

These are liberties that have been won by other peoples by hard struggle and heavy sacrifice. In Denmark they were conceded by a king in sympathy with his subjects, in whose honour you have laid a wreath this morning.

The year 1848 was one of strife and violence in Europe, almost without parallel in times of peace. For Denmark it was also the culmination of a period of distress that had lasted since the wars of Napoleon. Yet out of this distress your parliament was created, and great achievements followed. It is not an accident that the Constitution of 1849 coincided with a golden age in your literature. Kierkegaard and Hans Andersen are two well known examples, and a century which had begun so calamitously for Denmark saw, in spite of wars, a marked advance in prosperity. I like to think that the aspirations of our two nations are very similar, and that our methods of achieving them do not greatly differ. This is not to be wondered at. No great distance separates our countries, and over the years two things especially have drawn them together. Alliances between our Royal Houses have been happily frequent; and both our peoples are nearly related by descent.

The kingdoms of Denmark and Britain have been drawn together both anciently and in modern times by marriage between their sovereigns. Particularly romantic have been the alliances, to quote our poet Tennyson, with the „Sea-Kings’ daughters from over the sea“. There is Margaret of Denmark, who became the queen of James III. of Scotland. Her prudence and virtuous living endeared her to all her subjects, and when she died the Pope appointed a commission with a view to her canonisation. I hope that I am not tactless when I remind you that the Orkney and Shetland islands passed to the Scottish Crown under Queen Margaret’s marriage settlement.

So let me pass to the second Danish princess who married a king of Scots, James VI. of Scotland and James I. of England, and who succeeded with him to the southern kingdom in 1603. The court of the early Stuart sovereigns of England and Scotland was undoubtedly one of the ornaments of the western world. In large measure this was the achievement of Queen Anne of Denmark. From Scotland she brought with her the jeweller Heriot, „Goldsmith to the Queen“. In Westminster Hall, beside our House of Commons, the great masques of Ben Jonson and the other dramatists were performed at her command. Under her direction some of Inigo Jones’ most splendid buildings came into being. The story of her reign reads, in fact, a little like a chapter from the life of one of the princely patrons of the Italian renaissance.

The minister who married Anne to James of Scotland said that she was beautiful. We know that Alexandra, the third of our Danish queens, was beautiful, for many of us remember her still. Like Anne of Denmark, Queen Alexandra ascended a throne left vacant by a great queen who had reigned in her own right for over half a century. Yet neither of them is overshadowed in memory. Queen Victoria had been venerated by her subjects. Queen Alexandra was literally adored.

So the dynastic unions of these kingdoms have brought to England and Scotland these things — Virtue and Piety under Margaret, the Arts and Gaiety under Anne, and Beauty and Love under Alexandra. What greater gifts could one country give another than these?

The second tie that binds the peoples of our two countries is the tie of blood. The settlement of the Danish armies in the three kingdoms of Northumbria, Mercia, and East Anglia in the tenth century is a cornerstone in the foundations of our race. It was established before the union of all Britain and Denmark under King Knut, and its effects have long outlived the dissolution of Knut’s great empire. Every one of us, English, Irish, and Scots, if we could trace our ancestry back so far, could find some strain of Danish blood in our veins. Many of our towns and cities are still called by the names given to them by their