

CHAPTER XXXIV.

Spectacular St. Kilda—George Wall Suggests Vice-Regal Landings at St. Kilda—Suggestion Adopted—Lord Brassey, the First Governor to be Welcomed at the St. Kilda Pier by the St. Kilda Council—The Royal Landing of H.R.H. the Duke of Cornwall and York, and H.R.H. Duchess Mary of York—The American Fleet's Visit—Another Royal Landing—H.R.H. the Prince of Wales—Address of Welcome—Lord Jellicoe—Sir George and Lady Clarke—The Earl of Stradbroke and Lady Stradbroke.

IN the times we frequently refer to as "the early days of St. Kilda," it was customary, for the well-informed man, to playfully allude to St. Kilda, as the "patrician village." The phrase was quite appropriate, even if there was a quiz in it, since the word "patrician," indicates the senatorial classes, of whom members were resident in St. Kilda. At random, we recall the names of Thomas Turner a'Beckett, M.L.C., Commissioner of Trade and Customs, in and out of office from 1860 to 1875. His wife was an early honorary secretary of the local Ladies' Benevolent Society; Butler Cole Aspinall, Attorney- General, 1861, Solicitor-General, 1870 ; Samuel Henry Bindon, Minister of Justice, 1866; James Joseph Casey, Minister of Justice, 1868, and other Ministerial and commissioners' positions until 1875; Hugh Culling Eardley Childers, Commissioner of Trade and Customs, 1855; Alexander Fraser, M.L.C., Commissioner of Public Works, 1872; Augustus Frederick Greeves, Commissioner of Trade and Customs, 1857, and in 1860 President of the Board of Land and Works, and Commissioner of Crown Lands and Survey; George Samuel Wegg Horne, Commissioner of Public Works, 1858-59 (Horne lived in Carlisle Street) ; Richard Hengish Horne, a Commissioner of the Sewers and Water Supply, and the Yan Yean Reservoir, who lived in Robe Street; Richard David Ireland, Solicitor and Attorney- General, 1858, 1861; James Stewart Johnston, Vice-President Board of Land and Works, 1861; Thomas Loader, Commissioner of Railways, 1860, Postmaster-General, 1860-61, Commissioner

of Trade and Customs, 1861; John Madden, Minister of Justice, 1875-1880; Archibald Michie, Minister of Justice, Attorney-General, 1857-1870, afterwards Agent-General, London; James McCulloch, several Ministerial positions, 1857 to 1875; William Nicholson, Chief Secretary, 1859-60; Thomas Frederick Sargood, Minister of Defence, 1883, Water Supply, 1884, and he held other offices, as Lieut.-Col. Sir Thomas Frederick Sargood till 1894; Howard Spenceley, Solicitor-General, 1871-72; George Turner, several Ministerial offices from 1891 to Premier, 1900, then Sir George Turner, P.C., K.C.M.G., the first Treasurer of the Commonwealth of Australia; Agar Wynne, Solicitor-General, 1900-1902. Sufficient names have been quoted to show that the term "patrician village" was merited. Possibly no other municipality, adjacent to Melbourne, has had so large a list of ex-Ministers and Ministers of the Crown living within its boundaries. In most cases, the Crown Ministers were among the men who lived high on St. Kilda Hill. The plebeians in St. Kilda, the "cottagers," lodged low on the Balaclava flat. Naturally the men on the hill were seen from a greater distance than the men who dwelt upon the fiat.

The term "patrician village" has ceased to have the same force of meaning as when it was first applied to St. Kilda. The phrase of to-day which describes St. Kilda, at its best in carnival, is "Spectacular St. Kilda," and, we venture to think, that in phrasing the words, that the description will ring true for many years to come, after the present generation of visitors to St. Kilda have gone, let us hope, to other watering places of equally pleasant associations. The terraced terrain of the St. Kilda Esplanade lends itself admirably to spectacular displays. Its broad boulevard highway, with the rising land of Alfred Square behind it, forms a natural open-air theatre for the assemblage of thousands of people, for the purpose of seeing the pomp and ceremony of a great welcome. The sweeping lines of the Esplanade allow strings of flags to be shown, and the two-storied houses that abut on the Esplanade, on such occasions, blossom with banners, "flung out on their outward walls," or their verandahs, and flagpoles. When, too, thousands of school children take part in an Esplanade spectacle, each of them waving small flags, the effect seen from the green lawns at the base of the Esplanade, and the Pier, is wonderfully fine. From those

