

by the Naval Contingents of the several Colonies. His Majesty further desired in this way to testify his heartfelt gratitude for the warm sympathy extended by every part of his Dominions to himself and his family in the irreparable loss which they have sustained by the death of his beloved mother.

"His Majesty has watched with the deepest interest the social and material progress made by his people in Australia, and has seen with thankfulness and heartfelt satisfaction the completion of that political union of which this Parliament is the embodiment.

"The King is satisfied that the wisdom and patriotism which have characterised the exercise of the wide powers of self-government hitherto enjoyed by the Colonies will continue to be displayed in the exercise of the still wider powers with which the United Commonwealth has been fully endowed. His Majesty feels assured that the enjoyment of these powers will, if possible, enhance the loyalty and devotion to his Throne and Empire, of which the people of Australia have already given such signal proof.

"It is His Majesty's earnest prayer that this union, so happily achieved, may, under God's blessing, prove an instrument for still further promoting the welfare and advancement of his subjects in Australia, and for the strengthening and consolidation of his Empire.

"I now, in His Majesty's name, and on his behalf, declare this Parliament open."