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TUESDAY, 8 MAY, 1956

Whitehall, May 8, 1956.

The following Address was presented to The QUEEN to-day by the Chancellor of the University of Exeter on the occasion of the laying of the Foundation Stone of the new building of the Arts Faculty of the University by Her Majesty:—

MAY IT PLEASE YOUR MAJESTY

We, the Court, the Council, the Senate and all the Members of the University of Exeter, present our humble duty to Your Majesty and extend to Your Majesty and to His Royal Highness the Duke of Edinburgh the most loyal and affectionate welcome on this Your visit to the site of our young University. We offer to Your Majesty our most grateful thanks for the grant of Your Royal Charter and for the signal honour which Your Majesty has been pleased to confer upon us by presenting the Charter to us by Your own hand. We are proud that the University which, as the University College of the South West, was honoured by visits from members of Your Majesty's Family in the past, should start its new and expanding career so auspiciously.

The University is very fortunate in being able, so soon after its foundation, to begin the construction of a new building of outstanding importance. It is doubly fortunate that this building is being inaugurated by an act so gracious and propitious as the unveiling of its Foundation Stone by Your Majesty. For this also we desire to express our deepest gratitude. This new building, which will house the departments of the Faculty of Arts, will assist the University to take its full share in the advancement of learning and the pursuit of truth.

The Universities of Your Majesty's Realm have set high standards. In striving to attain them, every member of the University will be encouraged by Your Majesty's interest. It will be the constant endeavour of each one of us to serve Your Majesty with loyalty and devotion throughout Your Reign, which we pray will be long, happy and peaceful.

Mary Devonshire, Chancellor.
B. G. Lampard-Vachell, Pro-Chancellor.
J. W. Cook, Vice-Chancellor.

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

It gives me great pleasure to be here with my husband to-day and to receive this Loyal Address from you, as Chancellor of the University of Exeter, and such a warm welcome from its members.

Nearly a century ago a son of Devon, Sir Stafford Northcote, urged that Exeter should be made a centre of education for the west of England. His good advice was followed, and that imaginative proposal has been so expanded that this University now serves not only the people of the South-West, but the whole country, and also contains many students from overseas, including representatives of most of the countries of the Commonwealth.

It has one great natural advantage in its beautiful site, which enables students to live and work in a most agreeable environment. I feel confident that when the plans for its further fine buildings have been completed this new University will play a prominent part in widening the frontiers of knowledge—a duty for which the West Country, with its long traditions of exploration and discovery, is specially fitted.

To you, as the first Chancellor of the University, I extend my good wishes for a long and successful term of office in presiding over its destinies. My family, like yours, has had a constant interest in it since its foundation. The first building was begun in 1865 in memory of the Prince Consort. One of the wings of this Royal Albert Memorial College was opened, at the end of the last century, by the then Duke of Devonshire and another by my grandfather, King George the Fifth, as Duke of York. More recently, your brother, Lord Salisbury, held for ten years the office of President of the University College of the South-West, and to-day I have come here to hand over to you, my Mistress of the Robes, as its first Chancellor, the Royal Charter which incorporates the University of Exeter.

This is the third University—Southampton and Hull being the others—to be founded in my reign. I think that this bears striking witness to the increase in the facilities for higher education which are being provided throughout the Kingdom—a development which has its counterpart in the Colonies and in the other countries of the Commonwealth. I am glad to know that the advantages of University life and the opportunities for advanced studies and research are being made available to a constantly growing number of young men and women both here at home and overseas.

There is a great need in the world to-day for technical and scientific education, but, side by side with that, it is important to maintain the study of the humanities, in which Britain has for centuries held an honoured name. It will, therefore, give me great pleasure to unveil the foundation stone of the new building of the Faculty of Arts in this University.

Finally, to mark the occasion of my visit to you, I am happy to name the road on which I have just travelled The Queen's Drive.

I now deliver to you the Charter which founds the University of Exeter.

Treasury Chambers,
Great George Street, S.W.1.

7th May, 1956.

The Chancellor of the Exchequer has this day appointed Gerald Wellington Williams to be Steward and Bailiff of Her Majesty's Three Hundreds of Chiltern.