

Verily, when we contrast our noble, gracious Queen with her predecessors on the throne, we have abundant cause for thankfulness that we have been blessed with such a sovereign. "In her," according to Macaulay, "her subjects have found a wiser, gentler, happier Elizabeth." No former monarch has so thoroughly comprehended the great truth that the powers of the crown are held in trust for the people, and are the means and not the end of government. This enlightened policy has entitled her to the glorious distinction of having been the most constitutional monarch England has ever seen. Not less important has been the example set by Her Majesty in the practice of every social and domestic virtue. Her stainless life and her unobtrusive piety have tended to elevate the standard of morality, public and private, and have obtained for her the respect and admiration of the civilized world.

Marvellous, indeed, has been the Empire's progress in prosperity and enlightenment during Her Majesty's reign. Not only has there been a wonderful expansion and growth in territory, in population, in commerce, in revenue, in shipping, in railway extension, but also a mighty advance in the religious, educational and industrial development of the Empire. The Victorian Era is justly considered the brightest in the history of the British nation. Not only has the nation increased its material prosperity under the rule of Her Majesty; its progress in the fields of learning, in the arts, in science, in literature—in short, in all that tends to ennoble mankind—has been no less marked. Truly her's has been a most eventful reign. A history of the past sixty years would fill many volumes. It would deal with many mighty events, and would show more rapid advancement in all that constitutes the moral, intellectual and physical well-being of a people than characterizes any preceding entire century since England became a nation. Her reign will ever be a memorable one to us Canadians, as the reign during which the North American Provinces were confederated under the title of the Dominion of Canada—the reign that witnessed our birth as a mighty nation! Her reign will always be looked back to as the one in which the scattered members of the Empire were brought into more intimate fellowship with one another and with the mother-land; the reign which saw the general development of the railway system in Great Britain and its rapid extension throughout all civilized countries; the reign in which the electric telegraph was constructed, and the first successful attempts made to use steam for the purposes of trans-oceanic navigation; the reign which witnessed the inauguration of an improved postal system, the laying of sub-marine cables, the invention of the telephone, the general utilization of electric power, and which, by an infinite number of other agencies, immensely increased the comfort and convenience of the people; the reign in which so many constitutional, political and social reforms were consummated, and the principle of religious toleration under-