

board the *Ophir*, but greetings were exchanged from a steam barge that conveyed their Majesties alongside. The landing at Portsmouth took place at four o'clock in the afternoon, when there was a joyous family reunion on board the *Victoria and Albert*. As was to be expected, the home-coming was the occasion of national rejoicing.

London's official welcome to their Royal Highnesses, upon whom the titles of Prince and Princess of Wales had meanwhile been conferred by the King, took the form of a banquet at the Guildhall, one of the most brilliant and memorable ever held within those historic walls. The City's address, after referring to the happy anticipations and good wishes of the people with which the Prince and Princess had started upon their mission, said: "The hopes and anticipations thus confidently formed have been more than fully realised, and the dignity, courtesy, and never-failing tact of your Royal Highness and of your gracious Consort, the Princess of Wales, have confirmed and accentuated among our brothers and sisters in the many and far-off colonies and dependencies of the British Crown that loyal love and attachment to the Old Country and its beloved Sovereign that has ever been their distinguishing characteristic." The Lord Mayor, Sir Joseph Dimsdale, in proposing the toast of the day, the health of the Prince and Princess,

A Journey Unequalled in Fable.

spoke of the tour so happily accomplished as "a journey unequalled in fable," and remarked that their Royal Highnesses needed no assurance from him that the delight of the City of London and of the whole Kingdom in welcoming them back equalled in loyalty, fervency, and affection any with which they had been acclaimed by their fellow-subjects in any quarter of the globe. This record would not be complete without the Prince's reply, to which statesmen of both parties, the fathers of the City, and the men of light and leading in every profession,