The Queen's Birthday.

The following song has been written and set to music by Mr. F 11 Terrington of Toronto

Old England calls upon her sons Old England calls upon her sons To honour England's Queen, Her rons respond, and daughters too, To keep her mem'ry green. With loyal hearts and ready hands, The Empire's children stand, Prepared to do, prepared to die, For Queen and nauve land.

For fifty years our country's flag Hath borne o'er earth and main The name of Empress, Queen beloved, Inc name of empress, queen beloved,
With neither spot nor stain.
Long may it bear Victoria's name.
Long oer us may she reign,
And for our Empire, broad and grand, May she new honour gain,

Upon our Queen-our country-flag, Upon our Queen—our country—nag,
God a biessing over rest,
With peace and plenty everywhere.
Her people a homes be blest.
God save the Queen, her people pray,
From hearts sincere and free,
God save our loved Victoria
And crown her Jubilee.

Victoria' our Queen beloved, With loyal heart and hand, Thy colonies and fatherland United by thee stand

OUR PERIODICALS:

The best, the cheapest, the most entertaining, the nost popular. Fearly Ins both, the carepers, the mose with the most popular money popular most popular m

WILLIAM BRIGGS, Methodist Book and Publishing House, Toronto. C. W. COATES,
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Hontreal
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Pleasant Hours:

A PAPER FOR OUR YOUNG FOLK Rev. W. H. Withrow, D.D., Editor.

TORONTO, MAY 20, 1899.

OUR GRACIOUS QUEEN.

BY THE REV. DR. CARMAN, GENERAL SUPERINTENDENT.

Queen Victoria was raised up of God for a great life-work, and a great lifework has she accomplished The innocence, purity, and filial affection of her childhood and girlhood are a quiet, impressive pattern for every young lady under her jewoiled sceptives saway. That she-had a mind of her own from the beshe-had a mind of her own from the be-glaning is proved by her preference for Lord Melbourne, her first Primo Minis-ter, and the inability of Wellington and Peel to form a ministry because of her ugwillingness to change the ladies of her household Her marriage with the Prince Consort involved constitutional questions of much delicacy, and implied relationships of so tender susceptibility, that nothing less than her noble hus-bands wisdom and p. Jence, and her own fidelity to the peep, and to genuine bands wisdom and , Jence, and her own fidelity to the peop, and to genuine British interests, could have borne them through the perplexities of the situation. Above all, and more than all, her life and example as wife and mother won and kept the loyalty and love of all British peoples in the world.

is it asked. Why is the British throne so stable? It is because the British crown is so faithfully and grandly worn. crown is so fullfully and grandly worn. From her grithood-sho has regrade for the grits of the alongdom, a mother with some, she has rened for the boys. One of the entited head of a family, she has seen her people, in the goodness of God, so it in families, the instress in a home set in families, the instress in a home is the strength of the State, a leader it estrength of the State, a leader is followed; she has felt that society must

be incorrupt and incorruptible, and has done her best to make and keep it Her standards have been high, and they have been well enforced.

done her best to make and keep it so, there standards have tex an igh, and they have been well enforced.

The Queen is a lover of parliamentary constitutional government, and for long years has been well equipped in all knowledge and experience concerning it. There can be no doubt she is now as well informed in political matters as her Ministers of State, and in all international concerns she is fully abreast of the international concerns and manifests the keeper of the international concernment, and the many branches of her family, she has become a sort of Queen-mucher among the royal houses of the Continent, and kinship is often a power in the palace as well as in the cot.

Her reign has well shown how much the character of the sovereign has to do with imperial expansion and national power. Brittons all around the world are proud to say "Our Queen" Gleerosad character, or all around the world has much to do in making the successful ruler. Despite all speculations and theories, intelligent humanity respects moral worth. Despite all counterblasts and countercurents, the hearts of men from the ends of the earth are drawn to the obedient daughter, the faithful wife, the noble mother, the splendid woman, and we have all these in our most gracious Queen Victoria.

Aye, more, far more. The very sorrows that have plerced her heart, in the way of their bearing, with strong tides

gracious Queen Victoria.
Aye, more, far more. The very sorrows that have pierced her heart, in the way of their bearing, with strong tides of sympathy and love, have made her one with her people in all quarters of the globe. Her widowhood in the death of Albert the Good, and her stricken motherhood in the death of children and grandchildren beloved, have united royal palace, stately mansion, and humble home in purest affection in every land under the folds of Britain's flag.

