



## The Royal Jubilee Celebrations.

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**T**HE thoughts of the people of England have recently been concerned with one great event, the commemoration of the sixtieth year of the reign of Her Most Gracious Majesty Queen Victoria. The subjects of her vast empire in all parts of the world have united in honouring the good Queen who has so ably guided the counsels of our great nation during so long a period. "Long may she reign" is the fervent wish of all her people.

At this moment it will not be uninteresting to recall the circumstances under which the last Royal Jubilee—the 49th anniversary of the accession of King George III.—was celebrated in Reading. The following particulars are taken from the *Reading Mercury* of October 30th, 1809, 88 years ago :—

### READING.

"The zeal and loyalty of the inhabitants of this borough manifested itself in the most conspicuous manner by the eagerness and spirit with which they celebrated the Jubilee. At six o'clock in the morning three volleys were fired by the Royal Berks Regiment of Local Militia in the Market-place, and, accompanied by the ringing of bells, the display of flags from the different towers, and the acclamations of the populace, announced the commencement of the festivities of the day. At nine o'clock all the Danish prisoners of war, nearly 200 in number, on parole in the town, assembled in the Market-place, and the happy news of their being set at liberty, in consequence of this joyful event, was announced to them by Mr. Lewis, the agent; the joy manifested by them on this occasion can be better conceived than described, and was expressed by the most hearty and reiterated shouts. This subject cannot be dismissed without expressing great approbation of the very orderly and respectable manner in which these unfortunate men conducted themselves during their residence in Reading, and, as a tribute of gratitude for the hospitality manifested towards them by the inhabitants, they presented the Mayor and Corporation with a complete model of a ship of war constructed by one of them,

named Silvert Riiberg. At eleven o'clock, the Corporation, the Royal Berks Regiment, the Woodley Cavalry, three troops of the Royal Horse Guards (Blue), the different benefit societies, and the children belonging to the different Sunday and charity schools, went in procession to St. Lawrence's Church. Immediately on the entrance of the Corporation the Coronation Anthem was performed. The Rev. Mr. Marsh, chaplain to his Worship the Mayor, delivered in a most animated manner a discourse from i. Samuel, 10, v. 24. As soon as divine service was over, the juvenile attendants assembled in the Market Place and were made happy by being presented with a large plum cake each. The Royal Horse Guards marched into the Forbury, and fired three volleys; and a very fine fat ox and three barrels of strong beer, the gift of the master butchers, together with a proportionate quantity of bread, the gift of the master bakers, were distributed to the surrounding populace, who greeted this act of liberality with loud cheers of acclamation. About three o'clock the Royal Berks Regiment, under the command of Major Wilmshurst, arrived in the Market Place and again fired three excellent volleys in honour of the day; the men were afterwards marched by companies to the different public-houses, where they partook of a plentiful dinner, provided by order of their Colonel, the most noble the Marquis of Blandford, and the officers. The Mayor and Corporation, and a numerous company, dined at the Town Hall; a party of gentlemen, the officers of the Royal Horse Guards (Blue), the Woodley Cavalry, the Royal Berks Regiment, at the "Bear"; indeed every inn was crowded with visitors. The entertainment was good, but the loyal and appropriate toasts which were drunk on the occasion gave a zest to the treat which only such as love their King and feel the blessing they have for nearly 50 years experienced under his mild reign can have an idea of. T. Jesse, Esq., of Castle Hill House, entertained his poor tenants, their wives and children, at his residence, with roast, baked and boiled meat, plum puddings, strong beer, and punch; he afterwards distributed some money among them, and ordered the women to attend next morning and bear away the fragments of the table. The house of Finch and Co., in the Market Place, on this festive occasion exhibited a scene truly gratifying. At six o'clock upwards of 260 of their work people sat down to a most excellent dinner of roast beef and plum pudding, with plenty of strong beer; the whole evening was spent with the greatest harmony and conviviality, and

the company departed highly pleased with the liberality of their benefactors. Relief was afforded by the town subscription to 480 poor persons, distributed in half-crown tickets, for bread and meat, and measures were taken for the release of the whole of the debtors confined in the county gaol by means of the same liberal benefactions."

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## Reviews.

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"*ECCLESIASTICAL MEMORIALS OF THE LOVETT FAMILY*," by R. J. Arden Lovett (Van de Water, Ostend). Mr. Lovett, who contributed an account of Soulbury and its monuments to the last number of our Journal, has compiled a volume on the records of his ancient family, of whose lineage he may be justly proud. The Lovetts came over with the Conqueror; their ancestor was Richard de Louvet, who, with his sons William and Robert, assisted King William to subdue England. Their names are inscribed over the westerp door of the Notre Dame at Dives, Normandy. From William are descended the Lovetts of Buckinghamshire and Northamptonshire, and he was enriched with many manors, and made master of the wolf hounds. Liscombe Park has been in the family ever since the thirteenth century, and is now in the possession of Percival Cosby Ernest Lovett, Esq. The author gives a list of the valuable family portraits which the house contains. In this volume will be found all the chief ecclesiastical records of the Lovetts, which extend over a wide area. In Bucks, Soulbury, Maidsmorton, Haddenham, Quanton, Fenny Stratford, Chichely, Great Hampden, Dinton, all contain monuments of the Lovetts. In Bedfordshire and Berkshire we find traces of them in the registers of Leighton Buzzard, Dunstable, Elstow and Sparsholt. In Northamptonshire Wappenham has many memorials; and Bredon and Pickwell, Leicestershire; Tawstock, Devon; Shoreham, Kent; and Caundle Bishop, Dorset; all help to tell the story of the Lovetts. As the author states "it is indeed a remarkable fact that a family should have continued in the male line for now nearly a thousand years,