

UK

THIS 2012 YEARTHE YEAR THAT THE **AAIAA** WAS ESTABLISHED

**"The tumult and the shouting dies
The Captains and the Kings depart"**

**"Lo all our pomp of yesterday
Is one with Ninevah and Tyre!"**

"So Kipling wrote on the occasion of the
Diamond Jubilee of Queen Victoria.

He would have had much to say today.

The year 2012 was one of emotional polarities, in which the theatre of distraction
masked – for much of the time – great national difficulties.

The fortuitous combination of Jubilee and Olympics was so wonderfully satirised
as the 'Jubilympics'.

During 2013, the spending cuts will truly start to bite.

Most of the austerity measures to have taken effect so far
have been tax rises or cuts in investment.

But that will change in the next 12 months as, I promise you,
the cuts will start to seem all too real.

Let me repeat: this is necessary work.

In 2012, though not in Disreali's sense, we really were "Two Nations":
one world-beating, institutionally magnificent, the envy of the globe:
the other mired in debt, desperate to save money, fearful that robust growth
might never return, unsure of our role in Europe,

a national 'omnishambles'.

In 2013, the partially masked difficulties of this year
will surge into full view and dominate the skyline and...
we shall find out whether the first version of Britain was no more than
a dream, a last echo of the past; or if, possibly, just possibly, it was also
an intimation of greatness to come."

Extracted from the article by Matthew D'Ancona
in The Daily Telegraph on 30 December 2012.

We shall have to bide our time to wait and see!

Also, in 2012, the Law of Succession will grant equal rights to
both daughters and sons for succession to the British Crown.