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**The Queen's Death.** Naturally all other events of the week have been cast in the shade by the death of our revered and beloved Queen, which occurred on Tuesday evening the 22nd inst., and the accession to the throne of Prince Albert Edward of Wales, who becomes King with the title of Edward VII. The condition of the Queen early on Tuesday morning had caused her physicians to believe that, while there could be no hope of any material improvement, it was possible that Her Majesty might continue to live until Thursday. The slight rally of Tuesday morning was however succeeded by much less favorable symptoms, and at four o'clock in the afternoon it had become plain that the end was near. Death came peacefully and painlessly. The scene in the Royal Death Chamber is thus described: "Around her were gathered almost every descendant of her line. Well within view of her dying eyes there hung a portrait of the Prince Consort. It was he who designed the room and every part of the castle. In scarcely audible words the white haired Bishop of Winchester prayed beside her as he had often prayed with his sovereign, for he was her chaplain at Windsor. With bowed heads the imperious ruler of the German empire and the man who is now King of England, the woman who has succeeded to the title of Queen, the princes and princesses and those of less than royal designation, listened to the bishop's ceaseless prayer. At exactly half-past six Sir James Reid held up his hand, and the people in the room knew that England had lost her Queen. The bishop pronounced the benediction." The announcement of the Queen's death, as the sad intelligence was flashed to all quarters of the world, created throughout the Empire a profound impression. The prevailing feeling is doubtless one of reverent sorrow for the loss of a Sovereign loved and revered as it has fallen to the lot of but few other rulers in the world's history to be. But the deep sense of loss which the nation feels must be tempered with a profound thankfulness for the great gift of Heaven to Great Britain and her colonies in the noble woman, so large of mind and heart, who for more than three score years has presided so wisely and illustriously over the nation. In London naturally the depression caused by the announcement of the Queen's death was very great. A gloom and darkness, we are told, seemed to fall upon the city. From Whitechapel to Mayfair, streets usually gay with nightly festivity were on Tuesday evening comparatively deserted and desolate. The music in all the hotels and public places ceased. Fashionable resorts were empty, and the famous restaurants had discarded colors for sombre black. Not until the Queen shall have been laid to rest beside the Prince Consort at Fargmore will the theatres or music halls reopen.

**The King Sworn In.** In accordance with the tradition of the nation, and indeed as a matter of practical necessity, the successor to the departed Queen has assumed the dignities and responsibilities of his exalted position as King of Great Britain and Ireland and Emperor of India. Attended by Lord Suffield (who has been Lord of the Bedchamber to the Prince of Wales since 1872) and by an escort of the Horse Guards, the King on Wednesday afternoon drove from Marlborough House to St. James' Palace to preside at the first Privy Council. By the time the King arrived a great gathering of Privy Councillors in levee dress, with crape on their left arms, had taken up a position in the throne room—members of the royal family, cabinet ministers, peers, commoners, bishops, judges, the Lord Mayor, etc., including the Duke of York, the Duke of Connaught and lesser members of the royal family. Lord Salisbury, Lord Rosebery, Mr. A. J. Balfour, the Duke of Devonshire, Lord Strathcona and Mount Royal, and a host of the most

prominent personages in the land were there to receive the king's formal oath binding him to govern the kingdom according to its laws and customs, and hear him assume the title of King Edward VII. of Great Britain and Ireland and Emperor of India. The ceremony was interesting and according to precedent. The king was in a separate apartment from the Privy Councillors. To the latter the Duke of Devonshire formally communicated the death of Queen Victoria and the succession of her son, the Prince of Wales, to the throne. The royal dukes and certain lords of the council were then directed to repair to the king's presence to acquaint him with the terms of the Lord President's statement. Shortly afterwards His Majesty entered the room in which the councillors were assembled, and addressed them in a brief speech. The Lord Chancellor (Lord Halsbury) then administered the oath to the king, and afterwards to the various members of the council. Commencing with the lords in council, they took their respective oaths of allegiance and then passed in turn before His Majesty as at a levee, except that each paused and kissed hands before passing out of the chamber.

