

exemplified ferocity, is an imperishable memory, and the patience and endurance shown by the civil population under the strain of War, and the unselfish devotion of our Doctors and Nurses.

To the Allied and Associated Forces on land, sea and in the air, we tender our profound and grateful thanks for their stupendous efforts extending over more than four years' of unparalleled carnage.

We earnestly pray that Divine Providence may guide the deliberations, and prosper the labours, of Your Majesties' Counsellors in the great work of reconstruction, and that this Nation may be given a spirit of unity in striving for the good of all classes, so as to knit together in mutual affection and trust the free Nations of the Empire. We also pray that the League of Nations, which has been called into existence as a result of the War, may promote the Peace of the World and harmony among all Nations.

We respectfully recognise with deep gratitude the lofty example which Your Majesties have at all times given of devotion to duty and of concern for the common good, which has been of such priceless encouragement to your people.

In conclusion, we desire to thank Your Majesties for the honour you have done us by Your presence to-day in our ancient Guildhall, accompanied by the Members of Your Royal House, and desire to renew the heartfelt assurance of our loyal and dutiful regard, and pray that Your Majesties and Your Family may long be spared in peace and happiness to rule over a united, prosperous and contented people.

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

I thank you very sincerely for your loyal Address and for the welcome which you have given to us. It gives me great pleasure to receive in person the congratulations of the City of London on the victorious termination of the War and the signing of the Treaty of Peace.

We were last among you in this ancient Guildhall a little more than a year ago. At that time the Allied Forces were engaged in the most desperate of all their struggles with our chief enemy. On the main theatre of battle his armies were pressing forward to the attack and were gaining ground. None of us despaired of ultimate success, but the crisis of the great conflict had yet to be passed, and we could not then foretell how long the victory would be delayed or at what price it would be finally bought. A very few days later began that wonderful offensive of the Allied Armies which turned the tide of war on the Western Front and flowed on in ever-increasing success until it culminated in the destruction of the enemy's fighting power and in his unqualified acceptance of our conditions of peace.

For the preservation of our country and for the peace so happily restored to us, we recently met together here in the great Cathedral of St. Paul to render our humble and heartfelt thanks to God. By invitation of the authorities of the Church of England, representatives of the Free Churches were officially present at the service, and it is a matter for deep gratification that, in the solemn expression of the nation's gratitude for a national deliverance, Christians of all de-

nominations and schools of religious thought joined together in common worship. It is my sincere hope that this may prove to be a step towards a closer co-operation between religious communities for the spiritual life of the nation.

You have commemorated in your Address the imperishable deeds of the forces of the Empire, the forces of our splendid Allies, and the men of the Merchant Service. Here especially in the centre of the Empire's commerce we should appreciate the deep debt our country owes to the officers and men of the British Mercantile Marine. Their splendid services during the War have been vital to its successful issue. Few, if any, merchant seamen could have anticipated the conditions of stress and danger under which they had to work. From day to day they were facing death no less than our soldiers in the fighting line. And even when the submarine menace was at its height no single British crew ever refused to sail.

In the labours which the war imposed on the population at home your City has borne a part worthy of its place and reputation. Without adequate financial resources our efforts would have been in vain. And, notwithstanding unprecedented taxation, cheerfully borne by all my people, they have lent to their country sums of an amount unequalled in the history of the world, and the City of London can recall with pride the share she has borne in that great effort.

One of the most important tasks before us is the restoration of our overseas trade. The re-creation of our Merchant Navy and the development of our ports must be pursued with the utmost energy if we are to regain our old supremacy. I am glad therefore to learn that the Port of London Authority is sparing no effort to attain that end. By enlarging the system of docks, adapting them to the conditions of modern trade, deepening the river channels, adding to the facilities for storage, they are expanding their work in every direction. I recognize the great services which the resources of the Port have rendered during the last five years, and I trust that the growth of its trade, so marked in the past, may continue in increasing measure now that the seas are once more free to peaceful commerce.

With the end of the War a great chapter in the history of our country is closed. The new era which is opening before us brings its own tasks, and the same qualities which have carried us to victory will be needed in full measure for the work of reconstruction. The spirit of union, self-sacrifice and patience which our people displayed during the years of fighting will still be required if we are to reap the full benefit of the peace which we have won; and those great qualities must be reinforced by the homelier virtues of industry and thrift.

As was inevitable in the prosecution of the War we have been living largely on our capital. Now that we are at peace again our country urgently demands from every citizen the utmost economy in order to make the best use of the resources which the nation possesses; and strenuous and unrelenting industry in order to ensure the greatest possible production of necessary commodities. Without these we shall have to face depression and poverty. Without these we cannot hope to maintain the high position in the industrial and commercial world which we held before the War.

I am confident that the ancient and sterling