

Diary Extract (visit to Cambridge)

Queen Victoria's Journal

Wednesday 25 October 1843:

"We breakfasted at 7, and half an hour later, set off from Windsor with Feodora & Ernest, Lady Mt Edgcombe (who has just come into waiting), Miss Stanley, Lords de la Warr, Anson and the Equerries, accompanying us. Went by rail to London, where, at Paddington Station, we parted from Feodora & Ernest who were going shopping and sightseeing in London.

Got into our new, and most comfortable Post Chaise, and set off on our journey to Cambridge. The day cleared, as it advanced, and gradually became quite fine. We read, alternately, Albert & I, out of 1812, most of the way, & nearly finished the 2nd vol. It was really fearfully interesting, & we got quite engrossed in it. The description of the breaking out of the fire in Moscow is most vivid & thrilling.



Queen Victoria (aged 24)

We changed horses 1st at Manor House, next, at Waltham Cross, having passed through Tottenham, Edmonton & Enfield Wash. To the right, as one leaves Waltham Cross, stands one of those beautiful old Crosses, which were erected, wherever the body of Queen Eleanor (wife of Edward 1st) rested, but we passed by too quickly, to see it well. 3rdly we changed horses at Ware, having passed through Wareley, Broxbourne & Hadelisdon; 4thly at Buntingford (where we got out) after passing through Ward's Mill, Collier's End and Puckeridge; 5thly at Melbourn, passing before through Buckland, Reed Hill & Royston.

At Royston Lord Hardwicke met us, at the head of his Yeomanry, 2000 in number. Royston was decorated with flags & flowers & was full of people, as were all the towns and villages we passed through, & we were received most kindly. In many places triumphal arches has been erected. Two inscriptions I must name as they were so quaint: "Good save Queen Victoria & her loving friend, Prince Albert"!!! - and the other: "God save our Gracious Majesty"!!

The country from Royston is very flat and ugly. After Melbourn (sic) passed through Harlston & **Trumpington**, reaching Cambridge at half past 2. At the entrance to the town, we were met by the Mayor & Corporation, who walked before us. The town was densely crowded & much decorated & the reception given us very hearty. There is one very narrow street before one gets to Trinity College at the gates of which we were received by the Vice Chancellor, (Professor Whewell, the

Master of Trinity), & all the Dignitaries, and including Mr Goulburn. The Courtyard of the College is very large and handsome, with a fine fountain in the centre, built in the time of James IIInd. The Courtyard was filled with the Scholars (about 2000) who gave us a most enthusiastic welcome. The Master presented the Keys, saying the College was placed at my service. We then drove to the Lodge....