points of view, a sea of faces is turned towards those in honor of whom the display, and welcome, have been arranged. And when that great crowd breaks into cheers, and the mass of human life, carpeting the whole of the Esplanade, becomes animated with enthusiasm, we doubt whether any more thrilling or picturesque sight of that character, could be seen at any place in the world. Almost everything pulsates with life. The sea and the white wings of yachts thereon on a fine day form a picture in contrasts of broad colour washes, and an enchanting foreground to the solidly piled masses of the Esplanade balancing and making the picture perfect. Such is something told of the spectacular receptions of princes, and lords, and of what they see, and of what the awaiting crowd gazes upon. Words are but sluggish symbols to recreate the atmosphere of a Royal visit, or a Vice-Regal reception when given by the St. Kilda Council, at its shore front, where the pendant pearl of the Esplanade hangs a joy, and a beauty for ever.

When Lord Hopetoun accepted the position of Governor of Victoria, in the year 1889, a suggestion was made in a letter to "The Argus" newspaper, written by George Wall, a photographer of St. Kilda, and son of George Wall, of Robe Street, in very early St. Kilda, that the Governor should land at St. Kilda. Wall's idea was taken up by a well-known and very popular resident of St. Kilda, Ephraim Lamen Zox, M.L.A., for East Melbourne electorate. George Turner, then the member for St. Kilda, vigorously supported Zox's suggestion, and it would have been carried out by the Government, had it not been, that want of time prevented the arrangements, already made for the Vice-Regal reception, from being altered. Zox had an eye for the spectacular, and may be it was the eye, in which he wore a monocle, that was mostly ascending and descending. He was a very old resident of St. Kilda, a bachelor, and a man that answered to Dr. Johnson's description of a "clubbable man." He lived for many years in the George Hotel, some said for thirty years, and his stout figure, always covered with a white waistcoat, his red face, such a face as glows upon a good clubman, his short Lord Dundreary whiskers, his black belltopper, black frock coat, and light trousers, completed a personality the remembrance of which is as vivid to-day as if we had shaken hands with him but yesterday, and heard him say his

usual somewhat nasal greeting, "Well, old man, how are you?" Zox was humorously reputed to have a white waistcoat for every day of the year, and also that his laundress had made her fortune, and that he wanted to marry her. When, at his death, his personal effects were sold, the 365 waistcoats had shrunk to three in number. He was a fellow of infinite jest, and excellent fancy, so much so that any good joke in Melbourne was said to be one of Zox's. He was unhesitatingly fathered with jokes of which he was not the author. It is a debated point whether it was he, who called St. Kilda, "the New Jerusalem," on account of the number of Jews who reside there, but the joke has something of the flavour of the harmless fun he sometimes had at the estimable and generous Jewish race. Apart from Zox being one of the esteemed characters of St. Kilda, it was said of him that he was so "good a fellow" that he had not an enemy in the world, and we believe that was true. Zox took a genuine interest in charities of all descriptions and creeds. When the Royal Commission on Charities was appointed, in 1885, he was made the chairman. Two other St. Kilda residents were on that commission, Edmund Ashley, and F. Race Godfrey. Two or three years later the commission prepared a valuable report, which was shelved by Parliament, and thereby finished with and forgotten even until this day. The experience disillusioned Zox, a member of nine Parliaments, of the utilities of Royal Commissions. Zox died on October 25, 1899. He loved St. Kilda and St. Kilda liked Zox.

