kent, desire to express to Your Majesty our loyalty and devotion to Your Throne and Person, and to welcome Your Majesty to our Borough.

Your Majesty was recently graciously pleased to grant a Charter of Incorporation to Gillingham, and we esteem it a great privilege that Your Majesty has so soon honoured us with Your august Presence.

We earnestly pray that Your Majesty may, in the Providence of God, be long spared to reign over a prosperous, loyal, and devoted people.

Given under our Common Seal this twenty-sixth day of July, one thousand nine hundred and five.

*J. Bromley Ridout*, Mayor.

*F. C. Boucher*, Town Clerk.

L. S.

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

“I thank you heartily for your loyal Address of Welcome. It gives Me great pleasure to come among you to-day, and to see with My own eyes signs of the progress of your newly constituted Borough.

“I trust that your Charter of Incorporation, which I was happy to grant, may prove an earnest of long continued prosperity in the future.”