

gaze. She has never fulfilled her function in government without being well informed what she was doing and what she was ratifying ; thus availing herself of the opportunities of her high position, she has culled from many an official paper and many an audience a fund of political experience, a treasure of things, old and new, which it has not been within the compass of even the ablest of her ministers to gather. She has been possessed of the secrets of each political party. " A wise King (says the Book of Wisdom) is the upholding of the people " (vi, 27). And the wisdom of the wise Queen Victoria is the upholding of every Prime Minister. It never fetters him unconstitutionally, it never tyrannizes over him arbitrarily, it deprives him of none of his responsibility and freedom of action ; it is as the mother's word of counsel spoken to a son in his manhood.

Again the Scripture says : " We will praise him, for he hath done wonderful things in his life, him that could have transgressed and hath not transgressed, and could do evil things and hath not done them " (Eccles. xxxi, 9, 10). They who know our Constitution best, agree that the throne, to one who will abuse its powers, is a matchless position of advantage for doing evil, from not mere private wickedness, but public mischief. It is one of the lesser praises of Queen Victoria, and yet in itself it is a great praise—it is, as Holy Scripture calls it, a wonderful thing—that she has never stood as an obstacle in the way of the smooth flow of her country's prosperity ; that she has never marred England's happiness ; that she has been above reproach as a woman, and as a Queen, constitutional, patriotic and self-sacrificing. The country under her has known no mean ambition, no palace intrigue. She has borne the sceptre for 60 years with clean hands. And she will hand it over, a sceptre of uprightness (Psalm XLIV, 7), to her successor.

*(To be continued.)*

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