

## The Queen's Influence.

In that high station, where temptations are so many, where disinterested advice is so rare, where, as we all know to our cost, the tendencies of the time are specially insidious in their inroads upon purity of mind and integrity of character, the Queen's serene life, her fearless opposition to the follies, the recklessness and the vulgarities of the day is a refreshing and invigorating tonic. She has never been afraid of simplicity, of the common virtues of the domestic hearth, of being true to those elementary principles of conduct that are not always observed by rulers, and for neglecting which persons in high rank too often find a circle of courtly excusers. She has sorrowed with those that sorrow and rejoiced with those who rejoice. Her personal friendships have included men and women of every degree. In the great crisis of life, which come to all, high or humble, who have suffered in mind, body, or earthly happiness, the Queen has ever borne herself a true woman.

We have had long reigns before in the history of our own and other nations. Some have been remarkable for great deeds and great men. The sovereign, as the central figure of the period, has monopolized much of the glory and been accorded much of the praise due to others. The Queen is not being accorded this senseless adulation. It is not sought to claim her as the source of all intellectual effort, of scientific talent, of modern progress. Whatever the indirect influence of a powerful position like hers, it is sufficient to judge her by what we know she has accomplished. And this is the test which the Queen stands. The lips that may best speak of her excellences as a ruler are not yet unsealed. But all things are not hidden in these days of the press and the telegraph. We know that in trying times she has been a peacemaker among the nations, exerting upon her ministers a quiet force that has more than once averted evil consequences. Not an intellectual woman, perhaps, in the sense usually understood, the Queen has been possessed from the beginning of a quality rarer than genius,—the faculty of steadfast common-sense.

How familiar in our time is the passion for power, and how men and women pant to fill a great position greatly! To be the cynosure of the world, to be the reigning sensation, to cut, as a vulgar say, a figure in society, is a common motive with many. It is an ambition that besets monarchs quite as frequently as their subjects. From the tawdry glories of display and profusion the Queen has turned away, and is content with a seclusion that has been a better influence than a further encouragement to extravagance.

It is not courtly to institute comparisons, yet historians of the future will do it as in duty bound. They will naturally think of Elizabeth, of Anne, of George III., and of other sovereigns of modern England which stand out in bold relief from the past. Only the ignorant will say that because the constitution has been modified since these reigns, the sovereign's influence has disappeared. When what we now dimly know is fully revealed to the world the character of Victoria will not be the least precious inheritance nineteenth-century Britain bequeaths to the heirs of its name and fame. The Queen will always stand for a proof that as the century grew older and wealth accumulated, and irreligion assailed the strongholds of virtue and purity, and men and women drew away from many of the foolish ideas and some of the better things of the past, a woman filled for over sixty years the most brilliant throne on earth, presided over the proudest aristocracy in Europe, saw revolutionary changes in every department of activity, and yet retained, as the most potent element in her reign, the affection and love of a restless and advancing democracy.

—*The Westminster.*

## The Queen.

God save our gracious Queen,  
Long live our noble Queen,  
God save the Queen.  
Send her victorious,  
Happy and glorious,  
Long to reign over us,  
God save the Queen.

There is an outburst of genuine loyalty throughout the Queen's dominions, because not only has her valuable life been spared beyond the usual limits of human existence, but she has reigned longer than any other British sovereign. The universality of loyal demonstrations to-day will show that in her age, as in her youth, the greatest Empire the world ever knew throb from its centre to its outskirts with profound veneration and regard for her person, for her character, and for her throne. Long live the Queen!

Of all Her Majesty's relatives who surrounded her at her coronation, in 1838, only her cousins, the Duke of Cambridge, then known as Prince George of Cambridge, and the Grand Duchess of Mecklenburg, who was then Princess Augusta of Cambridge, now survive. The Princess Mary of Cambridge, now Duchess of Teck, was a child of a little more than four years; now her grandson, child of the Duke and Duchess of York, is the third heir in direct succession to the throne.