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EDITORIAL.

TO CHILDREN OF THE EMPIRE.

On October 13th Her Royal Highness Princess Elizabeth broadcast to children of the Empire at home and overseas. The broadcast marked the inauguration of a new weekly feature in the B.C.C. North American service specially designed for children who have been evacuated to Canada and the United States.

The voice of the Princess came over the air with charming distinctness, and was listened to with some emotion, realising, as her audience did, that the words were spoken by the Royal Lady who may (let us hope in the far distant future) be their Queen.

We are placing this unique utterance on record, as this journal prides itself on the faithful record of events which are of historic and lasting value. Princess Elizabeth said:—

WE CHILDREN AT HOME ARE FULL OF CHEERFULNESS AND COURAGE.

"In wishing you all 'good evening' I feel that I am speaking to friends and companions who have shared with my sister and myself many a happy Children's Hour.

"Thousands of you in this country have had to leave your homes and be separated from your fathers and mothers. My sister Margaret Rose and I feel so much for you, as we know from experience what it means to be away from those we love most of all. To you, living in new surroundings, we send a message of true sympathy and at the same time we would like to thank the kind people who have welcomed you to their homes in the country.

"All of us children who are still at home think continually of our friends and relations who have gone overseas—who have travelled thousands of miles to find a war-time home and a kindly welcome in Canada, Australia, New Zealand, South Africa and the United States of America.

"My sister and I feel we know quite a lot about these countries. Our father and mother have so often talked to us of their visits to different parts of the world. So it is not difficult for us to picture the sort of life you are all leading, and to think of all the new sights you must be seeing, and the adventures you must be having. But I am sure that you too are often thinking of the Old Country. I know you won't forget us: it is just because we are not forgetting you that I want, on behalf of all the children at home, to send you our love and best wishes—to you and to your kind hosts as well.

"Before I finish I can truthfully say to you all that we children at home are full of cheerfulness and courage. We are trying to do all we can to help our gallant sailors, soldiers, and airmen, and we are trying, too, to bear our own share of the danger and sadness of war. We know, every one of us, that in the end all will be well; for God will care for us and give us victory and peace. And when peace comes, remember it will be for us, the children of to-day, to make the world of to-morrow a better and happier place.

"My sister is by my side, and we are both going to say good night to you.

"Come on, Margaret."

Princess Margaret at once went to the microphone to say the two words, "Good night," and Princess Elizabeth ended the broadcast by saying, "Good night, and good luck to you all."

WHAT OF THE FUTURE?

We hope this episode in the life of Princess Elizabeth will be repeated; it is a happy augury that she should come into touch with her own generation, as she and they together, as instruments of evolution, should unite to build a happier and a better world.

The groups of children addressed in the great Dominions may or may not return to the Motherland; but whether they do so or not, it is well that their love of home should be sustained.

For the first time many of these dear children will find themselves in surroundings where individuality will be encouraged to expand, where education is communal, opportunity elastic, the environment more spacious, where the sun shines indiscriminately on man and beast, and Jack is as good as his master. And yet—it will be well to foster association with the great Motherland, than which no other country in the world is comparable. This beautiful sea-girt isle, which is not, and never can be the sport of tyrants, and which this day as ever is shedding its blood that all the world may live.

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