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R. WILSON-SMITH,  
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## The King's Illness.

THE CORONATION POSTPONED. AN EMPIRE STRICKEN WITH GRIEF.

In this world of tragic reverses, disappointments, contrasts, there has never before occurred a calamity so startling in all these respects as the sudden illness of King Edward VII., on the eve of His Coronation. The dread enemy raised his spear to strike, but forbore, the shield of Divine Providence being raised to protect the Royal sufferer. In a few hours His Majesty would have been crowned as King of the mightiest of realms, ancient or modern, amid a pageant never equalled in magnificent pomp, nor one accompanied by such imposing manifestations of loyalty, of imperial splendour, imperial power and world-wide magnitude. From colonies and possessions incomparably greater than any of the vast Empires that are known only by their ruins; from allied and friendly nations, there were already assembled representatives awaiting but a few hours to greet King Edward with loyal acclamations of homage and fealty, or with greetings of generous, neighbourly good-will and good wishes. The jewelled crown, resplendent with costliest gems, rich, too, beyond computation with unparalleled historic associations, which is ready for being placed on the Monarch's head, derives its chief, its priceless value from being the symbol of the unpurchaseable crown of a people's loyal love. King Edward has been faithful to His promise to walk in the footsteps of His sainted Mother as a constitutional sovereign. He has walked, too, in even more sacred footsteps, for He has gone about doing good, seeking to ameliorate the lot of his humbler subjects, to provide for the greater comfort of the sick, and to tone down the asperities caused by those contrasts of social condition which are over accentuated in the mother country.

He has earned the blessing of peace-makers by his royal influence having hastened the termination of the war in South Africa. He has done much also to mollify the national animosity of the Germans and French, who have great esteem for King Edward. A noble tribute awaits him in history for bringing the United States and Great Britain into closer amity than has ever before existed. As a statesman the King has won his spurs.

Doubtless, His Majesty has been more or less a sufferer from impaired health for some time past. For a week before His collapse at Aldershot, He had been quite sick, but strove, with characteristic courage, to overcome the trouble, or wholly conceal it by force of will. His determination reminds us of the old-time emperor who was carried on a litter to a battlefield, so that his troops could be inspired by hearing that their chief was present, a stimulus which led to their being victorious. King Edward's enemy was too subtle for even a monarch to overcome. On Monday last grave symptoms appeared. He was warned that an operation was impending, on hearing which He exclaimed: "Operation or no operation, I must go to the Abbey!" But he went instead to an operating table—the saddest, the most tragic contrast in history. At two a.m., Tuesday, an operation was performed which, though it saved the patient's life, also jeopardized it, as is always the case in serious surgical operations. The news struck millions with deep sorrow, the whole Empire was shocked with grief and is yet trembling with painful anxiety as to the outcome of this terrible event. As we go to press we are rejoiced to hear favourable reports. Sympathy for and with the Royal sufferer and His beloved Consort, is deep, is as universal as humanity, for the whole world has been moved by so awful, so untimely an event that mocks at human greatness and shows human foresight to be merely vanity. Prayers from every loyal, every Christian heart are rising to Heaven for the King's rapid recovery, and with passionate earnestness is echoing round the world

GOD SAVE THE KING!