It is easy in some circumstances to be loyal. In our circumstances it would argue a base and ungrateful nature to be argue a base and ungrateful nature to be distoyat, to be regardless of affection and duty to crown and throne. The silent forces proceeding from the life and character of Queen Victoria make mightily for imperial unity. A tyrant enthroused would drive us asunder. It uss occurred in the past, and would be repeated. But a careful, discreet, intelligent, loving, earnest, constitutional sovereign, forcer studying the welfare of the millions under her sway, ever devoting her best thoughts and warmest love for their good, ever uniting in herself the strong good. thoughts and warmest love for their good, ever uniting in herself the strong bands of daughter, wife and mother, and these of the highest type known to the race, ever herself a glorious example of respect for authority and law, a pattern of a pure morality and a generous religion, must attract to a common centre, to the heart of the mother land the colonies of kindred sentiment and liberty, kindred race, institution and law. While a subtief forces from without may be a subtief forces from without may be a sinister forces from without may in a way compel us to seek the strength, wealth and peace of a united empire, happily epergies from within lend effecto the same glorious consumma-

HOW BESSIE SAW THE QUEEN.

"Yes, I've seed the Queen once. I was in the park when she came along wi' them fine gen lemen on 'ossback a-bang-ing away at the drums an' that; I s'pose them was the Parliament so far afore, an' I-ain't been-since, and I was werry-tired, but I squeezed in among

was werry tired, but I squeezed in among the folks. Some on 'em was swells, an' some on 'em was sich as shopkeepers.

'One hold fellow says to me, says he, 'What do you want 'ere, my little gai?' I want to see the Queen an' Prince Thalbert, an' the Parliament gen'emen,'

says I.
"'I om a Parliament gen'ieman,' says

he, but I ain t a-goin down to-day.

But I worn t a goin' to let 'im think he could do me like that, for he worn t dressed nigh so smart as Wilson a-Sun-day. You're chaffin', says I, why day. You're chaffin', says I, why hain't you got a 'oss, and a goold coat an' summat to blow?'

an' summat to blow? Then he busted out iarffin, fit to kill isself, and says he. Oh, you should car me in Fari, ment a blown my own trumpet, and see me a ridin the 1gh oss there.

on us would a a d to bob down as hif we was playin oney-pols when she come by. But there she was a bowin way to heverybody, and so was Prince Halbert, knew 'im from the pictures, though he didn't seem 'alf so smart as the gen'eman that dru the 'osses. What a nice-lookin' gen'leman, though, that Prince Halbert is! I do believe that himage in the barber's winder in Bishopsgate, with the good sheet on, ain't 'arf as 'an'some. Wisher may die hift he Jidn't bow to me! The queer old cove I was a-settin' on, guv me 'is 'at to shake about like the other folks-law,' ow they did shake their as and their 'ankerchers, an' belier as 'if they' ib ust theirselves' An' Prince Halbert grinned at me kinding, an' then he gave the Queen a nudge, an' she grinned an' guv me a bow, too, an' it folks all turned round to look at me, an' I felt as hif I was a swell." on us would a 'ad to bob down as hif we

A QUEEN'S ADVICE TO A GIRL.

A young lady whose father held a highofficial position, enjoyed the honour of a
uncheon with Queen Victoria, previous
to leaving for the East, where her father
was going as nn ambassador. After the
lunch the Queen, taking her hand, said:
"You are of the same age that I was,
when I was called to the duties of Queen when I was called to the duties of Queen of England. You are now going to take your dead manima's place at the head of your father's household. I do not expect you at once to do all that your mother was able to do. I shall not advise you about this duty or that in detail. Knowledge will come with the every-day requirements of the position. But I wish you to carry out with you one surface the position of the position when you will not understand and many whom you will not understand, and many whom you will not understand, and many not forget. You will meet many people whom you will not understand, and many whom you cannot love. Bury the bad in people and always seek for the good. Do this, and with the intelligence and good judgment which you have, England will honour you as she honoured your mother.

THE BRITISH NATIONAL BANNER.

