

listened with rapt attention and wondering delight, for it came to them as a revelation both in oratory and in statesmanship.

The Prince of Wales, who was received with prolonged cheering, said: "My Lord Mayor, my Lords, Ladies, and

**First Speech as
Prince of Wales.**

Gentlemen,—In the name of the Queen and the other members of my family, and on behalf of the Princess and of myself, I thank you most sincerely for your enthusiastic reception of this toast, proposed by you, my Lord Mayor, in such kind and generous terms. Your feeling allusion to our recent long absence from our happy family circle gives expression to that sympathy which has been so universally extended to my dear parents, whether in times of joy or sorrow, by the people of this country, and on which my dear mother felt she could reckon from the first days of her life among us. (Cheers.) As to ourselves, we are deeply sensible of the great honour done us on this occasion, and our hearts are moved by the splendid reception which to-day has been accorded to us by the authorities and inhabitants of the City of London; and I desire to take this opportunity of expressing our deepest gratitude for the sympathetic interest with which our journey was followed by our fellow-countrymen at home, and for the warm welcome with which we were greeted on our return. You, my Lord Mayor, were good enough to refer to His Majesty having marked our home-coming by creating me Prince of Wales. (Cheers.) I only hope that I may be worthy to hold that ancient and historic title, which was borne by my dear father for upwards of fifty-nine years. (Cheers.) My Lord Mayor, you have attributed to us more credit than I think we deserve—(cries of 'No')—for I feel that the debt of gratitude is not the nation's to us, but ours to the King and the Government for having made it possible for us to carry out, with every consideration for our comfort and convenience, our voyage, unique in its character, rich in the experience gained, and in the