

the formal commencement of the business of the day, the offering up of prayer by the Bishop of Ely. There was a rustling of silks and satins as the Peereses stood up, followed by a deep silence, which allowed every syllable of the prayers to be distinctly heard in all parts of the House. After prayers there was another fluttering of silks in the dove-cotes and a renewal of the hum of conversation which had prevailed among the ladies since they had been congregated in numbers sufficient to form themselves into coteries. Another batch of Judges, robed and wigged, speedily entered, followed by His Royal Highness the Duke of Cambridge. The Heir to the Throne was not long after his Royal cousin in making his appearance; and at a signal from the Usher of the Black Rod the whole assembly rose *en masse*, Peereses, Peers, Bishops, Judges, and the foreign Ministers, to receive the new-comers. The Prince and Princess of Wales, the Prince in the full uniform of a general officer, and the Princess tastefully attired in a dress of white tulle, trimmed with black lace, wearing a tiara of diamonds and a long flowing veil of white gauze, entered side by side. The Princess was escorted to the place of honour on the woollack, immediately fronting the Throne. At length, at 2 o'clock precisely, the Usher of the Black Rod made a signal to the Lord Chancellor, at which the whole assembly rose, with the same pleasant rustling of silks and satins as before. In a few minutes the door to the right of the Throne was flung open, and preceded by a long train of halberdiers, buffeters, and other officials, entered the Majesty of England—the Monarch of an Empire, in which, to use the eloquent words of Daniel Webster, "There is no hour of the twenty-four which in one or other of the two hemispheres does not see her ancient banner flung to the morning breeze, or hear the drum beat or the bugle call of her soldiers sounding the reveillé." Her Majesty was attired in half mourning, and walked with slow steps to the Throne, followed by the great officers of State,—the Marquis of Lansdowne, bearing the Crown upon a cushion; the Duke of Argyll, holding the Sword of State; the Marquis of Winchester, supporting the Cap of Maintenance, and several other nobles performing their appointed functions. Her Majesty stopped for an instant at the foot of the steps to shake hands with the Princess of Wales, who, in common with the whole assemblage, had risen on her entrance. The Queen wore a deep purple velvet robe trimmed with white miniver, and a white lace cap *à la Marie Stuart*, to the portraits of which unfortunate lady she bore in this attire a remarkable similitude. Around her neck she wore a collar of brilliants, and over her breast the blue riband of the Order of the Garter. Other ornaments she had none, and looked in this simple and highly becoming costume "every inch a Queen," and far more picturesque and regal than if she had worn the royal robes. Her Majesty was accompanied by the Princesses Helena and Louise, and by Prince Christian of Denmark, who stood at the right of the Throne; the two Princesses attired in half-mourning, like their illustrious mother.

The Lord Chancellor having notified the Queen's desire that the company should resume their seats, a message was sent by the Usher of the Black Rod, desiring the attendance of the Speaker and the House of Commons at the bar of the Lords. During the interval that elapsed between the summons of the Commons and the reply, the Queen sat silent and motionless, with her eyes fixed upon the ground. She seemed to take no heed of the brilliant assemblage around her, but to be wholly absorbed in melancholy meditation. Even when the Commons rushed helter-skelter, like a mob of schoolboys, to the bar, Her Majesty took no notice of the interruption, and never once lifted her gaze from the ground. When silence had been restored—when the real Parliament of the British people, the governing power that holds the purse, and with the purse the sword—the rough and noisy commons (never rough and noisy except on this occasion) had adjusted themselves as well as they could to the scanty accommodation afforded them, the Lord Chancellor, standing to the right on the second step from the Throne, announced that Her Majesty had been graciously pleased to command him to read the Royal Speech, which he should proceed to do in Her Majesty's own words. His Lordship then read the Speech amid the all but breathless silence of the assembly, in part of which occurs the following passages:—

"I watch with interest the proceedings which are still in progress in British North America with a view to a closer union among the Provinces, and I continue to attach great importance to that object.

"In these and in all other deliberations I fervently pray that the blessing of Almighty God may guide your counsels to the promotion of the happiness of my people."