Britain owes its renowned Union Jack, as probably also its name, to King James the First The flag of England was, previous to his reign, a red cross—that of St. George—on a white field; the flag of Scotland, a white disponal cross—that of St. Andrew—on a blue field. That one flag might be formed for the united countries of England and Scotland, the king, in 1966, ordered the red cross of St. George, bordered with white to represent its white field, to be so placed out the flag of Scotland that the two crosses should have but one central point. This flag was first bolsted at sea on April 12, 1806, and was first used as a military Britain owes its renowned Union Jack

flag was first holsted at sea on April 12, 1606, and was first used as a military flag by the troops of both nations on the ratification of the legislative union of England and Scotland, on May 1, 1607. On the parliamentary union of Great Pritain and Fieland the red diagonal cross of St. Patrick was placed side by side with the white cross of St. Andrew so as to form one cross, the white next to the mast being uppermost, and the so as to form one cross, the white next to the mast being uppermost, and the red in the fly, while to it on the red side a narrow border of white was added to represent the white field of the flag of Ireland, and upon these was placed the border cross of St. George, as in the previous flag. The three crosses thus combined constitute the present Union

It's only a small bit of bunting-

It's only an old coloured rag— Yet thousands have died for its honour, And shed their best blood for the flag-It s charged with the cross of St. Andrew

Which of old Scotland's heroes had led, It carries the cross of St. Patrick, For which Ireland's bravest have bled.

Join'd with these is the old English

ensign—
St. Goorge's Red Cross on white field,
ound which from King Richard
Wolseley, Britons conquer or die, but ne'er yield.

It flutters triumphant o'er ocean, As free as the wind and the wave, And the bondsman from shackles unloosen'd.

Neath its shadow no longer a slave.

It floats over Maita and Cyprus-Over Canada, India, Hong Kong, And Britons, where er their flag a flying, Claim the rights that to Britons belong.

We houst it to show our devotion To our Queen, to our country and laws

s the outward but visible emblem

Of advancement and liberty a cause.

You may say it's an old coloured rag— But freedom has made it majestic, And time has ennobled the flag.

THE ROYAL PALACES OF ENGLAND. (Continued from previous page.)

On a tall hill overlooking Balmoral is granite monument with this inscrip-

"To the beloved memory

of

Albert, the Great and Good, Prince Consort,

Erected by his broken-hearted widow

August 22, 1862."

A passage from the wisdem of Solomon, 4 13, 14, follows.

A national-monument erected in Hyde A national monument erected in Hyde Park, at a cost of \$55,000, is one of the sights of London. Singularly enough the two members of the family who more than the singularly enough the content of the singular enough the si

tion of the throne firmer in the affections of a well-governed people. Authentic incidents which show her consideration and breadth of character abound. Thus, for instance, at court on the throne and letting candidates ascend the steps to kiss her candidates ascend the steps to kiss her candidates steps to her control of the steps while they stands in front of the steps while they

stands in front of the steps while they
the by.
She also set saide the old custom of
retiring from royalty by walking backward for the more easy and natural
fashion of departing as from the practice prevailed of gentlemen at court remaining in the dining-room and often
drinking to excess after the ladies had
left the table. Her authority, however,
succeeded in establishing another eticuette.

succeeded in establishing another etlquette.

Her autograph letter to Mrs. Lincoln,
expressing her horror, pity, and sympathy at the assassination of President
Lincoln, and her similar communication
when President Garfield died, are tender
evidences of her trueword wide,
to the court
Early in 100 more of the court
hearts in view of preparing for an approaching State-dinner. Two German
Methodists rotused to play, on the ground
of conscientious scruples, and were,
therefore, dismissed. On leaving the
castie on Monday, they met the Bishop
of London, to whom they stated their
case. During the day the leader of the
hand was called before her Majesty, who
ordered the men to be restored to their
outs, breven adding, the expectation to the
posts, bravely adding.

band was called before her Majesty, was ordered the men to be restored to their posts, bravely adding,
"I will have no man persecuted in my service for conscience sake and I will have no more Sunday and the settle of the settle order orde

"And when the thrones of earth shall be
As low as graves brought down,
A plereed hand will give to thee
The crown which angels shout to zee,
Thou wilt not weep to wear that

THE METHUSELAHS OF THE

FOREST.

The ages attained by some of the coniferae are scarcely less extraordinary than their colossal bulk. The greatest longevity assigned to any tree 18 perhaps credited to the celebrated taxodium of Chapultepee, in Merico, one hundred which is thought to exceed in age the haobab of Senegal, inferred to be five thousand one hundred and fitty years old. In Lombardy there is a cypress tree which is said to have been planted in the year of our Satiours birth. There is even an ancient record that it was growing in the time of Julius Caesar. Near the runs of Palenque are trees whom age is estimated to be from four thousand to six thousand years. The mammoth tree estimated to be from four thousand to six thousand years. The mammoth tree has been estimated to live four thousand years in California. April Ladies Home Journal.