

~~xxxxxx~~

Edinburgh: At the Palace of Holyroodhouse, massed pipe bands voiced Scotland's thanks to her Royal Visitors, during a colourful entertainment in the ~~palace~~ courtyard. /

Watching from a window, the Queen and the Duke were charmed by a display of National Country dancing. /

Then, <sup>before a</sup> ~~amid the loyal cheers of~~ a vast gathering, the Queen personally complimented the dancers - members of the Edinburgh branch of the Scottish Country Dance Society. /

Further time-honoured pageantry at St. Giles' Cathedral - when the Earl of Crawford and Balcarres and Lord Bilsland were installed as Knights of the Most Ancient and Most Noble Order of the Thistle.

The installation was carried out in the Thistle Chapel - on ~~the~~ personal invitation of the Queen - who is Sovereign of the Order.

In the traditional procession, the Duke preceded the Queen - who wore the flowing dark-green velvet mantle, ~~of the Order.~~ <sup>Order's</sup> ~~the Order of~~ <sup>3</sup>

One of the oldest Orders of Chivalry in Europe, ~~the Order of~~ the Thistle was founded by an early Scottish King and <sup>REVIVED</sup> ~~re-established~~ by James the Second, in the 17th Century. /