

QUEEN VICTORIA.

THREE prominent thoughts spring from all that has been said regarding our gracious sovereign Queen Victoria in this the jubilee year of her reign. The first is the value of early training. Never was any one more carefully and more judiciously trained than that precious princess. Everything that might cause pride or vain glory was carefully kept from her. It was even concealed from her that she was heiress to the throne. She was kept a mere child in all the loveliness of childish humility, and that she is to-day the loved and honored Queen,—nay, more, the highly respected woman, is largely due to the wisdom of her mother, the late pious and sensible Duchess of Kent. Many parents could learn a useful lesson from this, especially in these days of youthful pride and childish forwardness. Let children be children, not pert imitators of their seniors. They will make the better men and women.

The second thought is the undoubted wisdom of toleration among those in authority. The policy of Queen Victoria has been one of love, reason and toleration—three great factors in the happiness of mankind. It is true Victoria is not a sovereign with absolute power. Her power is limited by the Lords of her realm, and most of all by the voice of her people; but it is for the sacred regard for this that the name of Queen Victoria will ever shine with undimmed lustre upon the page of history. There have been times when the voice of the people has not accorded with her own wish or views; there have been times when she has sought to modify that voice; but never has there been a time when she disregarded it or treated it with disdain. And this is the secret of true power. There is a natural instinct in man which leads him to respect true power, and any one who has it will have loyal support if he is only gentle and kind; if he is not head-strong and self-willed; if he knows how to shew respect for the opinions of others. Queen Victoria has had a long reign of fifty years, and has now gone through the most vigorous part of her life. She has witnessed disturbances and revolutions in many of the lands

around her. Crowns have perished and thrones have gone down, princes have been assassinated, and outraged people have cried death to monarchy; but she still goes freely in and out among her people, inconvenienced only by the crowds that press on to do her homage. She has learned the all important lesson, that the true secret of power is to rule cautiously and with a due respect to the opinions of those who are ruled.

The third thought is the value of personal piety. Her Majesty has proved herself a woman of practical religion. She has acted throughout on the grand principle that it is "righteousness that exalteth a nation." When, fifty years ago, in the early dawn of the morning, she was first told by the Archbishop

of Canterbury that she was Queen of England, her first thoughts were holy, as she asked his Grace to remember her in prayer,—and what a sweet halo has surrounded her throne ever since through this personal piety emanating from herself!

What can there be more dreadful than a ruler of a nation who is himself careless of the decencies, to say nothing of the uprightness of life, as in the days of an Edward IV. or a Charles II. The nation itself wilts under the evil atmosphere which, wafted from the throne, spreads like poison in all directions. But it is so, likewise with all persons in authority. Every ruler should be upright and devout. Every officer and person in command, every commercial leader and head of a business firm should be the same.

And for this all subordinates have a deep respect. They may do wicked and degrading things themselves, but they like to know that their chief is a man who has within him the spirit of righteousness and truth.

These three points are well worth remembering. They all tend to righteousness and it is "righteousness that exalteth a nation." It is this that has made the reign of Victoria good and her people great. Her reign has been one of religious revival and missionary zeal. The voice of Christ has spoken in it as it never spoke before, and every charitable act, every religious movement, every missionary undertaking has received the support and countenance of that gracious lady whom we rejoice to call our Queen.



QUEEN VICTORIA.