On October 25, 1895, the Right Honorable Baron Brassey was appointed to be Governor of Victoria, during the time George Turner was the Premier of Victoria. Apart from the good reasons why a distinguished personage should arrive in Melbourne, by way of the St. Kilda Pier, the two Esplanades, and the St. Kilda Road boulevard, this was an occasion when opportunity favoured the creation of a precedent in Vice-Regal landings at St. Kilda. If St. Kilda had been treated, in the past, by unappreciative Governments, as some poor supplicating Cinderella, the day had come when a Saint George had arisen to power in Victoria, a knight, who had been nurtured by St. Kilda as its own child, and a child, too, filial enough to see that St. Kilda came at last into its own. St. Kilda felt the warmth of Ministerial

favour, but lest jealousy should arise, that favour was exercised, with the reticence which accompanies the helping hand of the victor, when he contrives that his constituency, shall enjoy some of the spoils of office. We believe, too, that there was an odd, almost unexpected vote, at this time, for the extension of the St. Kilda Pier, a public utility, of course, and quite a necessary one if Vice-Regal Consuls were to land in comfort at St. Kilda. But after all, the St. Kilda Pier was not within the control of the St. Kilda Council, being a Ports and Harbors' possession, so really, its lengthening could hardly be rightly described, as one of the spoils of office, that George Turner brought home to his civic mother.

No one who witnessed the arrival of Lord Brassey, at St. Kilda, on October 25, 1895, could have doubted the sincerity of a Victorian welcome, nor the abounding strength of the loyalty of Victorians to the Throne in the person of the King's accredited representative. Lord Brassey landed on the St. Kilda Pier at two o'clock. For the first time in the history of Vice-Regal receptions, at St. Kilda, the esplanades, and the foreshore, presented the wonderful spectacle of masses of people, the sight of which, we have since become tolerably familiar with. About 2,500 State School children were grouped at the shore end of the pier. They were dressed in white, and were likened unto white daisies in a field of grey. The children sang the National Anthem, when Lord Brassey reached the shore boundary line of St. Kilda. Each of the children wore a medal that had been struck in commemoration of the event. On one side, the medal bore the words, "Brassey, Welcome" and on the reverse, the Arms of St. Kilda. The new Governor was received by the Mayor of St. Kilda, Councillor Victor Lemme, the Councillors, and the Town Clerk. Lord Brassey was well-known by repute to the crowd when he arrived, due to some extent to Lady Brassey, and her writings of the various voyages of the "Sunbeam," Lord Brassey's pleasure yacht, and "Tom's" wonderful seamanship. He sailed the yacht to Australia, and on the voyage he encountered some rough weather. The Mayor, in presenting the address of welcome, said : "I had hoped that your voyage would have been less troublesome, and that the motto of St. Kilda, 'AURA FAVENTE, FEROR,' would have been more significant." The accepted translation of the motto of St. Kilda

is, "I am borne on a favoring breeze." This landing of Lord Brassey showed to Melbourne what facilities lay in the sea front of St. Kilda for such welcomes.

His Royal Highness the Duke of Cornwall and York, accompanied by his Royal Consort, Her Royal Highness the Duchess Mary of Cornwall and York, arrived in Australia in May, 1901, for the purpose of performing the historical ceremony of opening the first session of the newly created Federal Parliament of Australia, "broad based on the people's will." It was a foregone conclusion, that the authorities, in charge of the ceremonies, would decide that the Royal visitors must make their first landing at St. Kilda, and afterwards drive through St. Kilda, along the St. Kilda Road to Melbourne, the appointed Federal Capital of the Commonwealth of Australia, for a space of years.

Their Royal Highnesses made the voyage to Australia in the Royal Yacht "Ophir," convoyed by British warships. When the "Ophir" arrived, in Hobson's Bay, every preparation was ready for the historic landing of the Royal pair at St. Kilda. The newly painted paddle steamer, "Hygeia," which had been chartered to convey their Royal Highnesses to St. Kilda, ranged up alongside the "Ophir" soon after the Royal yacht cast her anchor. With the first revolution of the paddles of the "Hygeia," having her Royal passengers on board, there burst from the port side of the His Majesty's warship, "Royal Arthur," a puff of smoke, and instantly the other warships responded to the watched-for admiral's signal, and the firing of a Royal salute of 21 guns had begun. The guns' booming verberated from shore to shore. As the "Hygeia" came well into sight of the thousands of people, massed on the conspicuous heights of the Esplanade, and of other thousands of them along the shore line, north and south, it was seen that the Royal Standard of England floated at the "Hygeia's" masthead. Any sailor, upon the bay paddle excursion boat, would have told you, that she was "saucy proud" to bear at her peak, the greatest flag of Britain. From stem to stern, she was decorated with bunting, gay as a young woman in gala costume. Under the awning, abaft the funnel, the Duke and Duchess sat, and watched their steady approach to St. Kilda, to the human line, expectantly quivering on the shores of St. Kilda. Where the "Hygeia" was

