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## NEW YEAR'S MESSAGE.

### TO THE PEOPLES OF THE BRITISH EMPIRE.

Following the Royal Assent to the Declaration of Abdication Act the Throne devolved upon His Royal Highness the Duke of York, second son of His late Majesty King George V.

On Saturday, December 12th, 1936, His Majesty King George VI was proclaimed "our only lawful and rightful Liege Lord, by the Grace of God. . . . to whom we do acknowledge all faith and constant obedience with all hearty and humble affection; beseeching God, by whom kings and queens do reign, to bless the royal Prince George VI with long and happy years to reign over us."

### TO THE PEOPLES OF THE BRITISH EMPIRE.

King George VI has issued the following New Year's message to the Peoples of the British Empire:—

"On this, the first New Year's Day of my Reign, I send to all the Peoples of the Empire my warmest wishes for their welfare and happiness.

In succeeding to the Throne, I follow a father who had won for himself an abiding place in the hearts of his peoples, and a brother whose brilliant qualities gave promise of another historic Reign, a Reign cut short in circumstances upon which, from their very sadness, none of us would wish to dwell.

I realise to the full the responsibilities of my noble heritage. I shoulder them with all the more confidence in the knowledge that the Queen and my mother, Queen Mary, are at my side. Throughout my life it will be my constant endeavour to strengthen that

foundation of mutual trust and affection on which the relations between the Sovereign and the Peoples of the British Empire so happily rest. I ask your help towards the fulfilment of this purpose, and I know that I do not ask in vain.

To repeat the words used by my dear father at the time of his Silver Jubilee, my wife and I dedicate ourselves for all time to your service, and we pray that God may give us guidance and strength to follow the path that lies before us.

GEORGE R.I.  
1st January, 1937."

To New Year's Greetings from the Lord Mayor and citizens of London the King replied:

"It is a great encouragement to me, my Lord Mayor, to receive the New Year's message which you have conveyed to me

on behalf of the citizens of London.

"I value highly their loyal assurances, and both the Queen and myself much appreciate their kindly expressions of good will. We send them our cordial greetings with the sincere hope that the coming year may bring them health, happiness, and prosperity."



HIS MAJESTY KING GEORGE VI AND QUEEN ELIZABETH.

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