The reading concluded, the Lord Chancellor bowed his obeisance to the Queen, who slightly, but courteously, returned the salute. Then rising from the Throne, the whole of the brilliant assemblage rising from their seats at the same time, Her Majesty stepped slowly down, kissed the Princess of Wales, who sat almost at her feet, shook hands with Prince Christian, and, handed out by his Royal Highness the Prince of Wales, followed by the Princess of Wales

and the Duke of Cambridge, retired by the door at which she had entered, with the usual flourish and following, in which heralds and Garter Kings of Arms delight.

Thus ended the opening of the seventh Parliament of Queen Victoria. The Peers and Judges laid aside their scarlet robes and ermine; and the Peereses hastened home, to hear the faint echo in the streets of the hearty applause that was showered upon the Sovereign, by a people delighted to see her once again among them; to cherish the hope that many years of health and happiness were yet in store for her.

VII. Short Critical Notices of Books.

— THE STUDENT'S ILLUSTRATED ENGLISH DICTIONARY.—Etymological, Pronouncing and Explanatory; by John Ogilvie, LL.D., author of the "Imperial" and the "Comprehensive" Dictionaries. Small 4to; triple columns. pp. 814.*—This convenient sized Comprehensive Dictionary is all that we could desire for the student or for the general reader. Whatever the diversity of opinion may exist in regard to the merits of the great Americanized English Dictionaries of Worcester and Webster, we think there will be none in regard to the general excellence of this work and the system or mode of spelling which has been adopted in it. The pronunciation of each word has been "adapted to the best modern usage, by Richard Cull, Fellow of the Society of Antiquarians." The words themselves (which are printed in large plain type) "have been traced to their ultimate sources, the root or primary meaning inserted, and the other meanings given fully, according to the best usage." The work is illustrated with about three hundred excellent engravings and add greatly to the value of the text. The size, too, is a most convenient one; while the various styles of binding in which it can be furnished, will render easily accessible to all. We have great pleasure in recommending it for general use in our schools.

— WEBSTER'S UNABRIDGED AND PICTORIAL ROYAL QUARTO DICTIONARY.—We have had this admirable Dictionary on our table for some months, but have prevented until now from giving it the notice in our *Journal* which we had desired to do. In its new and revised state, we conceive it to be one of the most important and valuable Dictionaries ever published. The present edition extends to 1,840 royal quarto pages, and is illustrated with over 3,000 appropriate wood engravings. In addition to other features of this great work (to which we will presently refer) we are much pleased to notice two important improvements in it as compared with the former edition. The first is that each word in the Dictionary is printed in large bold letters, so as to catch the eye at once, without wearying the sight in distinguishing it from the rest of the text. The other feature is the insertion of the various spellings of each word—including the English and Websterian—method. Our objection to Webster's Dictionary was chiefly based upon our decided aversion to the attempt to make the Websterian mode of spelling disputed words the standard in Canada. On this ground, we were not prepared to recommend Webster's Dictionary for use in our public schools. In the present edition this objection has been removed, and we now cordially recommend it to teachers and others concerned. We will now proceed to notice the various features of this admirable Dictionary.

1. *Etymology.* Dr. Webster in his great work, made many important and original contributions to the science of English etymology; but in the thirty years which have elapsed since he essentially completed his labors, very great progress has been made in this department of human knowledge—especially in Germany. The Publishers, therefore, secured the services of Dr. C. A. F. Mahn, of Berlin. As the result of these labors, the etymological portion of the present edition, we believe, will be found to be a most important contribution to English philology.

2. *A brief history of the English languages*, by Professor Hadley of Yale College. This will be found to be an excellent summary, and, will be of great value to all who have occasion to teach or study the structure and growth of our mother-tongue.

3. *The Vocabulary.* Dr. Webster's original work, as stated in his Preface, embraced a vocabulary of from 70,000 to 80,000. The "Pictorial Edition" of 1859, increased that number to 99,798 words, while this present revision of Webster contains upwards of 114,000 words.

4. *Definitions.* In this, Dr. Webster's aim was to give a thorough knowledge of the root meaning of every word.

5. *Special departments.* Definitions of words relating to special subjects have been revised by eminent men in the several professions. Among

* Blackie & Son, London and Glasgow; Arch. Ferrie & Co., Montreal.