made taut to St. Kilda pier, was a canopy festooned with flags, and draped to serve as a landing pavilion. It was ornamented with ten anchors, and across its breadth were the words, "Welcome to Australian Shores." His Highness, dressed as a British Admiral, wearing the ribbon and order of the Garter, stepped forward, through the pavilion, and on the pier, with the Duchess of Cornwall and York, who was dressed in black. She carried a bouquet of violets and orchids. Some massed bands played "God Save the King."

The day was a serene and beautiful one, symbolical of peace. Not a cloud, not one, even the size of a man's hand, was to be seen in the Australian sky of limitless blue. Along the St. Kilda pier, colourful with flags and bunting, had been laid a strip of carpet, the colour of the thin red line of kinship, that holds together the British Empire. Halfway down the pier, was an arch erected, by the yachtsmen of St. Kilda, over the keystone of which, was placed the model of a yacht. The pier was lined on each side by the Victorian Permanent Artillery, and the 1st Battalion Infantry Brigade.

When the Royal visitors walked down the "Hygeia's" gangway on to the pier it was five minutes to two o'clock. They were received by His Excellency the Governor-General, Lord Hopetoun, who at once presented their Royal Highnesses to the Hon. Edmund Barton, the Prime Minister of the Commonwealth, the Hon. Sir William Lyne, Minister of the Home Department; the Hon. Sir George Turner, the Federal Treasurer, and other State and Ministerial honorable notables. This formal ceremony of presentations over their Royal Highnesses walked to the end of the pier, and entered the shore portal of the City of St. Kilda. They were received by His Worship the Mayor of St. Kilda, Major Hughes, and by the Councillors of St. Kilda, Councillors A. Stringer, T. G. Allen, George Connibere, A. V. Kemp, J. H. Pittard, J. Stedeford, S. Jacoby, E. O'Donnell, and the Town Clerk, Mr. J. N. Browne. The Mayor handed to the Duchess a very beautiful shower bouquet, composed of white azalias, roses, and orchids. The flowers were grown in Brunning's St. Kilda nurseries, and the flowers in the bouquet were arranged by a young woman of St. Kilda, Miss Sybil Nichols. The bouquet was tied with red ribbons, upon which were painted the Duke's armorial bearings.

A graphic descriptive writer of the day states, "A strip of scarlet and gold, flashed against the royal blue of the sky, told the dense black mass of people, who had gathered on the fore-shore, opposite the St. Kilda Pier, that the Royal carriage was mounting on to the Upper Esplanade. While on the Lower Esplanade the procession was hidden from the view of those on the street level, and the watching for the first appearance, heightened the excitement. People swarmed all over the great buildings, facing the sea, until they looked like a rugged range of humanity, on the high peaks of which hundreds of bright banners had been planted. The huge sea wall, dividing the Lower from the Upper Esplanade, was crowned with men, women and children, and the egg-shaped space between the junction of the two Esplanades, and Fitzroy Street, was a solid mass, in which it would have been impossible to get a sparrow. As the Royal visitors came into full view, the pent-up enthusiasm of the crowd was loosened. Those who had seats jumped to their feet, heads were bared, flags, handkerchiefs, and hats waved, and fluttered in the sunlight, and a mighty cheer echoed along the shore. This tumult whetted the expectancy of the crowd in Fitzroy street. There they were, 10 to 30 deep, on each side of the route. The street was lined by one of the Infantry Brigades, and the white helmets of the soldiers, made a snowy fringe to the enormous black carpet of the crowd. The crowd never made a mistake. Everyone had taken the trouble to learn the exact position of the Royal carriage in the procession, and they waited, and watched, for its appearance. Everywhere the same hearty cheers greeted the Duke and Duchess. The sound of thundering voices was never for a second allowed to diminish in volume."

