

THE

Arrival at Doncaster.

SONNETS.

I.

Not the base homage which a realm defiles ;
But the bright impulse of a nation's love,—
An emanation pure as from above,—
Greeteth, sincere, our LADY OF THE ISLES !
Not empty form, nor ceremonious smiles,
Coined on the cheek of those who madly strove,
In foreign lands to counterfeit, and prove
The world deceived by the false will's deep wiles ;—
But the true impress of the heart and soul
In every look, word, gesture,—faith and power,
Allied with kindred hearts, from pole to pole,—
Through boundless realms that know no sun-set
hour ;—
So wide,—so vast,—the royal flag unfurled,
Claims the high homage of the whole wide world.

II.

Hail, ROYAL LADY ! Through thine own fair land,
Which, blessed with peace, and cheered by freedom's light,
Thrice armed, invincible with truth and might,
Assumes the station of supreme command ;—
Hail, ROYAL LADY ! Gentle, graceful, bland,
To that glad Highland home, whose smile, bedight
With blooming health, is gladness to the sight,
And redolent of faith unfeigned, unplanned !
Forgive ;—if for a time,—nor strange to fame,—
We dare presume to thus associate,
With undissembled truth, old Danum's name
With Osborne's shades, and Windsor's royal state ;
Or fair Balmoral's autumn home,—blest place,—
Charmed with the presence of all queenly grace.

III.

Nor less that royal PRINCE, whose gracious smiles,
And words of truth, dispelling party strife,
Sheath the bright sword, and blunt grim war's
stern knife,
Blessing with peace serene fair Freedom's Isles.
The sage in youth ;—the wisdom that beguiles
Faction from its vile ends, and shows how rife
With good beams forth a true enlightened life,
Uniting nations, while it reconciles.
And ye,—the youthful, lovely, royal band,—
As changeful time with stern relentless power
Rolls on,—shall faithful bless this mighty land
With all the virtues of your parents' dower ;
And prove, with heavenly guidance, ne'er to cease,
Great in all wisdom,—truly great in peace.

IV.

Bless, mighty God ! our virtuous Queen alway !
 Bless her in fragrant slope, in morning's gleam ;
 Bless her refulgent in meridian ray ;
 Through valleys deep in evening's parting beam !
 Bless her by rushing flood, and gentle river ;
 By sparkling well, and lake, and crystal fountain ;
 Bless her through woodlands, where the birches
 quiver ;
 In lowliest glens, and on the cloud-capped moun-
 tain !
 Bless her on sea and land,—through stormiest hours ;
 In scenes where hart and hind may freely roam ;
 Bless her in Osborne's halls, and Windsor's towers
 Secure, serene, in glad Balmoral's home !—
 Bless her, at length, where purest bliss is given ;
 Bless her, celestial, to her home in heaven !

THE visit of QUEEN VICTORIA to the town of
 Doncaster, whilst on the royal progress from
 Osborne House, in the Isle of Wight, to Bal-
 moral, in Scotland, is one of those rare events which
 will be held in continued remembrance by the present
 generation, and pointed at by those who have to
 follow as an extraordinary occurrence. The august
 presence of her Majesty in Doncaster, will be asso-
 ciated with the remarkable year devoted to the Great
 Exhibition of the Industry of all Nations, the effect
 of which, in the development of mutual good, amongst
 all countries and communities, will, we trust, be
 fully equal to the expectations of Prince Albert, with
 whom the magnificent project originated. This gra-

