

## The Coronation Chair and Stone.

"These venerable relics have been over and over again described and engraved, but so inaccurately, in all works of this description, that a few words will not be wasted, perhaps, in their illustration. And first of the stone itself—the Lia-fail, or fatal stone of Ireland—the palladium of Scotland. The legendary history commences with the patriarch Jacob, who is said to have rested his head upon it in the plains of Luz; carried by the Scythians into Spain, it was thence transported to Ireland by Simon Breucus, or Breck, son of Milo, in the time of Romulus and Remus. Its place was the hill of Tara, and upon it the kings of Ireland are supposed to have been crowned. The miraculous power was attributed to it of proving the legitimacy of the royal race by making 'a prodigious noise,' and being 'surprisingly disturbed' whenever a prince of the Scythian line—that is, one of the descendants of Milo, or Milesius, King of Spain—was seated upon it. From Ireland it was removed to Scotland, 330 years before the Christian era, by Fergus the son of Parquhard. In the year 850 it was placed in the Abbey of Scone, in the county of Perth, by King Kenneth, who is reported to have caused to be inscribed upon it in Gaelic an ancient prophecy to this effect: 'If fate speak sooth, where'er this stone is found, The Scots shall monarchs of that realm be crowned.'

"At Scone it remained till Edward I. deposed Balliol, in 1290, when the victor sent it to London, with the regalia of the Scottish monarch, and presented it the following year 'on the morrow of St. Botolph,' as well as the regalia, at the throne of St. Edward the Confessor, through whose virtues he had acquired them; and with this fact its authentic history commences, together with that of the wooden chair which has ever since been its repository.

"In the wardrobe account of Edward I., amongst the entries of the year 1300, we read: 'To Master Walter, the painter, for costs and expenses incurred by him about making one step at the foot of the new chair in which is the stone from Scotland, set up near the altar before St. Edward's shrine in the abbatical church at Westminster, in pursuance of the order of the King in the month of March, and for the wages of the carpenter and painter for painting the said step, and for gold and divers colors brought for the painting of the same, together with the making of one case for covering the said chair, as appears from the particulars of the wardrobe books—£1 19s. 7d.' This 'stone from Scotland' is described by Mr. Brayley as bearing much resemblance to the dunstones, such as are brought from Dundee for various purposes, of an oblong form, but irregular, measuring 26in. in length, 10 1/2in. in

breadth, and 10 1/2in. in thickness. Tradition intimates, as we have seen, that this stone was originally brought from Egypt, and it is remarkable that the substances composing it accord in the grains with the sienite of Pliny, the same as Pompey's (or more properly Diocletian's) Pillar at Alexandria, but the particles are much smaller.

"The prophetic distich, said to have been cut on it by command of King Kenneth, is nowhere to be seen, nor can any trace of such an inscription be found. Buchanan says: 'This stone Kenneth removed out of Argyle to Scone, by the river Tay, and placed it there, enclosed in a chair of wood.' Of Kenneth's chair no remains have been ever heard of, nor does it appear from the historians that Edward brought it to London with the stone, though it is not improbable that he did so, and the mention in the wardrobe accounts of 'the new chair' rather supports the belief that the writer was cognizant of an old one. In that case the distich might have been carved on the Scotch chair. It was not very likely to be copied upon the English one.

"The chair is of solid oak, and still firm and sound, though much disfigured by wanton mutilations, as well as the hand of time. Immediately under the flat seat 'the stone' rests on a kind of middle frame or platform. All around, on a level with the stone, ran formerly a beautiful piece of tracery, in quarterly divisions, each containing a beuten shield, originally embazoned; but there are no vestiges of the arms sufficiently distinct to be identified. Of these shields only four out of ten remain—two at the back and two on the left side. All the rest have been broken away, and even the tracery itself is entirely gone in front, so that the stone is there fully exposed to view. The back is terminated by a high pediment, along each angle of which are five crockets; but these, as well as the moulding whereon they are mounted, are of an inferior workmanship to the rest of the chair, and of subsequent addition. Along each side of the pediment is a smooth flat division, about 3in. broad, which appears to have contained a number of small plates of metal, probably with armorial bearings enamelled upon them. The whole chair has been completely covered with gilding and ornamental work, much of which may yet be distinguished on close inspection. On the inside of the back are some faint traces of a male figure in a royal robe, a small portion of the bottom of which, together with a foot and shoe (the latter more what sharp-pointed) are still visible; but these were more so within memory. Below the elbow on the left side is distinguishable a running pattern of oak leaves and worms, with red-breasts and falcons on the oak sprays in alternate order; a different pattern of diapered work is shown on the right side, as well as within the tiers of panelled niches which adorn the outer side and back of the chair.

