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[P. T. O.]

# THE QUEEN'S APPROVAL OF THE IMPERIAL INSTITUTE AS THE NATIONAL JUBILEE MEMORIAL.

At a public meeting in the Town Hall, Bradford (Yorkshire), on Thursday, January 27th, 1887, the following observations were made by the Mayor (Angus Holden, Esq.)—

“I have heard it alleged that any effort made to commemorate this event should be for the benefit of local objects, and not in support of an institution to be erected in the Metropolis. Now, should this opinion obtain to any considerable extent, and a strong case can be made out of the pressing need for the erection of a local jubilee memorial, it may very properly be entertained by those who favour that view. But surely our first duty in the consideration of the matter is to ascertain Her Majesty's own wishes in regard to it. The tribute of gratitude and loyalty we shall convey to Her in this effort will carry with it tenfold increased value both to donors and receiver if the private wishes of the latter can be ascertained. It cannot be denied that Her Majesty is more directly associated with this jubilee celebration than any other person in the realm. It is therefore of the first importance that we should be fully satisfied on this point before we commit ourselves to any particular course. If Her Majesty intimates that she has no particular desire in the matter, and that she is willing to leave her subjects to determine for themselves the precise form of the memorial, whether local or otherwise, we might then feel ourselves more free to follow our own inclinations. But if, on the other hand, no such intimation is made, and we are led to suspect that Her Majesty favours most the particular form it should take, we are bound to give it respectful consideration. I was anxious before calling this meeting to obtain this information, and consequently was careful to make direct inquiries with that object. The result was a correspondence which I will now read, and which will speak for itself.”—His Worship then read the correspondence which had passed on the subject. On the 10th of January, having determined to convene a public meeting, he thought it right to send to Sir Francis Knollys the following letter, so that there might be no doubt as to Her Majesty's personal wishes on the subject:—

Town Hall, Bradford, 10th January, 1887.

### *Queen's Jubilee.*

SIR,—Before calling a meeting to determine on the course to be adopted here for celebrating this event I think it desirable to ascertain through you what are really Her Majesty's wishes on the subject. The object in view throughout the country is doubtless to do all possible honour to the Queen, and it seems to me of first importance to learn authoritatively whether the Imperial Institute which has been suggested by the committee appointed by His Royal Highness the Prince of Wales is the form of demonstration which best accords with Her Majesty's feelings.—I am, sir, your most obedient servant,

(Signed) ANGUS HOLDEN, Mayor.

Sir Francis Knollys, K.C.M.G., C.B., Marlborough House, London, S.W.

In reply he received the following communication:—

(Copy.)

Osborne, January 17, 1887.

SIR,—Sir Francis Knollys has forwarded to me your letter of the 10th instant, and I hasten in reply to assure you that the proposal of the Prince of Wales to unite all classes of the Queen's subjects from all parts of Her dominions in raising the Imperial Institute as a tribute to Her Majesty on the occasion of the jubilee of Her reign is *especially pleasing to the Queen*.—I have the honour to be, sir, your obedient servant,

The Mayor of Bradford.

HENRY F. PONSONEY.

The Mayor proceeded, “It cannot be said that in this reply Her Majesty dictates to Her subjects in what way they are to express their feelings as a tribute to Her Majesty, but that if it assumes that form it will give Her special pleasure. Is it not safe to conclude that if the preference thus expressed is departed from, and the memorial is directed into a different channel, it may fail to afford to Her Majesty the full measure of satisfaction which we all alike must be anxious to secure in any effort we may make? The allegation that the memorial is for the benefit of London exclusively is misleading, and arises from a misapprehension of the facts. London is fixed upon as the only natural site for a National and Imperial Memorial because it is the metropolis of the Empire. In fact, where else could it be located? As to the benefits to be derived from it they will be shared in by all alike throughout the country. In response to the only requisition which is now before me I have felt it my duty to call this meeting. It is for you now to say what course we ought to pursue. I am bound to confess that it is a scheme which commends itself to my good judgment and approval. It is dictated by sound common sense, has the approval of the illustrious Lady whom more than anyone else it concerns, and is destined, if consummated, to confer lasting benefits upon all classes of Her Majesty's subjects. For these considerations I earnestly trust you will give it your undivided, substantial and loyal support.”

A proposal in favour of the Imperial Institute as the National Memorial was afterwards unanimously adopted, and subscriptions amounting to nearly £3,000 were notified during the Meeting.

# IMPERIAL INSTITUTE

OF THE UNITED KINGDOM, THE COLONIES AND INDIA.

---

OFFICES, 1, ADAM STREET, ADELPHI,  
LONDON, W.C. *4th February, 1887.*

SIR,

I have received the instructions of His Royal Highness the Prince of Wales to submit to you the request that you will be so good as to inform the Council of the Royal Asiatic Society of the hope entertained by His Royal Highness that they will feel disposed to invite the Members of the Society to take part in the foundation of the Imperial Institute for the United Kingdom, the Colonies and India, which is being established in commemoration of the Fiftieth Anniversary of the Queen's reign.

The Prince of Wales believes that the form which it has been decided to give to this National Memorial, and which has met with Her Majesty's gracious approval, is of a nature especially to commend itself to the Members of the Society, inasmuch as the objects aimed at, and which it is hoped to attain, by the creation of the Imperial Institute, are, in several important respects, kindred to, or in harmony and sympathy with, the important functions of the Society of which you are President.

If you and your Council should be willing to make an appeal to the Members of your Society to transmit through the Society their donations towards the Fund required for the establishment of the Imperial Institute, the Society will thereby become directly identified with this national manifestation of the respect and affection entertained for Her Majesty by all classes of her subjects.

I beg leave to enclose a pamphlet descriptive of the nature and objects of the Institute, and shall be glad to give directions for the transmission to the Society of this and other papers for distribution among the members, should the suggestion of His Royal Highness be favourably entertained by yourself and your Council.

I have the honour to be,

Sir,

Your obedient servant,

(Signed)

F. A. ABEL.

*Organizing Secretary.*

*The President of the Royal Asiatic Society, etc.*

---

ROYAL ASIATIC SOCIETY, 22, ALBEMARLE STREET,

25th March, 1887.

*Notice.*—With reference to the above letter—published for information—any Member of the Society contributing to the Imperial Institute is invited to send his donation through the Secretary of the Royal Asiatic Society.

By desire of the President and Council,

F. J. GOLDSMID, Maj.-Gen.,

*Secretary.*



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3. Correspondence—(1) The Persian for Rouble, by J. W. Redhouse. (2) The Farhang Jahāngiri, by J. W. Redhouse. (3) Note on a Modern Contributor to Persian Literature, Rezā Qulī Khan and his Works, by Sidney Churchill. (4) The Idols of Bamian, by Alfred Haggard. (5) The Pre-Akkadian Writing, by G. Bertin.
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