



The London Gazette

Published by Authority

Registered as a newspaper

..*

For Table of Contents see last page

FRIDAY, 22 NOVEMBER, 1946

Whitehall, November 15, 1946.

On the occasion of the visit to Oxford on Thursday 24th October of His Majesty The King, who was accompanied by Her Majesty The Queen, the Chancellor of the University and the Public Orator of the University delivered the following Addresses at a Special Convocation in the Sheldonian Theatre.

The Chancellor said:—

Your Majesty. Many among us have the pleasure of recalling your first introduction to this Theatre and of linking it in memory with a later day, just fifteen years ago, when your Royal Consort was also graciously pleased to associate herself with our work and aspirations. In the years of tension, of battle, and of victory that have ensued, the two-fold lustre then added to our Doctorate has grown in brilliance with the eminence of your stations, the magnitude of your public services, and the ever-deepening affection of your people.

We are proud, Sir, that the name of your Royal Sister is connected with the first provision made for Bodley's new expansion. We are proud, too, that the new Bodleian building is inscribed with the name of Her Majesty Queen Mary, whom we venture once again to assure of our enduring gratitude and most loyal devotion.

Since that foundation-stone was laid by her hand, the English-speaking peoples have again been united in a brotherhood of arms. Of their common effort in promoting the arts of peace, and of their common heritage, the New Bodleian is a monument and symbol; and with the Old it will enshrine, in the sight of all nations, the Vestal fire of our European civilization, a steady flame that by God's good grace no power of darkness shall overcome.

We are deeply thankful, Sir, for your royal favour and we beg you to receive our words of welcome as no mere formality but as the language of the heart.

The Public Orator said:—

Rex augustissime, Stator Britannici nominis, tuque, Regina excelsissima, totius populi amor ac deliciae.

Tametsi nulla potest oratio aut benignitati vestrae par inveniri aut gaudium quod ex adventu vestro capimus universi—neque enim mediocri honore nos sentimus affectos—vetat tamen pietas eum silere cui traditum est munus oratorum ab ipso Thoma Bodleio aliquando susceptum.

Credite nos inenarrabili quodam studio Oxoniam vos reversos salutare. Scimus enim quam grave onus officii vobis sit impositum, quot itinera sitis emensi, quibus denique belli tenebris circumfusam patriam quo virtutis, laboris, patientiae exemplo in quantum lucem quantumque splendorem perduxeritis.

Tibi, Rex et Imperator, ne debellatis quidem hostibus datur missio; nec iam te totius imperii curis districtum advocarem, nisi materna manu et sororia incohatum opus te posceret confectorem. et certe rege dignum obibus officium. Bodleius enim ille

'totius litterati orbis ambitu munificentiam suam terminavit': quique 'nihil satis actum putavit, nisi suis immensis sumptibus futurorum liberalitatem invitasset', hodie vel illud posset gloriari, se gentes toto orbe divisas ad unum dandi studium excitasse.

Voto finienda est oratio. Domine Deus, qui hanc Britannici imperii molem in tantum fastigium extulisti, conserva hunc statum, custodi Regem et Reginam Matremque Regis, protege Principissam Elizabetham totamque regiam domum, Regique functo longissima statione mortali destina successores quam serissimos.

Of which the following is the English translation:—

Most august Sovereign, Stablisher of Britain's name, and you, Madam, Most Excellent in your Majesty, Queen of the hearts of a whole people.

No oratory could do justice to the gracious kindness of your visit, nor to the happiness brought to every one of us by the great honour of receiving you. Yet the refuge of silence is denied to the Public Orator by respect for antiquity; for the office which he inherits was once held by Thomas Bodley himself.

Be assured that we greet your return to Oxford with a loyalty too deep for full expression. We know the weight of the duties laid upon you. We know the many journeys you have undertaken. We know how your high example of courage, strenuous effort, and endurance guided our country through the dark night of war into the fullness and splendour of day.

For you, Sir, the King-Emperor, even the overthrow of your enemies brings no release from national service. We dare call you away from imperial cares only because a task initiated by your Mother and your Sister awaits the final touch of your own hand. The service we ask is worthy of a king; for 'Bodley's munificence embraced the whole lettered world'. It was said of him that 'he thought poorly, of his achievement, unless his own huge disbursements evoked the bounty of posterity'. Today he might even claim to have brought two hemispheres together in eager contribution to a single cause.

Last of all, a prayer. Lord God, who hast raised up this Britannic Empire to so proud an eminence, uphold us in this high station. Preserve and protect our King and Queen, the Queen-Mother, the Princess Elizabeth, and all the Royal Family. Grant our King the fullest span of mortal life, and prolong his royal line from generation to generation.

To which Addresses His Majesty was pleased to make the following gracious Answer:—

Mr. Chancellor. I thank you and the Public Orator for your speeches and the whole University for the welcome it has given to the Queen and myself. For both of us this Theatre holds proud and happy memories. We rejoice that it stands as we saw it before, and that everywhere the familiar beauties of this ancient University remain untouched by war: bearing witness, as the best of all visible memorials, to the valour and self-sacrifice of yet another generation.