cious condescension on the part of her Majesty, unexpected but desired by the inhabitants, was hailed with those enthusiastic feelings which forcibly testified the heartfelt estimation in which her Majesty is held by all parties and classes from the highest to the most humble; evincing that it was not merely "an outward honour for an inward toil," but such a manifestation of loyalty and attachment as became a free and grateful people, justified by the possession of the many exalted virtues of the sovereign, and exemplified in all, even the most trying occasions and emergencies, to the enhancement of her own dignity and the honour of the throne itself. This generous feeling, indeed, was not merely evinced on the part of the inhabitants of the borough, but on those of the neighbouring villages and hamlets, and the surrounding towns, even those which are placed at a considerable distance from the scene. All appeared to be animated by the same impulse,—the same loyal spirit, and, consequently, the same desire to participate in its outward demonstration. The demeanour of her Majesty on this interesting as well as on all other occasions when she appears before the public, was such as to engage and win all hearts. The most perfect courtesy and affability were, if possible, heightened by that grateful expression of feeling which became her queenly authority and royal dignity. The attractions, however, of an occasion like the present one much depended upon the state of the weather for their participation and enjoyment; and it was an encouraging reflection that, in this respect, her Majesty is remarkably punctual. Nevertheless, in the course of Tuesday, the weather was rather threatening. The morning of Wednesday broke with heavy clouds rolling eastward at a very low altitude, portentous of a rainy day. In the course of the forenoon a few slight showers passed over. It brightened, however, towards noon with a cheerful breeze from the west; and the state of the atmosphere subsequently verified the truth of fine weather always attending the public progress of our most gracious monarch.

RECEPTION AT THE STATION.

At six o'clock the Town Council proceeded from the Mansion-House to the Station in the following order :—

Police.
Pinder and Bellman.
Superintendent of Police and Cryor.
Town Councillors.
Aldermen.
Town Clerk.
Clerk of the Peace.
Clerk to the Magistrates.
Magistrates.
Coroner.
Recorder, Mayor, and Vicar.
Incumbent of Christ Church.
Curate of the Parish Church.
Master of the Grammar School.

The Mayor was attired in his official costume, as well as the Recorder, and the clergy in their gowns. The Aldermen and Councillors wore white waistcoats, white gloves and cravats; the former had crimson ribbons, and the latter royal purple. The Clerk of the Peace was also in his robes. All the members were present, with the exception of Cornet Smith, who was on military duty. On reaching the Station, the Councillors filed off on each side, and the chief magistrate, the vicar, recorder, &c. walked between. The procession then moved through the booking-office to the platform. Previous to the arrival of the Corporation, the staff of the Third West York Militia, under the command of Captain Hepworth, were marched to the front of the Station. These were followed by a small detachment of the 85th Light Infantry from the temporary barracks at the Guild-hall. They took up a position in the interior of the Station to await her Majesty's arrival. Shortly afterwards the band of the First West Yorkshire Yeomanry Cavalry, who were stationed on the opposite side, struck up a popular air, under the leadership of the band-master, Sergeant-Major Clegg. The platform had now assumed a very gay and animated appearance. On each side of the main en-

trance were congregated the principal families of the town and neighbourhood, embracing an assemblage that has never been witnessed on any former occasion. Lieutenant-General the Earl Cathcart, K.C.B. Captain Warre, Major of Brigade, the Hon. A. Cathcart, and Captain Hepworth, in their full military uniforms, came upon the platform. On the outside was the Yeomanry escort, under Captain Thomas Walker. About six o'clock, Sir Charles Wood, the Chancellor of the Exchequer, and W. B. Wrightson, Esq. M.P. entered the Station. Great interest now began to be experienced, as every one was upon the tip-toe of anticipation of the approach of the Queen. At twenty-five minutes past six, the pilot-engine, decorated with evergreens, arrived, and gave intimation that the royal train would reach there in less than five minutes. The gentlemen immediately took off their hats, and remained uncovered. Exactly at the appointed time, the royal train was seen emerging from under the tunnel-bridge beneath the Balby road, which was instantly confirmed by the firing of the royal salute from the Infantry. From that point coal waggons and trucks had been placed on each side of the main line, and were, through the permission of the railway authorities, allowed to be occupied by the public generally. As soon as the train entered the Station the band struck up the National Anthem; and the guard of honour presented arms. The royal carriages having been brought up to the centre of the platform, Mr. Denison, M.P. the chairman of the Great Northern Company, proceeded to her Majesty's carriage, and opened the door for the Queen. Her Majesty and the Prince Albert were then introduced to the Mayor, and previous to the Queen's alighting, was presented with the following address by his Worship:—

"TO THE QUEEN'S MOST EXCELLENT MAJESTY.

