

2078

The Royal Visit to Jamaica

1st December 1953

Continuing their triumphant tour of Jamaica, the Queen and the Duke of Edinburgh visited Spanish Town - the ancient Capital of the Island.

Here, they received a warm-hearted welcome from the inhabitants, many of whom are descended from early Spanish settlers.

On a day of ~~great~~<sup>frantic</sup> excitement, a journey was made on foot to the Memorial, dedicated to the memory of Admiral Rodney, who commanded the Jamaica Station, nearly two hundred years ago...

And thousands had gathered to offer to the Queen and her husband - affectionate greetings that came straight from the heart of these loyal West Indian folk.

Next rendezvous was Sabina Park, thickly lined with children - on a day which called for some light refreshment.

Here - the Royal Visitors drove in a Land Rover - ~~through~~<sup>through</sup> the eager ranks of twenty thousand school-children, who were seeing their Queen for the first time. During the next six months, the Queen will receive many welcomes, but this day of youthful greetings will remain, ~~no doubt~~<sup>surely</sup>, one of her most cherished memories. The children, too, will treasure the memory of this day on Kingston's famous cricket ground, as they grow into loyal citizens of the Commonwealth.

So to the processional drive through King Street. And here was no glittering pageantry of state. Rather - an informal family visit - as loyal Jamaicans proudly acclaimed their Queen...

Later, ~~the Queen~~<sup>Her Majesty</sup> planted a tree as part of a new scheme to conserve the Island soil from erosion. A Royal Visit that has indeed, left a fertile ground in which ~~the ever-growing~~<sup>goodwill - great & ever-growing</sup> conception of Commonwealth will flourish.