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THE PREMIER IN SCOTLAND.

News of the Prime Minister's arrival in the Scottish Capital spreads quickly and a great ovation is given him as he drives along Princes Street on his way to receive the Freedom of the City. The Lord Provost of Edinburgh bestows the high honour, which is particularly significant in that it is the first time that Mr. Churchill has been made a Freeman of any City.

The Prime Minister's speech which follows works up to a characteristically strong climax.

" I come to you from a visit to the Fleet. I have spent the last few days going over a great many of our ships, some great, some small, some fresh from action in the Mediterranean, others after fighting their way through with the Russian Convoy. I could not imagine a greater contrast than that between this fleet in harbour somewhere in Scotland, and a desert army which I was visiting for two or three days some seven weeks ago. The scene, the light, the colour, the elements, the uniforms, the weapons of war, all are different. There was one picture that was bot different, but the spirit was the same.

"Let us then for a moment cross the Main and take a wider view. Our enemies have been more talkative lately. Ribbentrop, Goering, and Hitler have all been making speeches which are of interest because they reveal with considerable frankness their state of minds.

"The most striking and ~~strange~~ curious part of Hitler's speech was his complaint that no one pays sufficient attention to his victories. "Look at all the victories I have won" he exclaims in effect. "Look at all the countries I have invaded and struck down. Look at all the thousands of killometres that I have advanced into the lands of other people. Contrast these exploits with the performances of the Allies. Why are they not downhearted? How do they dare to keep up their spirits in the face of my great successes and their many misfortunes!" That in fact - I have not quoted his actual words, but I have given their meaning and their sense - that is his complaint.

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Ladies and gentlemen, there is another reason apart from his perverted instincts why Hitler has begun the large-scale maltreatment of British Prisoners of War. He wishes to throw a new topic into the arena of world discussion and so divert men's eyes from the evident failure so far as I always say so far- of his second vast campaign against Russia. The heroic defence of Stalingrad, the fact that the splendid Russian armies everywhere are intact, unbeaten, unbroken. nay, counter attacking with amazing energy along the whole front from Leningrad to the Caucasus mountains.

Surveying both sides of the account, good and bad, with equal composure and coolness, we must see that we have reached a stern and sombre moment in the war which calls in a high degree for firmness of spirit and constancy of soul.

Let me use the words of your famous Minstrel -

'Keep right on to the end of the Road,
Keep right on to the End.' "