"MAY IT PLEASE YOUR MAJESTY,

"We, your Majesty's dutiful and loyal subjects the Mayor, Aldermen, and Burgesses of the Borough of Doncaster, and all the Inhabitants of this borough in public meeting assembled, beg humbly to express to your Majesty the feeling of delight which pervades all hearts in the visit of your Majesty and your Illustrious Consort to this ancient seat of unfaltering loyalty.

"Sincerely grateful for the numerous blessings we enjoy under your Majesty's mild and peaceful rule, and for your Majesty's promotion of those practical sciences which have once more opened the way of prince and people to our town, we cordially join in that homage of devoted attachment to your Majesty's person and family which is exciting the admiration of observing nations; and we earnestly pray that your Majesty along with your Illustrious Consort may long be blessed with health and happiness to reign in the affections of a loyal and contented people."

His Worship then handed to his Royal Highness Prince Albert an address of congratulation, which the Prince received with the greatest condescension:—

"TO HIS ROYAL HIGHNESS THE PRINCE ALBERT.

"MAY IT PLEASE YOUR ROYAL HIGHNESS,

"We, the Mayor, Aldermen, and Burgesses of the Borough of Doncaster, and the other inhabitants of the borough in public meeting assembled, humbly avail ourselves of this opportunity of expressing to your Royal Highness our deep feelings of respect towards a prince who is at once the worthy consort of our beloved Queen and himself possesses so many personal claims to the admiration and sympathies of the British nation.

"Living in the centre of an agricultural population, our interests chiefly bound up with theirs, we have long marked the exertions of your Royal Highness in extending the benefits of every useful institution, in the practical application of the discoveries of science to the cultivation of the soil and in promoting the comfort of the labourer. And now that your Royal Highness is seeking repose after that triumph of peace and international goodwill,—the Exhibition of the Industry of All Nations,—we would add our sincere acknowledgments to that universal tribute which is so justly paid to the noble design and its glorious execution.

"In conclusion we beg your Royal Highness to accept our assurances of our devotion to the person of our beloved Sovereign and yourself, and of our prayers that your Royal Highness may be spared to be the nearest and firmest supporter of her throne, and the leader of every useful national undertaking."

On alighting, her Majesty cordially recognised Sir Charles Wood, and after the passing of a few words, her Majesty immediately proceeded, leaning on the arm of Prince Albert, to the carriage in waiting, with their Royal Highnesses the Prince of Wales and the Princess Royal. Her Majesty and Prince Albert looked extremely well. Prince Alfred and the Princess Alice occupied the second carriage with the

Countess of Desart, the Hon. Miss Byng, and Miss Hildyard. Lord John Russell, who was in attendance upon her Majesty, occupied the third carriage, with the Hon. Colonel Gordon and the Hon. Col. Phipps, Sir James Clark and the other members of the royal suite followed in the other carriages.

HER MAJESTY'S RECEPTION AT THE STATION YARD, AND ROUTE TO THE ANGEL HOTEL.

To you, my good Lord Mayor,
And your good brethren, I am much beholden :
I have received much honour by your presence.
And ye shall find me thankful.

Lead the way :
Ye must all see the Queen, and she must thank ye.
* * * This day, no man think
He has business at his house ; for all shall stay :
This little one shall make it holiday.

SHAKESPEARE: Henry VIII. Act 5, sc. 4.

