

We desire humbly and heartily to acknowledge the powerful leadership and inspiring example of service which God has enabled Your Majesty and Your beloved Consort to give to all Your subjects.

We know that Your Majesty has intense interest in the health and housing of the people, in the diminution of temptations to intemperance and vice, in the growing unity of the Churches, in the welding together of English-speaking peoples, and in the firm and enduring alliance of freedom-loving nations. Historically we stand in the direct succession of the men of the Mayflower, and we beg most respectfully to assure You of our enthusiastic devotion to Your Majesty's Person and Your Royal House, and of our desire zealously to co-operate in promoting the development and moral greatness of Your Empire, and in establishing relations of justice and fraternity among the nations of the earth.

It is our earnest prayer that the blessing of Almighty God may abundantly accompany Your Majesty in the immense tasks inseparable from Your august Office.

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

I have much pleasure in receiving your loyal and dutiful Address, and I thank you very sincerely for your expressions of devotion to myself and my House, and for your congratulations upon the success with which it has pleased God to crown our arms.

We have indeed cause to rejoice in that great and spontaneous outburst of enthusiasm for a righteous cause with which my people responded to the call of national honour and national duty. Still more have we reason to be thankful that it proved to be no gust of momentary passion but a fixed and resolute determination to endure to the end. Our history has no parallel to the effort which expanded our small military force of 1914 into a citizen Army numbered by millions. Such a national uprising could never have been had not every class of the community borne its part and had not many thousands who loathed war and all that war involves been inspired by the demands of conscience to take up arms. I am well aware that the members of your denominations have taken their full share in the great struggle for liberty; and many of my comman-

ders have learned, like Cromwell, to know the value of "a plain russet-coated Captain who knows what he fights for and loves what he knows."

Wholeheartedly I join in your expression of thankfulness for that spirit of union which has animated us through years of common effort and common sacrifice. I trust that that spirit may remain with us to strengthen our hands for the work of peace and to soften the remembrance of old differences. May we see its fruits in the brotherly co-operation of all in the service of the commonwealth, and in the closer ties of all religious bodies.

It is a striking tribute to the supreme greatness of the cause for which we fought, that not the people of this United Kingdom alone but the lovers of freedom throughout the world have been united in its service. From the first moment of the War we have been supported by the whole power of the British Dominions beyond the seas. Its closing years were marked by a union of all the English-speaking peoples never seen since the separation of 1776. The association of the United States and the British Empire has been a source of deep satisfaction to us all. To you who claim an historical connection with the men of the "Mayflower" it must be peculiarly moving that the descendants of those who left England to win freedom for themselves should return to defend the liberties of Europe and the world. Such a reunion affords the happiest augury for the coming of an era when reason and justice may prevail in the intercourse of nations.

But our rejoicing in the peace which we have won and our hopes and aspirations for the future must necessarily be crossed by thoughts of the price that has been paid. We cannot but remember with heartfelt gratitude all those who have offered up their lives as a willing sacrifice, and those others who, wounded and disabled, have suffered for us. Well may we repeat "With a great sum obtained we this freedom." For their sake we are bound to regard the conclusion of peace, not as a call to rest or relaxation, but as a stimulus to new and greater efforts, so that we repair the ravages of war and build up a better order in this country and in the world. I join with you in praying that by the help of God we may one and all be enabled to show ourselves worthy of the victory which He has given us, and equal to the new duties which lie before us.

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