**The King's Accession Speech.** The King's speech to the Privy Council upon assuming office was short, simple and evidently sincere. The full text of the speech is as follows: "Your Royal Highness, my Lords and Gentlemen—This is the most painful occasion on which I shall ever be called upon to address you. My first and melancholy duty is to announce to you the death of my beloved mother, the Queen, and I know how deeply you and the whole nation, and, I think I may say, the whole world, sympathize with me in the irreparable loss we have all sustained. I need hardly say that my constant endeavor will be always to walk in her footsteps. In undertaking the heavy load which now devolves upon me, I am fully determined to be a constitutional sovereign in the strictest sense of the word, and so long as there is breath in my body, to work for the good and amelioration of my people. I have resolved to be known by the name of Edward, which has been borne by six of my ancestors. In doing so I do not undervalue the name of Albert, which I inherit from my ever-to-be lamented, great and wise father, who by universal consent is, I think, deservedly known by the name of 'Albert the Good,' and I desire that his name should stand alone. In conclusion, I trust to parliament and the nation to support me in the arduous duties which now devolve upon me by inheritance and to which I am determined to devote my whole strength during the remainder of my life."

**Edward VII. Proclaimed King.** The public proclamation in London of the eldest son of Victoria as King Edward VII. took place on Thursday morning. London despatches remark upon the quaint ceremonies, suggestive of mediæval times, which accompanied the proclamation. Ten thousand troops brought from Aldershot for the occasion lined the streets between St. James Palace and the city, and presented an imposing spectacle. Earl Roberts and members of the head quarters staff of the army officers were in attendance. The ceremony began at St. James' Palace, where at nine o'clock Edward VII. was proclaimed King of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland and Emperor of India. The proclamation, which was read by William Henry Weldon, King-at-Arms since 1894, and formerly Windsor Herald, was as follows: "Whereas it has pleased Almighty God to call to His mercy our late Sovereign Lady, Queen Victoria, of blessed and glorious memory, by whose decease the Imperial Crown of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland is solely and rightfully come to the High and Mighty Prince Albert Edward; we, therefore, the Lords spiritual and temporal of this realm, being here assisted with those of Her Late

Majesty's Privy Council, with numbers of other principal gentlemen of quality, with the Lord Mayor, the Aldermen and the citizens of London, do now hereby with one voice, consent of tongue and heart, publish and proclaim that the high and mighty Prince Albert is now by the death of our late Sovereign of happy memory become our only lawful and rightful liege Lord, Edward VII., by the grace of God, King of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland, Defender of the Faith, Emperor of India, to whom we do acknowledge all faith and constant obedience with all hearty and humble affection, beseeching God, by whom all kings and Queens do reign, to bless Royal Prince Edward VII. with long and happy years to reign over us."

**The Royal Funeral.** The preparations for the Queen's funeral which is to take place on Saturday next, amid great pageantry, are assuming definite form. The influx of members of royal families and representatives of foreign countries has been so great, it is said, that the Court officials are finding it difficult to procure suitable accommodations. According to a London despatch, the procession is expected to occupy two hours traversing London from Victoria station to Paddington station, whence the funeral train will depart at 11.15 a. m., reaching Windsor at 1.50. The coffin will be conveyed in the Queen's special saloon carriage attached to the royal train built especially for the diamond jubilee, by which the King and the royal family will journey to the royal borough. The King, as chief mourner, accompanied by Emperor William, will ride on horseback at the head of the procession through London, with Earl Roberts, the commander-in-chief of the forces, and his staff in close proximity. At least six battalions of infantry, eight squadrons of cavalry and a number of batteries of artillery will participate in the procession, besides the multitudinous assemblage of peers, members of the house of commons and court officials of strange title and stranger garb. The streets will be lined throughout with soldiers. The coffin bearers will be non-commissioned officers from the troops composing the Household Brigade.

**Memorial Services.** In the cities and towns of the United Kingdom, as well as in those of the Colonies, memorial services were very generally held on Sunday. At St. Paul's Cathedral, London, when the preacher was the Archbishop of Canterbury, the great edifice was crowded long before the hour of service by a congregation attired in mourning garments, and thousands were unable to gain admission. At Westminster Abbey, too, all the services of the day were attended by great congregations. All the Roman Catholic and foreign churches in London held a special memorial service. The members of the French embassy attended the French church, and very elaborate services were held at the chapel of the Russian embassy by command of Emperor Nicholas. At Cowes, the Isle of Wight, Lord Roberts and William St. John Broderick, secretary of state for war, were present at morning prayers in Whippingham church at 11 o'clock. An hour later King Edward, Queen Alexandra and all the royal personages now at Osborne arrived at the church for the memorial service. This was a simple function, the hymns being sung by an unsurprised choir of school children. The Bishop of Winchester, who was the preacher for the occasion, delivered an eloquent panegyric upon Victoria, and declared that Emperor William's action in coming to her deathbed has touched the hearts of the British people and cemented the unity and friendship of the two kindred nations.