Her Majesty and Prince Albert, after each receiving an address, were then conducted through the main entrance, which was covered with crimson cloth, to the state carriage immediately at hand. Here, the reception was enthusiastic in the highest degree. On both the platforms, ladies waved their handkerchiefs, gentlemen cheered to their utmost, hats in hand, and the children caught up the shout of acclamation and hearty greeting—which was most graciously acknowledged by her Majesty and the Prince. The scholars of the National School, who were placed in front of their building, on an elevated platform, then sung "God save the Queen." One pleasing feature was the presence of the pupils of the Deaf and Dumb Institution, and the venerable founder of the charity, the Rev. C. W. Fenton, vicar of Mattersey, the honorary secretary ; the latter cheering with the greatest enthusiasm, which, we observed, was recognised by the august visitors. "Welcome Victoria" on the triumphant arch caught the eye of her Majesty with a graceful smile. In approaching East Laith-gate, with crowds of people extending the whole length of the

road, the cheering was also most vociferous. On Hodgson's platform were placed the young gentlemen of Edenfield Academy. The excitement was very great; and although the royal carriage passed too rapidly for her loyal subjects to immediately recognise her Majesty, the enthusiasm was not in the least diminished. The moving mass of spectators, the crowded roof of the adjacent buildings, windows filled with well-dressed ladies—all displaying, in some way or other, the most marked feelings of affection and attachment to their beloved Sovereign was a scene which can never be effaced from those who witnessed it. Banners floating in the breeze, flags hung from different points, bells ringing, the people phrenzied with delight, from the veteran in years to the more youthful of the rising generation, were well calculated to make a deep impression upon the spectators; in fact, Doncaster manifested such an outburst of loyalty as could not be excelled in the great military progress of former kings. Hawkins's and Pye's platforms were filled. On the former was a large flag, and on the back portions were decorations of yew trees which gave to the whole a very pleasant appearance. Moving onwards the royal *cortege* reached the second triumphal arch. Before doing so, it passed several fine larch trees which were temporarily planted to give a better effect to this part of the road.

The appearance witnessed beyond the barrier placed at the end of Printing-office-street was of the most animated and extraordinary description. Looking from the second in the direction of the third triumphal arch opposite the News Room, the spacious area immediately in front was one dense mass of people, with, however, an opening along the crown of the road which was kept clear by the police. The windows and balconies on each side were densely crowded with respectable people. The roofs of the houses were covered with adventurers who had climbed to that giddy elevation. Many even ascended to the top of the chimneys, and commanded a clear and uninterrupted view of the exciting scene below. The crowd of people was remarkably orderly; and they experienced much advantage by the pressure of the crowd being prevented by the erection of the several barriers. All appeared to be patient attention,—a feeling which was maintained by the conviction that it is the invariable rule of her Majesty to keep the appointed time to a minute. It was soon apparent from the movements at a distance, that the train was close at hand;

and the firing of the muskets confirmed the opinion that her Majesty had reached the station platform. The low murmur swelled into a louder roar. All eyes were directed towards the triumphal arch. The royal liveries were seen at a distance by many; and as soon as the carriage containing her Majesty and the Prince, and Prince of Wales and the Princess Royal, emerged from beneath the triumphal arch, and came, as it were, into the immediate presence of thousands, one loud rushing shout, taken up on all sides, made the welkin ring with a welcome as hearty, as enthusiastic, and as sincere as ever struck the ear of royalty; and had not the *cortege* passed at so quick a rate it would undoubtedly have been of longer continuance. Nevertheless, it was taken up as it proceeded with equal enthusiasm from balconies, windows, housetops, and from every elevated position from which a view could be obtained, as well as from those on foot, as the royal carriage passed under the third triumphal arch.

As soon as the royal carriage had passed through the third triumphal arch, the scene was most bewildering and the interest created, at this moment, was beyond description. The crowd seemed overpowered with the presence of royalty; but they had no sooner recovered, than they shouted, as one man, an universal welcome. The large balcony of the News Room, and the top of the roof, were covered with individuals. Around the public clock was a swarm of loyal subjects. Every window was thronged to excess with animated spectators. Flags were floating gaily in the breeze; and the bells of St. George's Church were ringing merrily; and every countenance, no matter which ever way the eye turned, was lighted up with joy and happiness. The Infantry, drawn up in front of the royal residence under arms, added considerably to increase the excited state of the people. In the midst of this genuine and unbounded attachment to their Sovereign, her most gracious Majesty descended from the state carriage, and took the arm of Prince Albert, followed by the Prince of Wales and the Princess Royal, who had previously been assisted from the carriage by Prince Albert, in the presence of the Mayor, the Vicar, the Recorder, the Town Clerk, and that gallant veteran in arms, Earl Cathcart; Mr. Joseph Foster bearing the mace on the left of the royal carriage; the soldiers previously presenting arms. No sooner had her Majesty alighted than up went the royal standard, which, we dare say, was the first time that it had floated

