

We recollect with grateful satisfaction the previous occasions upon which Your Majesties have honoured Birmingham, and are deeply conscious of the encouragement which has been given from time to time to the progress of our City by the gracious recognition which Your Majesties and other Members of Your Royal House have been pleased to accord to many of our institutions.

The development of the facilities for education has engaged the anxious care of Your Majesties' loyal subjects in Birmingham, and in offering hearty thanks for so great a mark of Your Royal favour, we regard it as a fortunate circumstance that in visiting Birmingham to declare open the new buildings erected for our University Your Majesties again manifest interest in our City and graciously further and sanction the most important work yet undertaken by us.

The welfare of Your subjects has been Your Majesties' constant care, and we shall ever gratefully remember the successful efforts which Your Majesties have made so sedulously for the preservation of international peace. Immunity from strife affords opportunity for higher culture and stimulates a desire for learning which will be fostered and encouraged by the University in our City.

We offer to Your Majesty, our beloved Sovereign, and to Your Royal Consort, heartfelt thanks for the gracious condescension of this visit to our City, and, renewing our assurances of loyalty and duty, we humbly pray that secure in the love and affection of Your people Your Majesties may long be spared to reign over this mighty Empire.

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

"I thank you cordially on behalf of the Queen and Myself for the loyal and dutiful Address of Welcome which you have handed Me from the Lord Mayor, Aldermen, and Citizens of Birmingham.

"When I look at this vast city, the chief centre of the industrial life of the Midlands, I naturally think of the great men to whose industry and efforts the astonishing expansion of your prosperity is mainly due—some of whom have written their names for ever in the history of their country. Many of them, I am glad to say, are with us to-day, and are taking part in your loyal welcome.

"It is noteworthy that many of the distinguished men who have taken a leading part in the municipal life of your city are the men who, by their business activities, have been instrumental in raising Birmingham to its present position in the industrial world; and when I consider the immense progress which has taken place during the past hundred years in the prosperity and welfare of all classes, I can well appreciate the pride with which Birmingham is regarded by its citizens. Great schemes, such as that for providing your city with pure water, have been undertaken in the past, and have been brought to a successful issue; but none is worthier of support or more far-reaching in its scope than the establishment and extension of the great University in which you have taken so important a part.

"Fortunate is the City which can obtain for its government the spontaneous services of so many able and conscientious citizens.

"Birmingham is the home of the best traditions of municipal life, and I am well assured that these traditions will be upheld in the future as they have been in the past.

"You may be well assured that the prosperity and welfare of your City will always be an object of My most earnest good wishes."

*Address of the Birmingham Chamber of Commerce.*

To Their Most Gracious Majesties King Edward VII and Queen Alexandra.

*May it please Your Majesties,*

We, the Members of the Birmingham Chamber of Commerce, being representative of all branches of commerce and industry in this City, humbly desire to offer to Your Majesties a loyal and dutiful welcome on the occasion of Your Majesties' gracious visit to open the new buildings of the University of Birmingham.

We humbly offer to Your Majesties an expression of the affectionate loyalty and attachment of the business community of this populous district to Your Majesties' Throne and Persons.

We avail ourselves of this opportunity of acknowledging with the deepest gratitude that the eminently wise, tactful, and unremitting labours of His Majesty in the cause of Amity and Goodwill among Nations, have earned the heartfelt thanks of the mercantile and manufacturing classes whose vital interests, owing to the magnitude of their business transactions in all parts of the world, are favourably affected by the friendly relations existing between the United Kingdom and Foreign Countries.

We recall with pleasure the previous occasions on which Your Majesties, before ascending the Throne, visited the City of Birmingham, and we gratefully recognise that Your Majesties' present visit is one more proof of the thoughtful interest Your Majesties have always evinced in institutions which contribute to the moral and material welfare of Your people.

The foundation of the University which Your Majesties have graciously consented to honour by Your presence to-day, has been heartily welcomed and supported by the mercantile and manufacturing classes. They realise that the wealth and prosperity of this great centre of production, and the expansion of its varied activities, are intimately bound up with the advancement and spread of higher education, not only in the Faculties of Arts, Science, and Medicine, but also in the Faculty of Commerce, which is specially directed to the training of our future leaders of commerce and captains of industry.

We shall ever pray that Your Majesties' beneficent Rule may be long and glorious, bringing added lustre to Your reign, and securing a continuance of peace and happiness for Your Majesties' loyal and devoted subjects.

Signed on behalf of the Birmingham Chamber of Commerce, this seventh day of July, one thousand nine hundred and nine.

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

"The Queen and I are highly gratified at the cordial Address of Welcome which you have handed to Us, and at the loyal good wishes it contains.

"Famous throughout the world for its great industries, your City has for many years sent out its staple manufactures to eager purchasers in every quarter of the globe. The mighty factories for which the district is celebrated have provided livelihood for many thousands, and their