

## EDWARD VII.

Edward VII was proclaimed King of Great Britain and Ireland and Emperor of India at St. James' Palace, London, at nine o'clock on the morning of January 24th. The proclamation was made in the presence of a numerous assembly of noblemen, officials, and college heralds, amid the blare of trumpets, cheers of the people, and the singing of "God Save the King," hearty but solemn, and with an undertone of sadness for the Mother-Queen who lay still in death in the castle of mourning on the Isle of Wight.

It was a wise choice, and one fitted to please the English people that the King should take the title of "Edward." Some of his greatest ancestors are known by that name both before and after the conquest. It is English and kingly. Etymologically, it means "rich guardian," and is associated with what is brave, stately and regal. Numerically, the Edwards have exceeded the monarchs of every other name. Although they are fewer by one than the Henrys, we must remember that the enumeration goes back only to the conquest. Beyond that there were three Edwards, kings of the Anglo-Saxons, but no Henrys, which name came in with the Normans. If we associate the name Edward with the kindred names of Edgar, Edwin, Edmund, so common among the Anglo-Saxons, we see that it is national and English to a greater extent than any other.

Albert Edward, the eldest son and second child of Queen Victoria and Prince Consort Albert, was born at Buckingham Palace, Nov. 9, 1841, and is consequently in the 60th year of his age. The birth of a son and heir filled the nation with the greatest joy, and public rejoicings at the event were unbounded. He was Duke of Cornwall by birth, which title and revenue of £50,000 is now transferred to this eldest (living) son, Prince George. He was created Prince of Wales and Earl of Chester by letters patent December 8, 1841. He was under the charge of Lady Lyttleton, sister of the Hon. W. E. Gladstone, until he was six years of age. After that under various celebrated tutors, afterwards studying for various periods at Edinburg, Oxford and Cambridge. Every care was taken in his physical and mental training to fit him for the responsibilities of future kingship. In 1860 he visited the principal cities of Canada and the northern states, and was everywhere welcomed with every demonstration of joy. After the death of his father, in 1861, and the consequent seclusion of the Queen for several years after, he was much before the people, and was especially in request for those public functions which his father had discharged. He was married March 10, 1863, to

Alexandra, daughter of the King of Denmark. In the autumn of 1871 he was seized with a dangerous typhoid fever which caused much public anxiety. His recovery was celebrated with great pomp and rejoicing in St. Paul's Cathedral early in the following year, on which occasion the Queen emerged from her retirement and appeared once more in public, a circumstance which called forth from her subjects an outburst of joy not less genuine than that which heralded the recovery of the Prince. In 1875 he visited India, receiving everywhere congratulations and manifestations of respect of those in the far east who are now his loyal and devoted subjects. In 1878 he became a mason, and since then has taken every degree in free masonry. He has been for many years grand master of the order in England, an office which he now relinquishes on his accession to the throne.

King Edward has always taken a keen interest in the welfare of the people, and has striven in many ways to promote their prosperity and happiness. He has been a lover of out-door sports, especially hunting and yachting. He is a zealous student of the politics of Europe and the news of the day. He is wise, prudent and tactful, and with the example of the Queen before him, aided by the careful training he has received, will no doubt prove an excellent constitutional monarch, and seek to promote at all times the best interests of the people he has been called upon to govern.

He has an admirable helpmeet in his queen, one of the most fascinating and popular women in all the King's dominions. But she has a grace of manner more irresistible even than her beauty. Added to these charms of person and manner, she has proved herself a devoted wife and mother, a friend to the poor, eagerly joining in all her husband's plans for improvements of the people. Her work has been none the less effectual because it has been done quietly, but it has been marked with a discretion and tact becoming to the rather difficult position she has occupied. Much might be written of her many acts of kindness and her tender consideration for others. One instance may suffice:

Some time ago one of the ladies-in-waiting to the late Queen of Denmark, the mother of Alexandra, lay dying in the Royal Palace at Copenhagen. Her one dying wish was to speak with her Princess Alex. before she expired. Alexandra was quite unable to leave England at the time, but she spoke a tender and sympathetic message into a phonograph and despatched it to Copenhagen by special messenger. Already the dimness of death had veiled the old woman's eyes, when the phonograph gave out its message of love and hope and as the last words died away and only the vibrations