

From the Shores of England to the British Dominions Beyond the Seas.

The Duke and Duchess of Cornwall and York set out upon their tour on Saturday, March 16, from Portsmouth on the ship "Ophir." The departure was attended with ceremony in keeping with the importance of the visit to the Empire's great colonies beyond the seas. The King and Queen were present to say farewell. His Majesty had selected this as a fitting opportunity to bestow rewards for their services in South Africa upon the officers and men of the "Ophir's" crew and to acknowledge the timely help of the "Excellent's" men at Windsor at the funeral of the late Queen. The farewell luncheon was held on board ship. After inspecting the "Ophir" the King and Queen and their party returned to the Royal Yacht "Victoria and Albert," after which His Majesty went on board the Royal yacht "Albion."

Exactly at 4 o'clock the "Ophir" was hauled clear of the jetty and her voyage began. She was preceded by the Trinity House yacht "Irene," the royal yacht "Albion" followed with the King and Queen and his family on board, and then came in column division the eight torpedo destroyers which took part in the historic funeral procession of the late Queen only a few weeks previous. All the ships, including Nelson's historic flag-ship, the "Victory," in the harbour showed hunting. The "Irene" kept on until the Duke dismissed her off Bournemouth with the signal, "The Duke of Cornwall to Captain Nyan, deputy master.—Many thanks for your kind escort. Will not detain you longer.—Good-bye." When off the Princessa Shoal the King turned and came back to Portsmouth, and the "Ophir" with the heir-apparent on board steamed down Channel.

The trip across the Bay of Biscay was exceedingly rough, but Gibraltar was reached on Wednesday and the Royal party received a most hearty welcome. The Duke and Duchess had a long programme before them for their two days' stay: a review of the garrison, a visit to the defences, a reception by Sir George and Lady White, and other functions. On March 25 Malta was reached. The "Ophir" was met eighteen miles out by a flotilla of torpedo boats, and entered the harbour amid salutes of artillery. The Royal party landed and drove to the Palace.

The rough weather had apparently exhausted itself at Gibraltar, for the "Ophir" had a very pleasant trip to Port Said, where the Duke and Duchess arrived on Saturday. Thanks to wireless telegraphy, they had been in constant communication with the outside world throughout the whole voyage. The Khedive's brother, Prince Melomet Ali, with the State Ministers, and Lord Cromer, met the Duke and Duchess at Port Said, where the "Ophir" remained until next morning. After inspecting the city and Lady Strangford's Hospital, the Duke and Duchess gave a dinner-party on board their yacht. Entering the Canal with a small escort of destroyers, the "Ophir" reached Suez on Monday, and was there joined by the "Hunt" and "St. George," which escorted her to Colombo.

On the afternoon of Good Friday the Duke and Duchess landed at Aden. On the rock was assembled a typical Oriental crowd that presented a picturesque and interesting spectacle to the travellers. Their Royal Highnesses were received by the Governor and an address was presented by Mr. Dinsman Cowasjee on behalf of the Aden community.

The "Ophir" then sailed across the Indian Ocean to the Island of Ceylon, reaching Kandy on April 12. In the evening there was an imposing procession of sixty-three elephants. On April 14 the Royal party drove to the beautiful Botanical Gardens at Peradeniya and fed a dozen elephants.

The Strait Settlements were next visited, Singapore being reached on April 21, and on the afternoon of the 23rd the "Ophir" sailed for Australia.

The Duke and Duchess of Cornwall and York landed at Melbourne, Australia, on Monday, May 6. They had arrived in the harbour on the previous day after a fair voyage, only troubled by a slight swell and occasional fogs. The Duke and Duchess came ashore early in the afternoon, landing at St. Kilda, the pretty suburb facing Hobson's Bay. There was a grand reception at the pier, and after the usual routine of presentations was complete a state procession was formed, gay with military escort, uniforms, and officials in full dress. The enthusiasm lavished on the Duke and Duchess was intense. A levee was the chief event of Tuesday, a visit to Melbourne University on Wednesday, and then came the great occasion of all—the opening of the first Federal Parliament on Thursday. The Duke and Duchess went in state procession to the International Exhibition building in the Carlton Gardens, where the ceremony took place. Built for the International Exhibition of 1881, this is a splendid edifice, which will accommodate many thousand guests. Very dainty were the invitation cards, showing the Young Queen Australia approaching the Old Queen to be crowned.

The great event of the Duke's visit took place on Thursday, May 9, when he opened the first Parliament of the Commonwealth of Australia in the Exhibition building, Melbourne. About 12,000 spectators were present, and the arrangements for receiving and seating were most successfully planned by Mr. G. H. Jenkins, Clerk of the House of Representatives.