"At the intersection of Fitzroy Street, and St. Kilda Road, the cities of St. Kilda and Prahran had erected an imposing arch. Tremendous applause went rolling down St. Kilda Road, as their Royal Highnesses made their way beneath. The shouts of joy were taken up by two immense lines of people—in some places 15 feet deep—which reached all the way to Princes Bridge."

The arch at the St. Kilda Junction consisted of three spans. It was erected at the joint expense of the St. Kilda and Prahran municipalities, The total span of the arches was 150 feet, and

they were 90 feet in height, with eight battlemented towers, and six pediments. The arches bore the words, "St. Kilda—Welcome — Prahran." Flags, to the number of 150, were flying over and about the arches. Four hundred yards of foliage, and 1,200 yards of red and blue drapery, were hanging over and draped about the cornices. Altogether the occasion was the greatest that had ever taken place in St. Kilda up to that time. On June 20 and 21 various entertainments were given to the school children of St. Kilda by the Council. Each child was given a package of sweets that contained miniature photographs of their Royal Highnesses.

Sir George, and Lady Clarke, and Miss Clarke were welcomed by thousands of people, who were gathered on the Esplanades, on Tuesday, December 10, 1901. Sir George Clarke arrived as the first State Governor of Victoria. The St. Kilda foreshore front was gay with bunting, the day was one of sunshine. Along the pier floated festoons of bannerettes, fluttering gaily from long poles. A guard of honor, comprising members of the Victorian Naval Brigade, occupied the end of the pier ready to salute. Major General Downes, the Military Commandant, and Lieut. Colquhoun, R.N., were present. The approach of the "Hygeia" steamer was the signal for close attention by the waiting crowds. In the midst of ringing cheers, Sir George Clarke stepped ashore, accompanied by the State Premier, Sir Alexander Peacock. After an inspection of the guard of honor, he was welcomed, at the foreshore, by the Mayor of St. Kilda, Councillor Edward O'Donnell, and the Councillors of St. Kilda. In reply to the address of welcome, Sir George said, "I thank you Mr. Mayor, and Councillors, most warmly for your kindly words of welcome. I have heard much of St. Kilda, and I hope before very long to know it much better than I do now. I can only say that you have, perhaps, formed too high expectations of me. I will, however, do my best to live up to those expectations."

The route of the departure lay along the Lower and Upper Esplanades. The dense crowds cheered the Vice-Regal party. The State School children, massed upon the slopes of the Esplanade, sang "God Save the King" to the accompaniment of a band, in the Esplanade Band Stand. The Town Clerk of St.

Kilda, Mr. J. N. Browne, was away on a convalescent holiday in South Australia, and it happened that his assistant, the Chief Clerk, Mr. F. W. Chamberlin, acted as Town Clerk.

A memorable day was August 29, 1908. That day saw the Atlantic Squadron of the American Fleet, consisting of sixteen battle ships, steam peaceably into Hobson's Bay, under the command of Admiral Charles Stillman Sperry. On Monday, August 31, the Admiral, and his officers, made an official landing at the St. Kilda Pier, and they were met with becoming ceremony by the Mayor of St. Kilda, Councillor S. Jacoby, and the councillors, and there presented with a civic address from the citizens. The Esplanades, and the surroundings, including Fitzroy Street, presented the usual signs of friendly welcome in a profusion of decorations, among which the American flag of stars and stripes, predominated. Nor was the St. Kilda Council content with the ceremony of welcome. Once ashore the men of the Fleet were entertained at the St. Kilda shows, and they were given an enjoyable time. At night the pier at St. Kilda was illuminated. The residents of Elwood erected a large sign, twenty feet in length, and four feet in breadth, on Point Ormond with the word "Cooee" painted upon it. The Fleet took its departure for Albany, West Australia, on Saturday morning, September 5.

Lord Jellicoe, the retired Lord High Admiral of the British Fleet, on his way to fill the office of the Governorship of New Zealand, landed at St. Kilda on the morning of May 30, 1919. It was a beautiful day with a cloudless blue sky. He was received with the ceremony due to the high position which he had held. On entering St. Kilda territory at the base of the St. Kilda Pier he was received by His Worship the Mayor of St. Kilda, Councillor Sculthorpe, the Councillors, and the Town Clerk. There had been massed upon the lower lawns and thereabout, 1,200 children, who sang "Rule Britannia," and "Red, White and Blue." Lord Jellicoe received a great cheering ovation by the crowds on the Esplanade terraces. The address of welcome to him was read by the Town Clerk, and His Lordship returned his thanks. A feature of the welcome was the lines of Boy Scouts on the Lower Esplanade.

