

regalia were distributed, steps forward and offers to redeem it for a price. Having redeemed it, he draws it forth from the scabbard, and carries it unsheathed before the King during the rest of the ceremony. A hundred shillings is the traditional sum for redeeming the sword, and at King Edward's Coronation the Marquis of Londonderry redeemed the sword with a bag containing this number of new silver shillings.

Leaving the spurs and sword, symbolic of the days of chivalry, we come to the ecclesiastical and imperial emblems—the stole and the mantle. Edward VII's mantle was of cloth-of-gold, woven with pink roses, green shamrocks, purple thistles and the lotus flowers—the first time the emblem of India appeared on a Coronation robe. It was embroidered with silver eagles, a symbol of independence from early Saxon days.

To the King, seated in the Coronation or St. Edward's chair, the orb is now brought, a globe of gold surmounted by a cross richly ornamented with pearls, sapphires and rubies. This is a symbol of power, dating back to the days of the Roman emperors. It may be remembered that Queen Victoria, when the orb was placed in her hand, did not exactly know what was expected of her, and asked Lord Thynne what she was to do with it. "Your Majesty must carry it, if you please, in your hand." "Must I?" said the Queen, "It is very heavy."

Next the ring is delivered. Each

nounced to the waiting crowds that the King was crowned.

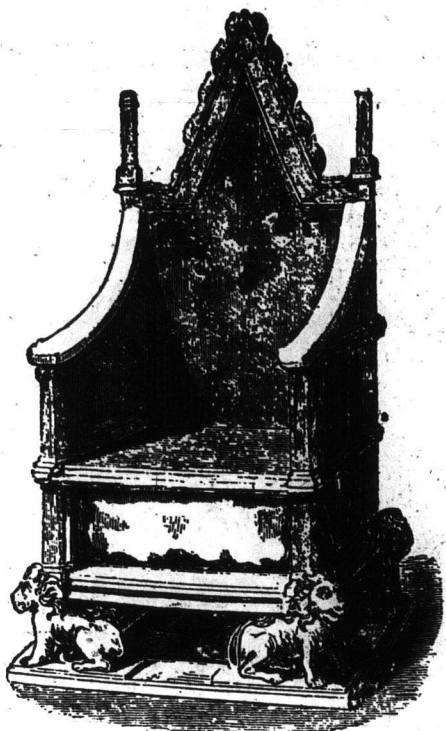
After the crowning comes the Archbishop's benediction, which the King kneels to receive. Since 1838 the Bishop's kiss, which used to follow, has been omitted.

The intracisation which follows is a very old ceremony. Edward the elder was actually "lifted up" by his nobles, and according to the rubric of the Coronation the Sovereign should be actually "lifted" on to his throne; but now the lifting is merely suggested by the Archbishop and bishops laying their hands on the King's arm, and conducting him to the throne.

Then comes a purely feudal, but a very picturesque ceremony, the homage, when first the lords spiritual and then the lords temporal do homage for the lands which they claim of the Crown. Then, at Edward VII's Coronation, the Prince of Wales, taking off his coronet, knelt and did homage to the King, with the other princes of the blood. Formerly they were classed with the peers.

The Queen Consort is now anointed on the head and receives crown, sceptres and ring. When the crown is placed on her brow the peeresses slowly lift their coronets and put them on their heads.

After the crowning of the King, and of the Queen Consort should there be one, preparations are made for the Communion, the King himself presenting the bread and wine used. He removes his crown and lays aside his sceptres before presenting the bread on the patena and the wine in the chalice to the Archbishop. (Here, at the last Coronation, the King and Queen made their oblations of fine altar cloths and wedges of



The Coronation Chair.

Sovereign now has his own ring. St. Edward's ring used to be used—"the wedding ring of England"—but this has long been lost.

Before the sceptres are presented the Lord of the Manor of Worktop offers the richly embroidered gloves. This is one of the few feudal ceremonies still remaining in the Coronation service. Having put on the gloves, the King grasps in his right hand the sceptre with the cross, while into his left hand is delivered the sceptre with the dove, an impressive exhortation being delivered meanwhile.

The actual crowning now takes place. The Archbishop goes to the altar, takes the crown in his hands, lifts it up, and laying it down again on the altar, offers a short prayer. Then the Dean of Westminster takes the crown, and advances with the Archbishop and bishops towards the King. Richard Coeur-de-Lion, it is said, was in such haste to be crowned, that he went up to the altar himself, took the crown in his hands, and delivered it to the Archbishop. The Westminster boys will doubtless not forget in June next that they have always had the privilege of acclaiming the King on his Coronation in the Abbey. As the actual crowning of Edward VII. took place the peers and peeresses with one accord lifted their coronets and placed them on their heads; trumpets sounded and the signal was flashed to the Abbey roof; whereupon the roars of artillery in Hyde Park an-



Coronation of King Edward I.

gold.) After the Communion the Sovereign again puts on his crown, takes both sceptres and remains seated till the close of the service, when he proceeds in state, with the four swords and the Regalia borne in front of him to the Chapel of St. Edward, the choir meanwhile singing the Te Deum. The Regalia are handed over to the Dean of Westminster; the King's imperial vestments are removed, his robe of state being again given to him, and he reappears carrying in his right hand the sceptre with the cross and in his left the orb, and takes his place in the final recessional pageant.

In former days this procession proceeded to Westminster Hall for the Coronation banquet, given up in 1830. With this banquet many quaint ceremonies disappeared, and with them those who performed them—the chief carver, the napier, the herb strewer, the officer of wafers.

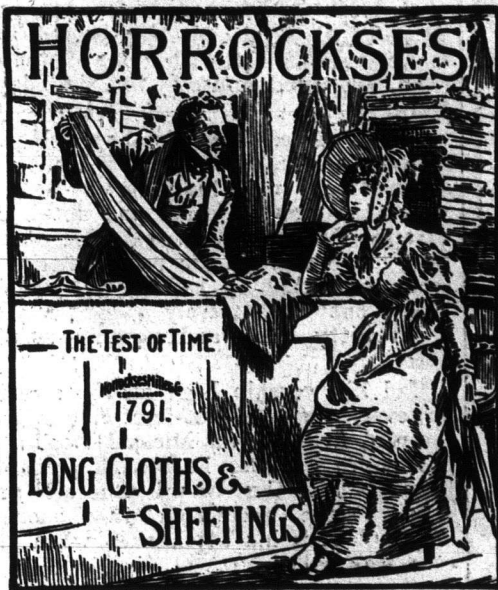
It only remains to mention the Order of the Bath, said to have been instituted at the Coronation of Henry IV., and so called because of the bathing ceremony which every knight had to go through on the eve of his inauguration. The Coronation of Charles II. in 1661 was the last on which the ceremonies of bathing, putting on hermit's habits next day, and being knighted in the Abbey by the King and invested by him with the ribbon of the order were kept up.

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