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Our two countries have, after all, much in common. Both cherish ideals of individual liberty, freedom of thought, expression and religion, respect for human rights. The Swiss people are glad to welcome British visitors, they like them and try to make them feel at home. Conversely, few British travellers have returned from Switzerland otherwise than satisfied and often delighted. Most of them are impressed by the similarity between the democratic Swiss way of life and theirs.

It may not be amiss to mention the curious historical fact that Switzerland is the only continental country which has never been at war with England. Our relations have always been permeated by friendship, understanding and mutual respect.

As for the Swiss who have made Britain their home, it can be said, in all modesty, that most of them have contributed, in some way or other, to the progress and prosperity of their adopted country. Many have acquired British nationality either by marriage or naturalisation and become useful citizens. It is fitting, on this occasion, to record that in time of war they have given their sons and daughters to serve in H.M. forces. It is with sorrow but also with pride that we think of those who have made the supreme sacrifice and laid down their lives for England.

If therefore we Swiss residing in Britain and we British nationals of Swiss descent take a keen interest in this coronation and participate in the rejoicings, we do so in a spirit of solidarity and genuine friendship and not as strangers within the gates.

May we be allowed to offer Her Majesty our respectful homage and our sincere wishes for health, long life and a happy, peaceful reign.

THE CROWNING OF QUEEN ELIZABETH II.

Your cheers we echo as with joyful voice
A young and gracious sovereign you acclaim,
Who nobly bears an honoured, ancient name
And wears the crown with dignity and poise.

Beloved by all, she is her people's choice,
To serve the nation she has made her aim,
Her simple charm, unspoilt by rank and fame,
Has won our hearts, and with you we rejoice.

Now as with solemn rites on hallowed ground
And glittering pageantry your queen is crowned,
We see this England, greatest when at bay,
Which fiercest trials could not overwhelm,
With newborn hope vibrating, for the day
Is bright with promise: Youth is at the Helm!

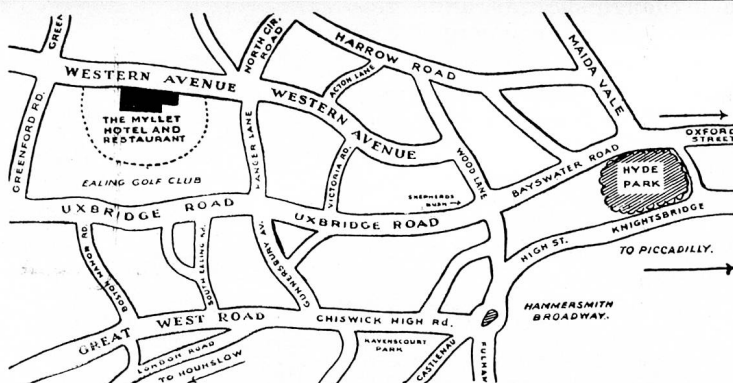
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