above the Angel Hotel ; but we sincerely trust it will not be the last, and that we shall, ere long, be honoured with a similar visit. Then followed another enthusiastic cheer which was continued for several minutes, and renewed when her Majesty made her appearance at the drawing-room windows. The royal children were also frequently observed at the drawing-room window, and were greeted with an universal chorus of voices, which was acknowledged by them in the most graceful manner. The Prince Alfred and Princess Alice were also heartily received. Both the Princes and the Princesses were accompanied by their tutor, Mr. Birch, and by their governess, Miss Hildyard. The carriage which contained Lord John Russell then drew up. The noble lord, who seemed to have thrown off the great care and responsibility of his high and distinguished office as the Premier, was evidently much delighted ; and as he assisted the Countess of Desart and the Hon. Miss Byng to descend from the carriage, the spectators, on recognising his lordship, gave vent, in the warmth of their admiration, to a cheer that was much more pleasing, we should think, than many which the noble lord hears in the senate, as it came from the heart of sincerity. The crowds in the streets, by this time, had actually worked themselves up to such a pitch and appeared determined to give further utterance to their loyalty by attempting to force themselves opposite the hotel, for the purpose, as many declared, of manifesting their great affection for their beloved Sovereign. This, however, the police properly prevented, though it was a great difficulty to stay the immense pressure of the crowd. Lord John Russell seemed to take great interest in witnessing the anxiety of the people, from the drawing room of Mr. Alderman Dunhill ; and we observed his lordship more than once watching the movements of the concourse of spectators below. The detachment of the 85th regiment under the command of Major Blackburn, were then dismissed, and a portion mounted guard. The officers present were, in addition to the gallant Major, the Hon. Capt. J. H. Thurlow, the Hon. Lieut. W. S. Knox, Lieut. Gubbins, and Ensign Rycroft. There were 110 men rank and file, besides the band, consisting of twenty-eight men from the Hull barracks. As soon as the illuminations commenced, the appearance in front of the Angel Hotel became comparatively quiet ; and her Majesty and the royal party reposed without any noise or unquiet, after so very long a journey from the Isle of Wight, when rest was especially needed.

THE TRIUMPHAL ARCHES.

A more appropriate and gratifying design than that which first met the eye of her Majesty and the royal suite on proceeding from the Station ground, with, on each side, masses of delighted spectators on the platforms and the school children on the slopes, could not have been better designed. This was the first triumphal arch, placed at the large railway gate opposite the National School. It was of noble dimensions, and had a very picturesque effect; and if it reminded the observer of the ages of Greece and Rome, with their military triumphs and exaltations of individual renown, it called forth higher considerations, in which the genius of a pure faith and the blessings of profound peace were intimately connected with the presence of a Christian Sovereign and the genius of a free and enlightened people. It rose to the height of thirty feet, with a span of twenty-six feet; while the archway itself was twenty feet high. The whole was decorated with the most luxuriant evergreens, interspersed with flowers; and appeared to form so dense a mass of foliage, as to add to its strength and solidity. The first motto which caught the eye of her Majesty was, we repeat, highly appropriate—"Welcome Victoria," in gold letters on a blue ground, surrounded by laurel, which acted as a good foil. Above this cordial and heartfelt greeting, which looked in a direct line to the station, were inscribed in gold the ornamented letters "V. A." the whole being surrounded by a crown of flowers and evergreens. On the reverse side is inscribed, also in letters of gold, "God save the Queen," and above, "V. A." On one side, at a considerable elevation, formed by the angle outside the arch, is placed the lion; and on the opposite side, the unicorn. The whole was surmounted by a large Union Jack, which for a thousand years has braved the battle and the breeze; floating and waving in the wind, as though it had lost none of its vitality, but was as vigorous and as free as ever. To complete the picture, on each side of the body of the arch, festoons of evergreens, pendent and curving, are placed, uniting themselves with two larch trees, and covering a space of thirteen feet, intermixed with flags and banners, and other appropriate decorations. The whole, which was designed, decorated, and painted by Mr. Wightman, had, as may be readily imagined, a very imposing and

gratifying effect, and received the praises of all parties, whether inhabitants of the town or strangers from a distance.

