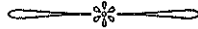


# Opening of the Federal Parliament of Australia.



MORE momentous event in the history of British colonization has never occurred than the opening of the Federal Parliament of Australia by H.R.H. the Duke of Cornwall and York on the ninth of last month. With the magnificent pomp and stately ceremonial that befitted the occasion, the government of one of the future great nations of the world,

the Land of the Golden Fleece, was fittingly set in motion. Glowing columns might be written on the subject of the advantages accruing from such a promising bond of union, but we prefer to quote the utterances of our King in his congratulatory cable, and of his Royal Representative in the concise and comprehensive address he delivered on the occasion.

## HIS MAJESTY'S CABLE.

*"My thoughts are with you on this day of important ceremony. Most fervently do I wish Australia prosperity and happiness."*

## THE DUKE'S ADDRESS.

"His Royal Highness said it was the desire of his beloved and deeply lamented grandmother to mark the important opening of this first Parliament, and to manifest her special interest in all that concerned the welfare of loyal subjects in Australia, by granting him a special commission to open the first session. That commission had been duly signed before the sad event occurred which plunged the Empire into mourning, and the King, his dear father, fully sharing Her late Majesty's wishes, decided to give effect to them, although His Majesty stated on the occasion of the opening of his first Parliament that the separation from his son at such a time would not be otherwise than deeply painful to him. His Majesty had been pleased to consent to this separation, moved by his sense of loyalty and devotion which prompted the generous aid afforded by all the colonies in the South African war, both in its earliest stages, and of the splendid bravery of the colonial troops. It was also His Majesty's wish to acknowledge the readiness with which the ships of the special Australasian squadron had been placed at disposal for service in China, and the valuable assistance tendered there 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 family in the irreparable loss they had sustained in the death of his beloved mother. His Majesty had watched with the deepest interest the social and material progress made by his people in Australia. He had seen with thankfulness and heartfelt satisfaction the completion of that political union of which this Parliament was the embodiment. The King was satisfied that the wisdom and patriotism which characterized the exercise of the wide powers of self-government hitherto enjoyed by the colonies would continue to be displayed in the exercise of the still wider powers with which United Australia would be endowed. His Majesty felt assured that the enjoyment of these powers would, if possible, enhance that loyalty and devotion to the Throne and Empire, of which the people of Australia had already given such signal proofs. It was His Majesty's earnest prayer that a union so happily achieved might, under God's blessing, prove an instrument for still further promoting the welfare and advancement of his subjects in Australia, and for strengthening his Empire. 'Gentlemen of the Senate and House,' concluded the Duke, 'it affords me much pleasure to convey to you this message from the King. I now, in his name, and on his behalf, declare the Parliament open.'