The arrival in Australia of His Royal Highness the Prince of Wales on May 26, 1920, was an historical one, and the story

of the event has been told by many pens. We are concerned with the arrival of the Prince on a grey day, some time late, due to a fog in the bay.

St. Kilda! A shrill whistle from the paddle steamer "Hygeia," and the Prince of Wales stepped on to the St. Kilda Pier. The cheering from the shore front that greeted him was one continuous roar of welcome. A great toss of pigeons filled the air with white wings, a beautiful sight! The time when the Prince landed was a quarter to four o'clock. Once the official reception on the pier was over, the Royal party, accompanied by the Governor-General, and followed by the Lieut. Governor, and Admiral Halsey, the Hon. William Hughes, the Hon. Lawson, and staffs, and visitors, walked smartly down to the end of the pier, where His Worship the Mayor of St. Kilda, Councillor T. G. Allen, with the city's councillors, and the Town Clerk, Mr. F. W. Chamberlin, were waiting to receive His Royal Highness. The Mayor was presented to H.R.H. the Prince by the Governor-General. The first words the Prince used on Australian soil were: "I am sorry I am so late; but I could not help it." In welcoming the Prince, His Worship the Mayor remarked, that on that spot, nineteen years before, he had taken part in the municipal welcome to the King. "Our city," he said, "is deeply sensible of its proud privilege in welcoming you on the threshold of the Commonwealth."

On behalf of the Council of St. Kilda, the Mayor presented His Royal Highness with an address of welcome read by the Town Clerk. It was the first address he received in Australia, and is of historic interest to St. Kilda. It reads :—

"May it please Your Royal Highness.

"We, the Mayor, councillors, and citizens of the City of St. Kilda, beg to approach your Royal Highness, with deep assurance of our devoted loyalty, and attachment to the Throne, and person of His Most Gracious Majesty King George V. We gratefully appreciate the interest your Royal Highness has already shown in the distant dominions, and most heartily welcome you to our shores, fervently hoping that the period of your sojourn in the Commonwealth of Australia, will be a continuance of unalloyed pleasure and enjoyment.

"Given under the Seal of the Corporation of the City of St. Kilda.

"T. G. ALLEN, Mayor."

The address was also signed by Councillors Edward O'Donnell, J. H. Hewison, A. Sculthorpe, Geo. B. Renfrey, Edgar B. Clarke, F. G. Hughes, H. F. Barnet, R. A. Molesworth, Robert Hart, S. T. Alford and J. W. Fraser, and the town clerk, Mr. F. W. Chamberlin. The address was contained in a casket.

His Royal Highness said :-

"Mr. Mayor—Gentleman, Yours is the first address of welcome to greet me on my arrival in the Commonwealth, and I appreciate greatly the cordial terms in which it is couched. I thank you sincerely for your greeting, and shall be happy to convey your assurances of devotion to Throne and Empire to my father, The King. I am very grateful for your good wishes, and can assure you that I look forward, with intense pleasure, to my tour in Australia. May I wish you in return, much happiness and prosperity?"

After the Prince was introduced to the councillors of St. Kilda, he was escorted by the Mayor, to his carriage, and then the procession moved on its way to Melbourne city. The time was almost half past four o'clock. The procession had, at its head, a detachment of police troopers, mounted on beautiful grey horses. The escort, drawn from the Royal Australian Field Artillery, and commanded by Captain L. E. S. Barker, M.C., was composed entirely of A.I.F. men, with records of good war service. Following the advance party of the escort, were two outriders, and then came the Prince's carriage, with the postillions, in the powdered wigs, and striking uniforms..

