

In a very short time the patronage of Her Majesty was obtained, and donations were made to the institution to the amount of £15,000. The annual subscriptions soon reached £300. Temporary premises were opened in Bath street, and by the end of 1845, no fewer than 3,332 sailors had registered themselves—a convincing proof that such an institution was necessary. The building itself, if it at all resembles the plan we have seen, will be one of the most elegant in the country. It is in the Elizabethan style, and admirably adapted, both within and without, to the objects for which it will be erected.

The visit of the Consort of our beloved Queen to the port of Liverpool for the purpose of laying the foundation stone of that most interesting and benevolent institution, the Sailor's Home, has been the occasion of rejoicings in that town which have never been equalled by any former similar event. The Liverpool papers are filled with accounts of the proceedings, which show us that all due honor has been done to the illustrious individual who came among them for such a noble purpose, and that there has been but one common endeavour to evince loyalty to our Queen by their reception of her husband.

The express train which brought the Prince to Liverpool arrived at the railway station in Lime Street, shortly after eleven o'clock.

His Royal Highness and suite were accompanied from London by Mr. Glyn, the Chairman of the London and Birmingham and Grand Junction United Boards of Directors, and by the Secretary of the Grand Junction, and some other officers of the Railway. At the station, the Deputy Chairman, Mr. Lawrence, and the Directors, were waiting to receive the Prince. The Mayor and municipal authorities were also present, and by them His Royal Highness was escorted, in the Mayor's official carriage, to the Judges' lodgings in St. Anne Street, which had been specially prepared and re-decorated for the accommodation of the Royal visitor. It is almost needless to say that His Royal Highness as he passed along was received with acclamations by the people who thronged the streets in thousands. The time occupied in coming from London was about five hours and thirty five minutes, including stoppages, the Prince having left the Euston Station at 6 a. m.

After remaining a short time in his apartments, his Royal Highness, accompanied by his suite, proceeded in the Royal carriages towards the Town Hall. The way lay through St. Anne Street, Islington, Commutation Row, Lime Street, Clayton Square, Church Street, Lord Street and Castle Street. These streets were gaily decorated; and it will be easily conceived how brilliant and exciting a scene they presented as the Prince passed through, amidst the cheering of the multitudes who lined the streets and crowded the windows, balconies, stands, and even the tops of the houses.

As soon as Prince Albert had taken his position near the centre of the room, the Marquis of Abercorn, Lord W. Lennox, Mr. Anson, and the other members of his suite, occupying places around and immediately behind him, the Recorder, accompanied by the Mayor, stepped forward to read the address. The Recorder afterwards handed the address to the Prince, who bowed very courteously on receiving it. It was then handed, as usual, to Mr. Anson, the Prince's Secretary. His Royal Highness read the following answer:—

"I experience the greatest satisfaction from the cordial welcome which the address you have presented to me gives me upon my arrival in this town.

"I am glad to perceive that my coming amongst you in order to take part in two ceremonies connected with your mercantile industry and enterprise should have been gratifying to you, and on my part I have only followed the bent of my own inclination in at once responding to your kind invitation.

"Your expressions of loyalty and attachment to the Queen cannot fail to be most satisfactory to me, and I am sure will be felt as such by her Majesty."

The box which contained the address is a remarkably beautiful piece of workmanship. It is covered with blue velvet, and surmounted by Prince Albert's arms in gold, with his motto "Treu und fest."

After the Prince had for some time steamed on the Mersey, the ceremony of opening the Albert Dock, which was one of the objects of the visit of His Royal Highness to Liverpool, took place.

At half-past two o'clock, the bridge of the dock was opened, amidst the firing of cannon, and the floating *cortege*, by the entrance of which the dock was in form to be opened, came in sight. Preceded by a Liverpool life-boat, manned, the state barge of the Victoria and Albert, and two gigs belonging to the Fairy, that elegant little vessel herself came steaming into the dock bearing on board the Prince and his suite.

The Prince was then conducted up stairs, where a *dejeuner* was to take place. The dock soon after presented a still more animating appearance, as other yachts belonging to the port entered; and at last came a large merchant vessel, the William Fisher, which had been appointed to be the first merchantman that was to enter the dock. No less than 250 sailors manned the yards, and it was calculated that there were five hundred other persons on board. As the vessel slowly entered the dock, the sailors cheering and the spectators answering their cheers, she presented a very gallant sight.

As soon as the *dejeuner* was over, the Chairman proposed the Queen, which was drunk with enthusiasm. The Chairman then in brief and appropriate terms, proposed the health of His Royal

Highness, which was drunk with the most rapturous applause. When the cheering had subsided,—

His Royal Highness said,—I trust I may be permitted to return you my best thanks for the kind way in which my health has been proposed and received. The recollection of the splendid sight I have witnessed to-day will never be effaced from my memory. (Loud applause.) I beg to propose a toast, which I hope you will all heartily join in; it is "Prosperity to British Commerce."

