

perial family and the high court and state officials, at which both the Emperor and Empress assisted in the old Japanese ceremonial dress. On this followed continuous receptions, at one of which the entire *personnel*, including the ladies of all foreign legations in the capital, were present, and the congratulatory messages that had been sent by letter or by telegram by sovereigns in Europe, and by the President of the United States, were presented to their Majesties by the chief diplomatic representative in each case. Then, at 1.30 p.m., their Majesties left the palace for the review, riding in the same carriage, escorted by a regiment of Lancers of the Guard, and followed by a long string of state carriages, little inferior in splendor to that in which their Majesties rode themselves, containing the princes and princesses and the ladies and high officials of the court. The troops of all services at the review numbered over 10,000, and notwithstanding the heavy state of the ground, the march past the royal standard was performed with a steadiness and precision that won high praise from all the European military and naval experts on the ground. The return to the palace was made in heavy rain, which, however, seemed to exercise little or no influence on the enthusiasm of the crowds lining the streets, and greeting their Majesties, as they passed, with cheers both loud and vigorous, and though, of course, the carriages were all, of necessity, closed, the curtains were drawn back, and ample opportunity was afforded to the people to gaze upon the faces of their revered sovereign and his consort. In the evening a grand banquet, over which their Majesties presided in person, was served in the banquet hall of the palace, at which 160 guests, including the foreign representatives and their wives, were present, and this was followed by a reception, to which some six hundred guests had been invited. Included among the latter were all the field

officers of the army stationed in Tokio, naval officers of corresponding rank, high civil officials not of ministerial rank (those of the latter grade had been present at the banquet), the entire staffs and all the ladies of the foreign legations, and the principal employés of the Japanese Government. When all had assembled, they were summoned to the Throne Room, the usual arrangements of which had been slightly altered for the occasion.

The throne had been removed, and a temporary dais erected, on which chairs were placed for their Majesties. Directly opposite their Majesties' seats a stage, covered with dark green cloth, had been raised very slightly above the floor, but to a lower elevation than that of the dais on which their Majesties were to take their places. On both sides of the room, at right angles to the dais and stage, were three rows of chairs, and on each side of and behind the dais were two rows. Those on the right hand side of the room were allotted to the Japanese dignitaries and their wives; those in the front row, to their Majesties' right hand, were occupied by the wives of the Prime Minister and of the principal members of the Cabinet. Facing these ladies, in the corresponding position on the left-hand side of the room, and to the left hand of their Majesties, were the wives of the foreign ministers, immediately behind whom again were seated the other ladies from the several legations. All other ladies present were provided with seats, but, of the Japanese present, only the very highest dignitaries, and of the foreigners, only the Chefs de Mission, were similarly accommodated, the capacity of the throne room being taxed to the utmost to afford even comfortable standing space for the remainder. All the guests having assembled, their Majesties soon entered the room, the Empress leaning on the Emperor's arm, immediately followed by the princes and princesses of the imperial family, and by a long train of court officials