The second triumphal arch, under which the royal procession passed, is placed near the Borough Gaol, opposite the wide space opening into St. Sepulchre-gate. It is rather less massive than the one already described; but forms a striking object in the whole locality. It is similarly decorated with evergreens and flowers; and springs to a considerable height. It spans the roadway from side to side, with two small arches on either hand extending over the pavement for the foot passengers. Festoons, crossing each other, are suspended from the upper portion of the main arch; and above are inscribed on the semicircle of the rim, in gold letters, "Long live the Queen;" and on the reverse, "Victoria and Albert." On the apex is placed a splendid crown, made by Mr. W. S. Smith, Baxter-gate, and gilded and finished by Mr. Wightman. It is four feet six inches high, and three feet six inches across. The design is remarkably tasteful, and the workmanship of a superior description. Around it are the *fleurs de lis* and representations of jewels. At the top are the orb and cross. Inside is a beautiful cap of crimson velvet; and it rests on a crimson velvet cushion. From each side project two Union Jacks. These, floating in the breeze, were well supported by the plumes of the Prince of Wales on each side of the smaller arches. Between the latter and the centre arch, are placed larch trees, wreathed with flowers, whose fragrance was truly delightful. The effect of this archway, thrown across the road at the extreme end of West Laith-gate, is beautiful in the extreme. Nor could a better idea have been conceived than in placing it at this point. Indeed, we have looked upon it with renewed interest; and although it would not be prudent at so busy a thoroughfare for it to be permanent, we must confess that we have had a lingering desire that it could be so; for it gives such a graceful finish to this part of the town. It is not to be wondered that it should have been the theme of admiration, as it possesses every charm that taste and ingenuity could have suggested. Even in an architectural point of view, it is very accurate. The correct proportions of each part contributed to the perfection of the whole, while it reflected praise on the designer, Mr. Wightman, and the decorator, Mr. Appleby.

The third triumphal arch was formed nearly at the turn from St. Sepulchre-gate to the Angel Hotel, extending from the Subscription Library and News Room to the opposite premises of Messrs. Fox and Co. The flowers and evergreens were beautifully intermingled. The main arch spanned the carriage road, with two smaller arches on each side. The centre rose to a very considerable height, with an ornamented or scrolled pediment. Upon the summit was placed, remarkably conspicuous, a crown, formed of evergreens, dahlias and other flowers; with the Union Jack on each side, as supporters. Below, over the centre of the arch, appeared the word "Victoria," on a blue ground, with gold letters; on the other, "Albert." Both names derived an admirable relief from the mass of green foliage by which they were surrounded. Above the smaller arches, panels were affixed; inscribed with, in ornamental letters, "V.A." on a pink ground, with blue border. Above these were placed the flags of different nations of smaller size than those which waved from the apex. The effect produced by this arrangement was not only imposing in itself, but the general appearance in this position produced another impression. As the royal *cortege* advanced, it rendered the space beyond more obscure; and as distance is said to "lend enchantment to the view;" so the arch, thus placed, rendered the broad turn to the royal residence for the night, more attractive and gratifying; while on the part of the spectators on foot and the ladies and gentlemen who occupied the windows and balconies on all sides, the royal carriage, emerging from this, as it were splendid canopy, and making the bend to the Angel Hotel, created, if possible, an additional charm, and produced an effect rarely surpassed. This imposing erection was the design of Mr. Appleby, and completed under his immediate superintendence.