In the evening there was a grand banquet at the Town Hall, given by the Mayor and Corporation. The preparations were all in the highest scale of splendour, such as befitted the wealth of the place and the importance of the occasion. The Prince entered the room, preceded by the Mayor, and accompanied by the principal guests, at about half-past eight o'clock. The dinner lasted two hours. The health of the Queen was given by the Mayor, and received with immense enthusiasm, the glee party singing "God save the Queen," in which the company joined standing.

The Mayor, in a very short time, rose again and proposed the health of His Royal Highness Prince Albert, their guest.

His Royal Highness, who was greeted with the loudest acclamations when he rose, said,—I thank you for the kind manner in which you have received the toast. I am very glad to have this opportunity of expressing to you how sincerely gratified I feel at the very kind reception you have given me in this town. It was always a cherished wish of mine to visit this seat of commerce, and all I have seen to-day has exceeded my anticipations. If my visit here will assist an object of charity, reflecting credit on your liberality, I shall be happy. I am glad to find you wishing to promote the comfort of those who, by their toil and labour, and by exposing themselves to many dangers, are contributing to that prosperity which I have this day seen. (Tremendous applause.) I have now to propose to you, "Continued prosperity to the town of Liverpool." (Drank with three times three, and cheers.)

The Prince delivered this speech admirably, and in a manner calculated to convince his hearers that he sincerely felt what he uttered.

The company immediately after broke up, (at 25 minutes to 12) the Prince proceeding to the Judges' lodgings in St. Anne Street.

In the evening there was a partial illumination of the town, and at a short distance out, there was a grand display of fire works, which lasted for two hours, very much to the delight of crowds of holiday making spectators.

It has already been stated that on Friday a grand procession of trades and associations, accompanied Prince Albert to the site of the new building, where a large and brilliant assembly awaited his presence. A great delay was occasioned by the authorities having miscalculated the time the procession would take to reach the spot; so much so, that at one time it was feared that either the Prince would have to delay his journey to town, or that he must give up the intention of joining in the ceremony. At length, however, by great exertion, the movements of the vast body who formed the procession were sufficiently accelerated to allow of the Prince's carriage being drawn up to the ground, where he was received by Mr. Aikin, the chairman of the Sailors' Home Committee, and greeted with acclamations by the assembled spectators. Here unfortunately another delay took place. The Prince had reached the spot in advance of the committee, the freemasons, and that most important part of the ceremonial—"the trowel." After some time spent in anxious expectation, it being now 3 o'clock, and the Prince's special train having been ordered for 4 o'clock, the missing functionaries and the golden instrument arrived, and the ceremony proceeded with rather an undignified rapidity.

After some preliminaries, Mr. Starkie, the Grand Master of the Freemasons, performed the usual ceremonial, and a glass vessel containing coins, a list of the donors, the Liverpool papers of the week, and other matters, was placed in the centre of the stone. The orifice was covered by a plate with the following inscription:—

"This foundation stone of the Liverpool Sailors' Home was laid July 31st, 1846, by His Royal Highness the Prince Albert, K. G., Consort of Her most gracious Majesty Queen Victoria, patron of the Institution, in the tenth year of her reign, and in the mayoralty of David Hodgson, Esq. Trustees: Ralph Brocklebank, Robertson Gladstone, Duncan Gibb, William Potter, Robert Rankin. Committee: James Aikin, Chairman; Charles Cotesworth, Vice-Chairman; James Tyer, Treasurer; Thomas Darnley Anderson, John Irvine Curry, Auditors; William John Tomlinson, honorary Secretary; John Lewis Phipps, Josias Booker, John Abraham Tinne, William Prowse, James Bold, George Kendall, John Clint, John Archer, Robert Bibby, Thomas Chilton, Joseph Pinder, Joseph Williamson, George Atkinson, John Bond, William Ferguson, Thomas Berry Horsfall, George Grant, William Shand, Andrew Low, John Palmer Younghusband, Robert Cochrane Crosbie, Christopher Bell, R. N., Thomas Sands, Alexander Cunningham Dunlop, Robinson Duckworth. The Rev. William Maynard, M. A., Chaplain. John Cunningham, Architect."

Mr. Aikin then addressed the Prince in the following speech:—

"May it please Your Royal Highness,—As Chairman of the Committee of the Liverpool Sailors' Home, it is my duty to express to Your Royal Highness our grateful acknowledgments and thanks for your kindness and condescension, in consenting to lay the first stone of the building to be erected on this site. Your Royal