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The following Address was presented to The King on Monday, the 16th instant, when Their Majesties, accompanied by Their Royal Highnesses The Prince and Princess of Wales, visited the City in order that His Majesty might lay the foundation stone of the new Post Office Buildings to be erected on a portion of the site formerly occupied by Christ's Hospital, or the Bluecoat School:—

To The KING's Most Excellent Majesty.

May it please Your Majesty.

It was with feelings of great satisfaction that all ranks of the Post Office employees of London heard of Your Majesty's gracious intention to lay the Foundation Stone of the new Post Office Building; and I beg leave, in their name, to thank Your Majesty, and also Her Majesty the Queen who has so graciously accompanied Your Majesty on this occasion.

May I also be permitted to express the gratification of the whole staff at the presence of Their Royal Highnesses the Prince and Princess of Wales, and to assure Your Majesty of the earnest desire of all here present to-day that Their Royal Highnesses may have a happy voyage and a prosperous visit to Your Indian Empire, and a safe return to these shores?

Concerning the buildings in which the work of the General Post Office in London has been carried on in the past, it may be opportune to recall to Your Majesty's notice that what is now the old Post Office Building of Saint Martin's-le-Grand, built from the design of Sir Robert Smirke, was opened for business no longer ago than the 23rd September, 1829.

It is difficult now to realize that at that time the sole service rendered to the public by the Post Office was the conveyance of letters and newspapers, and that the other branches of Post Office business, which now appear indispensable, are of more recent creation. I may mention, as

some of the more important extensions, the issue of Money Orders, and of Postal Orders; the Parcel Post; the Savings Bank; the Telegraph, and, finally, the Telephone Service.

Moreover, the growth of population, the increase of commerce and industry, and the spread of education, have produced an enormous development in every branch of Post Office Work, with the result that, again and again, since 1829, the work has outgrown its accommodation; and to the once sufficient building of Smirke, known as the General Post Office East, have gradually been added the General Post Office West, South, and North, the vast building at Mount Pleasant, and the Savings Bank building at Earl's Court, of which Your Majesty laid the Foundation Stone.

To illustrate to Your Majesty the necessity for greater accommodation arising from this marvellous growth, I would venture to submit a few figures, comparing the London Postal Service of 1829 with that of to-day.

In 1829 the single St. Martin's-le-Grand building accommodated, with much room to spare, 800 officers, administrative, accounting, and operative; to-day postal operatives and controlling staff alone to the number of 3,536 occupy that building.

Although the population of London has, in the past 75 years, increased less than fourfold, the number of letters delivered has increased fifty-fold.

In 1829 the number of London Postmen was 564; they had some 400,000 letters a week to deliver; and the London Post Offices and posting receptacles numbered 425. In 1905 there are nearly 10,000 London Postmen with some twenty million letters a week to deliver; and the Post Offices and posting receptacles now number between four and five thousand.

The structure which Your Majesty is this day graciously pleased to found will stand upon a site of three acres and a half, the whole of which will not be at once occupied; so that ample