

The Gothic has left Australia; and in mid-Pacific the ~~escort~~ escort of the Carrier Vengeance and the destroyer Anzac hand over their duties and privileges to the cruisers Newfoundland and Ceylon. That was ~~the~~ the ^{new} escort for the voyage first to the Cocos Islands and then to Colombo. And here on Home Island, the people of this Pacific Paradise were awaiting the royal arrival. Tiny specks of islands in a ~~vast~~ measureless ocean; the land leased for all time by Queen Victoria to the family of Clunies-Ross.

~~After the long journey in the great cities of the Commonwealth ---~~ This was a return once more to the simplicity of Fiji and Tonga. The dances in front of the procession are to ward off evil spirits.

Before leaving the Cocos Islands, the Queen was presented with a model Malayan boat, and smaller models for Prince Charles and Princess Anne.

Then --- to Ceylon --- the island of the Indian Ocean off the southernmost tip of India and Pakistan --- famous the world over as the home of growing tea. And at the harbour of Colombo, the Royal Travellers were greeted by the Governor-General, Lord Soulbury.

Here again --- dancers went ahead of the procession to the Town Hall.

This is a land of rich tropical flowers as well as tea --- and there were garlands for the Queen and the Duke on every possible occasion.

On the following day, the Queen opened yet another of the Commonwealth Parliaments. The ceremony took place, not at the Parliamentary Buildings, but at the Freedom Hall.

Hundreds of guests were present as the Queen performed the ceremony in the blazing heat of a brilliant day.

The Speech from the Throne was handed to the Queen by Ceylon's Prime Minister, Sir John Kotalawala. And in this island whose history is known for twenty five centuries past --- in this pillared hall with its elaborate decorations --- Her Majesty addressed the Senate and the House of Representatives,

After the ceremony, the Queen and the Duke, accompanied by the island's ministers, came on to the terrace for a royal salute.