

liament also voted a sum of £25,000 for the restoration of these buildings and for the erection of our new block of seventeen class-rooms on vacant ground adjacent to the main block. Your Majesty's Government, the Government of India, and the London County Council have made substantial grants to the School. We consider ourselves especially fortunate in having our home in the centre of the City of London, and we are indebted to the Lord Mayor and the Corporation and to several of the great City Companies for generous support. But while our buildings are unique in character and admirably situated, we are still short of the income necessary to carry on the School on the footing for which it is designed; we trust that this deficiency may quickly be made up from private liberality, and, if necessary, by further aid from public sources.

The main objects of the School may be expressed as follows:—

First, to provide a place where our young men, who will presently be engaged in governing or garrisoning the Oriental and African parts of the Empire may learn the languages and study the literature, the religions, and the customs of the peoples with whom they will so soon be brought into contact, and their influence over whom will largely depend upon their familiarity with indigenous character, ideas, and institutions.

Secondly, to offer a training to those who are about to proceed to the same countries to take part in commercial enterprise or other avocations, or for purposes of study and research.

Thirdly, to furnish to the capital of the Empire a meeting-ground and focus for scholars from the East of various nationalities, where, on their visits to this country, they may be assured of a sympathetic welcome, and find at hand, if they desire them, opportunities for study among those engaged in kindred pursuits.

We wish more especially to emphasise the importance of this School as a centre of Indian studies, and its creation as in some measure a recognition of the great position which India occupies in the Empire.

We take Your Majesty's gracious presence as a sign that Your Majesty is fully cognizant of and impressed with the importance to the Empire of the study of Oriental and African languages and civilisations on a scale which Great Britain, alone among great countries of the world interested in the East, has not hitherto regarded as necessary; and we have planned that our School shall be at least equal to the Oriental Schools in foreign capitals, and adequate to imperial needs. We propose to teach the languages of eight hundred million people. The imports and exports of the United Kingdom alone with the peoples of whom we are to teach the languages amount to between two and three hundred millions sterling annually. But the magnitude of our scheme cannot be expressed in terms of money or of the mere number of languages taught. Our teaching is only a means to an end. The greatness and solidity of this vast Empire in its internal and its external relations rest on the comprehension of, and the just and sympathetic dealing with, men infinitely varied in race, religion, speech, character and upbringing. We believe that the training given in our School will materially contribute to the fuller realization of

the nation's ideals in the distant parts of Your Majesty's dominions, and to the prosperity and the efficient working of the Empire as a whole. If, with the approval of Your Majesty's Government we are starting our new career at this crisis, it is because we are deeply convinced that the task we have to fulfil, both in view of the war and of the period which will immediately follow, could no longer be safely neglected or delayed.

We desire to express to Her Majesty the Queen our humble duty and sincere pleasure at her presence here to-day. We are well aware of the great interest which Her Majesty has shown in the higher education of women, and we hope that especially in view of the part which women doctors and other women workers play in the East Her Majesty will take a special interest in this School. We already have women teachers and women students, and equal opportunities will be given in every way to men and women alike.

We desire humbly to thank Your Majesties for your presence to-day to sanction and encourage our great undertaking.

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

I thank you for your loyal and dutiful address. I am glad to be the Patron of the School of Oriental Studies, and it gives Me particular gratification to take part to-day in the ceremony of opening this fine building in which the School is henceforth to carry on its work.

I cannot sufficiently emphasise the wide scope and vast importance of that work. The School will afford fresh opportunities of study to those Services which have been the pioneers of progress and the instruments of good government in India and Egypt. It will furnish with a fuller technical equipment the pioneers of commerce and industry who in each successive generation undertake the duty of upholding the honoured fame of British trade in the East. Its work will serve to develop the sympathy which already so happily exists between My subjects and those of My Far Eastern Ally, Japan.

But more than this is to be looked for from the School. If it happily succeeds in imparting to the pupils sent out as teachers of unselfish government and civilised commerce a clearer comprehension of the thoughts and lives of the diverse races of the East, the good effects of that success will extend far beyond the immediate and tangible results. The ancient literature and the art of India are of unique interest in the history of human endeavour. I look to the School to quicken public interest in the intellectual tradition of that great Continent and to promote and assist the labours of students in these departments of knowledge to the mutual advantage of both countries.

The School is about to open its doors in the midst of an unparalleled crisis in the world's history. For more than two years the Peoples of My Dominions, with loyalty and devotion, have vied with each other in offering their blood and treasure for the prosecution of a righteous War. The sense of common sacrifice and common endeavour has drawn us all nearer to one another in feeling and sympathy.

Meanwhile we believe that the peaceful labours of this Institution in spreading accurate and scientific knowledge of Eastern life and thought will foster the spirit of loyalty and patriotism and knit together still closer the many Nations of My Empire.