

while she lived, and by her death, sorrow has been brought to millions of loyal hearts.

She has stamped her life on the major part of the 19th century and the dawn of the 20th in a manner which has scarcely a parallel in history. The Victorian Age will stand out as a beacon light in Literature and Science for all generations.

We speak with pride of the Elizabethan Age, of the Augustan Age, of the Renaissance of Learning, yet the Victorian Age eclipses all the former periods and, moreover, from the standpoint of progress in science, in navigation, electricity, civil and religious liberty, etc., the Victorian Age surpasses the bygone ages of recorded time as much as the shining of the sun surpasses the twinkling of the stars.

When William the IV. died it took about seven or eight weeks for the people in America to hear the news. When Queen Victoria died, January 22, 1901, A.D., the four sad words, "The Queen is Dead," were flashed from the great metropolis of the world to Ottawa, the capital of Canada, in about 10 minutes. In society Queen Victoria was an ideal woman. She was that English lady *par excellence*, "whom to know was itself a liberal education."

The late lamented Poet Laureate Tennyson thus describes the Queen in her domestic life :

"Her court was pure, her life serene,
God gave her peace ; her land repose.
A thousand claims to reverence closed
In her as mother, wife and queen."

Not only has the Empire progressed in material ways, but in the field of education the improvement has been marvellous. When Victoria began to reign only a very small percentage of the children could receive a liberal education, but at the close of sixty-three years and eight months' rule, by the aid of

Provincial Systems of Education, and School Boards, the children of all classes may receive good instruction and a useful education free, without money and without price.

Into this commonwealth of learning the children of poor and rich are born free and equal.

The progress made in the social and political relations of life had indeed been remarkable during the last three score years.

In politics Queen Victoria was said to be non-partisan. She was a skilled mistress in the art of diplomacy. Truly it may be said of her she was "all things to all men." During her reign she had ten Prime Ministers as her advisers. Some were men of opposite political views, such as Beaconsfield and Gladstone, yet her moral influence was of such a power that she governed the leaders of the Empire with the silken cords of love.

In her the *suaviter in modo* was well balanced by the *fortiter in re*. She reached the ideal of the maxim, viz. *mens sana in corpore sano*.

William Shakespeare, the great English dramatist, said : "Un easy lies the head that wears a crown." To what extent this is true with reference to Victoria, it is difficult to say. During her long reign the nation passed through many crises. The Angel of Death snatched several dear ones from her large family circle, yet notwithstanding she bore up her courage with remarkable Christian fortitude.

The last war cloud in South Africa pressed heavily on her peaceful soul, and is thought to have hastened her death, which was lamented by many millions of people.

It is the earnest prayer of the people of the Empire that when King Edward VII. shall be called by Providence to resign the cap-