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*Whitchall, February 28, 1907.*

The following Address was presented to His Majesty on the occasion of Their Majesties' visit to the City on Wednesday, the 27th instant, for the purpose of opening the new Central Criminal Court building:—

To Their Most Excellent Majesties The King  
and Queen.

*May it please Your Majesties.*

We, Your Majesty's most dutiful and loyal subjects, the Lord Mayor, Aldermen, and Commons of the City of London in Common Council assembled, desire to offer to Your Majesties the expression of our devotion to Your Persons and Throne, and our gratitude for Your gracious condescension in attending here to-day to declare this building open as Your Majesty's Central Court for the administration of criminal justice.

This court was established by Act of Parliament, passed in the fourth year of the reign of His Majesty King William IV, and was referred to on the 15th August, 1834, by His Majesty in His gracious speech from the Throne on the prorogation of Parliament in the following terms: "The establishment of a Central Criminal Court for the trial of offences in the metropolis and its neighbourhood will I trust improve the administration of justice within the populous sphere of its jurisdiction, and afford a useful example to every other part of the Kingdom."

The area over which this court has jurisdiction includes the City of London, the whole of the counties of London and Middlesex, and a very considerable part of the counties of Essex, Kent, and Surrey.

The "populous sphere," referred to in His Majesty's gracious speech, which in 1834 had a population of only 1,800,000, to-day has a population of considerably over 6,000,000, and the average number of prisoners tried in this court each year exceeds 1,100.

A court house for the trial of prisoners has existed in the City of London from very early times, and the name of the Lord Mayor for the time being has always been included in the commission of oyer and terminer by virtue of a Charter of King Edward III, bearing date the 6th March, 1327.

In 1785 a new sessions house was built by the Corporation of London and was subsequently several times enlarged; it however proved quite inadequate to meet the demands of the present day, and on the 20th December, 1902, the first stone of this building (which stands upon the site of the ancient prison of Newgate) was laid.

The present building has been erected at the sole cost of Your City of London, without assistance from Imperial funds or the neighbouring counties, and will provide for courts for the trial of prisoners, and arrangements have been made for the reception of the Lord Mayor, Your Majesty's Judges, the Aldermen, Sheriffs, and others connected with the administration of criminal justice.

We trust that this building, whilst well adapted for the transaction of legal business, also possesses architectural features at once dignified and beautiful, which will make it an ornament to the metropolis of Your Empire, and a fitting home for the first Criminal Court of Justice of Your Majesty's Dominions.

In conclusion we devoutly pray that all concerned in the discharge of judicial duties within