

mine what the colonial portion of the burden should be, and how it should be raised, was claimed and acted upon. At the very time that able statesmen might have taken a step in the direction of the closer union of the different parts of the empire, the rulers of the period adopted a policy which rent the empire asunder; and so, Great Britain had to begin, at the close of the eighteenth century, the work of laying anew the foundations of empire.

The great European wars, which sprung from the French revolution, afforded to the United Kingdom an opportunity of territorial expansion and commercial growth; but the foundations of the new empire were only well secured, and its prosperity only well assured, when Her late Majesty came to the Throne. During the sixty-four years of Her Majesty's reign, there has been continuous growth, and in spite of the efforts to restrain further acquisitions, continuous expansion. There was during the whole period of Queen Victoria's reign, no serious impediments put in the way of the empire's progress. The area of the empire has been greatly enlarged, and the population embraced within it, enormously increased. At the demise of Her Majesty, one-fourth of the earth's surface, and at least one-fourth of its population, acknowledged her sovereignty.

The government of the British Empire, under the late Queen, was conducted with great moderation, great prudence, and a strong desire everywhere to administer justice in mercy. Care has, for the most part, been taken, not to offend the susceptibilities of any of the races brought under the jurisdiction of the sovereign. There never has been a government that more cordially recognized the principle, that governments exist for the welfare of the governed, than that which holds sway over the vast territories of the British Empire. From the sovereign down to the humblest executive officer, the principle has, throughout the whole period of Her Majesty's reign, been recognized, that government is a great trust, to be exercised solely for the well-being of those under its authority; and no sovereign, in any period of the world's history, has ever sought to fulfil the duties which the office of chief magistrate imposes with a greater anxiety to fulfil those duties to the

utmost, than did Her Late Majesty Queen Victoria.

The Queen came to the Throne, when a very young woman, as the successor to her uncle William IV. She was surrounded by conscientious and capable men, who realized the importance of her high trust under the constitution, and who faithfully undertook to fulfil the important obligations resting upon them. The first Prime Minister upon whom these important duties devolved was Lord Melbourne, and those who have studied with care the manner in which he discharged the duties which he owed to the sovereign, and to the country, will not deny to him that meed of praise to which, under the circumstances, he was justly entitled. Lord Melbourne never subordinated his duty, as the political tutor of Her Majesty, to his position as the leader of a great party in the state, and as Prime Minister of the United Kingdom. He was most anxious that Her Majesty should become thoroughly imbued with those constitutional doctrines upon the careful observance of which, he believed, her success in the discharge of her functions, as the sovereign lady of the British Empire, depended.

Not long after Her Majesty's accession to the Throne, she married her cousin, His Royal Highness Prince Albert of Cobourg. A more happy union, perhaps, was never brought about, and the story of their domestic relations presents nothing which does not indicate the mutual affection which existed between them. His Royal Highness, from the outset, marked out for himself a course of public usefulness which would enable him to confer important services upon the nation, without any encroachment, either on the sovereignty of the Queen, upon the one side, or on the rights of her constitutional advisers upon the other. His whole life was characterized by eminent good sense, and he devoted himself, without stint, to the consideration of educational and social problems, in which he might find a sphere of useful activity without, in any way, encroaching upon the duties which belonged to Her Majesty, as sovereign of the British Empire, or upon the advisers of the Crown, who were responsible to parliament for the proper management of public affairs.

Hon. Mr. MILLS.