176 5

THE ENTENTE CORDIALE

BETWEEN

The English and Maltese people

THREE DAYS OF

UNINTERRUPTED ENTHUSIASM

BY

W. J. F.

Malta 1900.

PRICE 1*d*.

Printed and Published at No. 6 Str. Mercanti, Valletta.

THE ENTENTE CORDIALE

BETWEEN

The English and Maltese people

THREE DAYS OF

UNINTERRUPTED ENTHUSIASM

BY

W. J. F.

DEDICATED

TO

THE BRAVE SOLDIERS

WHO ARE FIGHTING

FOR

THE HONOUR AND GLORY

OF THE

BRITISH EMPIRE.

Thursday the 1st of March 1900 shall for ever be recorded in the annals of the History of Malta as being the day in which the Maltese have publicly manifested the great sympathies which they have shared for their English rulers during the severe fighting in South Africa.

Upon the welcomed telegram made public about 11 a.m. on that day, giving the joyful intelligence that Ladysmith was relieved, the whole population showed a general manifestation of satisfaction, and the spontaneous enthusiasm begun with such a degree that in about three hours Strada Reale was thronged with people; at the same time all the tradesmen in the principal thoroughfares decorated their establishments with Union Jacks, flowers, chinese lanterns ecc. Local bands paraded the streets of Valletta playing the GOD SAVE THE QUEEN and youths carrying flags singing and cheering.

Students, young gentlemen and many others were seen walking up and down Strada Reale wearing pins with the " Union Jack and the " Royal

Standard," and Blue Jackets and Soldiers freely shaking hands with civilians, all gay and joyful.

About 7 p.m. the Prince of Wales Band under the direction of Mr. Hare with its elegant and beautiful Banners and English Ensign, accompanied by many followers proceeded to the Palace Square amids the applause of thousands of people which had already gathered there. The national Anthem was played and responded to by the whole crowd with uncovered hats, and followed by three cheers for H. E. the Governor who naturally was touched by such a spontaneous demonstration. appeared in the Palace balcony with a number of distinguished ladies, waving their handkerchiefs.

La "Vallette," "Vilhena" and "San Giuseppe" bands soon followed up and in a similar manner paid the same compliments to the Governor after which they made a hearty demonstration in front of the Malta Union Club, the Castille, Lord Congleton's and the Naval Com. in Chief's residences, and at several other principal Establishments.

H. M. the Queen's Statue at Tesoreria Square was nicely decorated with the Union Jacks, chinese lanterns and a beautiful wreath of flowers was placed at its foot by the members of the Civil Service.

At this time 8,30 p.m. Strada Reale with its

electric lamps, torch lights, and almost all the building gaily decorated with flags and chinese lanterns presented a truly magnificent sight. At the same time the Governor whilst proceeding to the Opera had his carriage unhorsed and drawn by many respectable Maltese gentlemen was loudly cheered with great respect by the whole population uncovered and waving their hats and handkerchiefs; H. E. on reaching the Opera House responded to such a loyal manifestation with few and appropriated words, thanking the Maltese people for their spontaneous and truly magnificent demonstration of sympathy, towards the British Nation and assuring them that such event shall not be forgotten by him and will be made known to Our Most Gracious Majesty the Queen. His speech was received with a tremendous applause and cheers.

This state of enthusiasm was kept uninterrupted for three following days.

On Friday 2nd march, Strada Reale was added with more flags and decorations as also other streets. The Market was tastefully decorated with English flags and chinese lanterns.

The pupils of St. Paul's College under the direction of Mr. Savona (who largely contributed in increasing the loyalty and good relations between the English and Maltese) together with other pupils of the Lyceum, Flores College and

other friends carrying Union Jacks and banners marched through the streets singing the National Anthem and when in front of the Governor's Palace. His Excellency graciously acknowledged their loyalty, after which a splendid *bouquet* was presented and accepted by H. E. which was afterwards placed at one of the Palace balcony as an evident proof of H. E. appreciation, bouquets of different shapes were presented to H. E. by other students.

In the evening Strada Reale and other streets were illuminated and the same concors of people as on the previous day were seen walking up and down. Military Officers, English ladies, Cabs, full of B.Jackets crossing up and down all gay and joyful. Shops full with Englishmen and Maltese singing. Civic bands marching in the principal streets accompanied with crowds holding and waving flags, it was a lovely and most pleasing sight which has never been seen before. Such loyal demonstration have likewise been made in almost every village in Malta.

At noon a Royal Salute was fired at the saluting battery and the formidable Fleet lying in harbour, which manned yards and dressed ships with flags rainbow fashion which was attended by H. E. the Governor.

Saturday the 3rd. of march, the streets of

Valletta were at an early hour densely crowded with people flocked from all parts of the Island, to witness the announced Naval and Military Review, consisting of a strong Naval Brigade landed from H. M. Ships in port and a body of 15,000 troops which, after being concentrated at Floriana began their march through the principal throughfares of Valletta, headed by Adml. Commander in Chief H. E. the Governor with their respective Staff, and a considerable number of Naval and Military Officers such imposing seene was witnessed with the greatest pleasure and interest by the immense crowd gathered in the whole extension of the footpaths. In the afternoon with a rather increasing enthusiasm the town was as in the previous two days overcrowded.

Sunday 4th. about 10 a.m. "La Vallette" band with Standards, banners, accompanied with a large crowd marched through Strada Reale amids the cheering of people who had been assembled to hear the programme of music in Piazza Tesoreria.

At 11.15 a.m. His Grace the Bishop Mons. Pace passed through Strada Reale on his way to St. John's Church where a solemn Te Deum was to be sung, then followed H. E. the Governor and Staff accompanied by the Admirals of the Fleet in port, and a variety of Military Officers including the Civil Service Officials who were saluted by the

National Anthem and the crowd respectfully uncovering their hats. A Guard of honour, under the command of Major Gatt and Lieut. and Adjutant Vella, furnished by the Royal Malta Artillery was in attendance in St. John's Church where a similar one, under the Command of Capt. Engerer was furnished by the Royal Malta Regt.

In the afternoon the combined Civic bands "Prince of Wales" and "Duke of York" performed a graceful programme at St. George's Square which was highly admired by a large number of spectators. The "Vilhena" band at the Tesoreria Square played a programme at intervals, this ended the three days rejocings with the greatest satisfaction of our English fellow subjects who we tr st will appreciate the great loyalty of the Maltese towards the Great British Empire to which they are so stronghly attached notwitstanding the Anti-English insinuation of some local newspapers supported by an insignificant party.

GOD SAVE THE QUEEN.

ENGLAND FOR EVER.