By half-past 11, all whose business it was to merely look on were in their places, waiting for the arrival of the Royal party. Faint and far off just about noon there

came the sound of the National Anthem, and there was a multitudinous murmur and stir, for here was the actual event coming at last. Then near at hand came the blare of a trumpet heralding the approach of the Imperial entourage, and a moment or two after with Royal pomp and circumstance, the Duke and Duchess were on the dais, and the strains of the National Anthem were pealing through the building. It was sung by professional artists, assisted by a splendid orchestra, but not taken up, except here and there, by the audience.

Up to this time there had been only the Senators in the space reserved for the members of the first Parliament. The proclamation had been read to those by Mr. Blackmore, clerk of the Parliaments, and it was read in a distant room to the members of the other chamber by Mr. G. H. Jenkins, clerk of the Assembly. Through the usher of the black rod the presence of the members of the House of Representatives was requested, and shortly after they arrived, led by the Prime Minister (Mr. Barton), with proud and grave air, followed by Mr. Deakin, the Attorney-General.

All being assembled, the religious feelings of the occasion were stirred by the singing of "Old Hundred." This was taken up by thousands of the audience, and its swelling harmonies rose grandly to the dome. Lord Hopetoun, sitting aside all complimentary questions of religious precedence, himself read several prayers.

When the Duke stepped forward to deliver his speech to the two Houses a "Hush!" ran round the assembly, and every one listened intently, but the sound of the ever moving feet on the bearded floors went on. His Royal Highness spoke deliberately, in a clear, strong voice, and the speech he read was distinctly heard by thousands of those present. At the final words, "I now declare the Parliament of the Commonwealth of Australia open," the Duchess touched an electric button, which gave the signal outside for the sending of a message to England declaring the object of the journey of the Royal entourage accomplished. Trumpets rang out the signal, and outside was heard the booming of cannon in Royal salute.

After a brief pause the Duke of Cornwall and York read a special cable message of congratulation from His Majesty the King. And now Australia asserted herself. She had been suppressing her feelings to show that she knew how to behave with old-world decorum in the presence of Royalty, but this message, direct from the King himself, was too much—they simply had to cheer. And cheer they did. It was done without order or without concert. It was taken up time after time by sections of the audience; it ran round the aisles, and surged through the galleries; a hearty, spontaneous, irresistible Australian cheer. It was not down in the programme, but it formed a most effective part of it.

The final part of the ceremony, which altogether occupied about three quarters of an hour, was the surring-in of members by the tierceron-tourner. He stood on the dais and read out the oath, whilst the members, Bible in hand, followed him in sections. Then came the "Hallelujah Chorus" by the orchestra. Then Lord Hopetoun stepped to the front of the dais, and directing the

audience, by the raising of his hat, called for three cheers for His Royal Highness the Duke, which were given with splendid heartiness, followed by another round for the Duchess, after which the Duke and Duchess retired, and the great ceremony was over.

Sydney and Brisbane were visited and everywhere the Royal party was received with enthusiastic loyalty. Crossing to New Zealand the equatorial and principal cities welcomed the Duke and Duchess. Hobart, Tasmania, was reached on July 3. Returning to Australia the "Ophir" proceeded to Adelaide and from there on her way to Fremantle the ship encountered a severe storm and was compelled to seek shelter in Albany harbour. The Royal party said farewell to Australia at Fremantle on Friday, July 26, the "Ophir" sailing for Mauritius. On August 5 the "Ophir" reached Port Louis, Mauritius, and on Tuesday, August 12, the "Ophir" entered the harbour of Durban, Natal, South Africa. A call was made at Simonstown and at noon, August 14, the Duke and Duchess and suite arrived at Cape Town where they received a most enthusiastic welcome.

On August 21 the "Ophir" sailed from Cape Town for Canada. The transports "Juice" and "St. George" which had escorted the Royal yacht "Ophir" were relieved upon arriving at St. Vincent and were replaced by the "Diadem" and "Nisus." Then the journey was resumed until the "Ophir" ploughed the waters of the St. Lawrence and landed her passengers on Canadian soil.

For a time the sea-journeying of the Royal party was at an end, the tour of Canada being made by railway train. Their travels here will take them across the continent until they stand once more on the shore of the Pacific ocean. Then they will retrace their steps and visit southern and central Canada. In their Canadian tour the Royal Party will travel more than seven thousand miles, the long journey being made up as follows:—

Quebec to Montreal.	172 miles.	Toronto to Niagara.	81 miles.
Montreal to Ottawa.	120 miles.	Niagara to Kingston.	216 miles.
Ottawa to Victoria.	2870 miles.	Kingston to St. John.	914 miles.
Victoria to Toronto.	2769 miles.	St. John to Halifax.	275 miles.



JOHN STRATHCONA'S RESIDENCE IN MONTREAL.