The crowd was quiet while the Mayor of St. Kilda was welcoming the Prince. But when the procession moved off, along the Lower Esplanade, the crowd broke into a spontaneous burst of cheering, and cooees. The excitement was electrical. As the Royal carriage passed along the waving lines of flags, the cheering was deafening. Fitzroy Street was like the Esplanade, black with people. At the St. Kilda railway station, members of the 14th Battalion had formed a strong post, and their reception of the Digger Prince, even when compared with how he had been already greeted, must have been pleasing to him. At the St. Kilda Junction, was another great mass of cheering loyal people. At this spot the Prince as greeted by the cheers of thousands of children. He smilingly acknowledged their hearty welcomes.

The Earl of Stradbroke, and Lady Stradbroke, were welcomed at St. Kilda, on Thursday, February 24, 1921. As usual on such occasions, the splendid terraces of the Esplanades were packed with enthusiastic spectators. Banners made bright patches of color on the Upper Esplanade, the bayonets of the naval guard of honor flashed in the sunlight on the pier. Along the waterside the flags of hundreds of white-clad school children made a white quivering border. The children's welcome to His, and Her Excellency, Lord and Lady Stradbroke, as the new occupants of the Vice-regal positions in Victoria, was intended to be the feature of the Governor's landing at St. Kilda. In the quiver of the St. Kilda municipal authorities there is more than one motif, which can be employed as a scheme for a notable landing. Variety is considered, and the town clerk of St. Kilda, does not just chance on his effects. He has raised the organisation of a landing of a Prince, or of a Governor, to a work of artistic efficiency. In the case of Lord Stradbroke, out of compliment to Lady Stradbroke, it was decided to let the children's welcome domineer the reception. Other occasions the motif, the pomp and pride of martial display. The salute that thundered from a battery, on the Beaconsfield Parade, on the occasion of Lord Stradbroke's coming, was but a whiff of gunpowder, but the storms of cheers, from thousands of excited school children, greeting the representative of their King, was a human gesture that went home to the hearts of all who heard it.

When the Governor landed on the pier, he took the salute sharply, and he was formally welcomed by several members of the State Ministry, the District Commandant, and the District Naval Officer. His Excellency the Governor-General was represented at the welcome by Captain Traill, A.D.C., and the Lieutenant-Governor of Victoria by Captain A. Spowers, A.D.C. Having inspected the guard of honor, Lord Stradbroke, accompanied by the Premier walked down the pier, between a double row of Boy Scouts, under Colonel H. Cohen. At the end of the pier, His Excellency was met by the Mayor of St. Kilda, Councillor S. T. Alford. A handsome bouquet was presented to the Countess of Stradbroke, and then the town clerk read the following address of welcome

"May it please your Excellency.

We, the Mayor, Councillors, and citizens of the City of St. Kilda, beg to tender your Excellency, and the Countess of Stradbroke, a most cordial welcome to our shores.

We assure you of our unswerving loyalty to the Throne, and person of His Most Gracious Majesty the King, Emperor George V.

Your active, and successful participation in municipal administration, in the motherland, as well as many other activities for the betterment of the people, embolden us to hope that where, compatible with the duties of your high office, the efforts of the local councils throughout the State will receive inspiration, and encouragement, in your sympathetic interest.

We beg to express the earnest hope that your term of office will be one of unalloyed happiness to your Excellency, the Countess of Stradbroke, and your family.

In reply, His Excellency said:—

"Mr. Mayor, and Members of the City Council of St. Kilda, I thank you very sincerely for your address of welcome. I appreciate it very much, and as the representative of His Majesty the King, I am very grateful to you, for your expressions of loyalty. I thank you also for your very kind references to the Countess of Stradbroke. I am sure we will have a very happy time here in Victoria, and that our stay here will be most pleasant."

A report of the day states: "A band crashed into the National Anthem ; hundreds of school children joined in the singing, there was a welcoming flutter of flags along the St. Kilda Esplanade, and Victoria's new Governor had driven off for his entry into Melbourne."

One interesting incident of the landing was when the Hon. Christopher Rous, the Governor's youngest son, five years of age, shyly accepted an Australian flag, from a still more shy little schoolgirl of St. Kilda. The boy waved the flag as he passed out of sight, with his parents. The poor little fellow died at "Stonnington," the Government House at Malvern, during Lord Stradbroke's term of office, and the heart of St. Kilda, and that of the State, went out, in sympathy, to Lord and Lady Stradbroke, who were well beloved of the people.