### THE KING'S VISIT TO CANADA.

In the summer of 1860 the Prince started for a tour through Canada, in compliance with a promise given to Queen Victoria, and he was everywhere received with great enthusiasm. We do well to remember that Canada had come to the rescue of the home country when the war had broken out in the Crimea by equipping and dispatching a regiment of soldiers. It was then, as lately in South Africa, a case of "infantry preferred," and the Canadian soldiers were among the most valiant of those who fought beside us in the awful war. If only to acknowledge the readiness with which Canada had thus acted, it was right and proper for the Heir to the Throne to show himself to the loyal Canadians. As soon as the tour was arranged, the President of the United States wrote a personal letter to his "good friend" Queen Victoria, saying

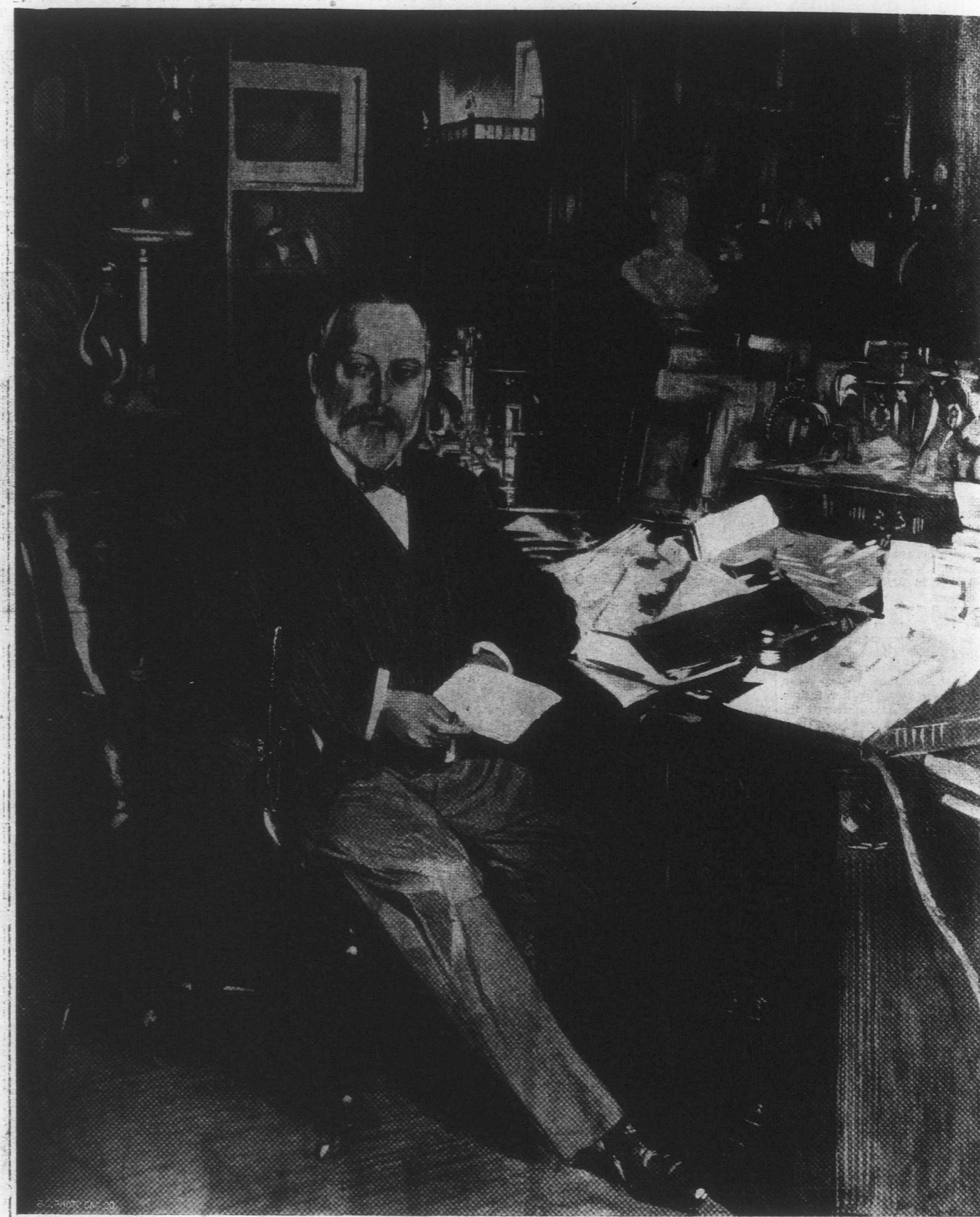
that the people of the United States would be glad if the Prince could visit America as well. It would have been ungracious to have declined, but at the same time the position was not altogether easy to manipulate. It was solved by the Queen's accepting President Buchanan's invitation, and explaining that the Prince would come to Washington, not as the prospective King of England, but as "Lord Renfrew," the name under which he travelled incognito.

St. John's was the first spot reached by the Prince, who was accompanied on his travels by the Duke of Newcastle, General Bruce, Major Teesdale and a large suite. He was greeted by loyal swarms wherever he went, and acquitted himself under all kinds of circumstances with dignity and tact. At Montreal he was especially well received. Blondin made his astonishing crossing on stilts, and even carried a man across

the foaming waters safely. The intrepid athlete was presented to the Prince, and was eager to have the honor of carrying him across on the tight-rope, an offer which, needless to say, was declined with thanks.—Black and White.

The Kings of the Belgians are not "Kings of the Swedes, Goths, and Vandals," at Upsala Cathedral. (The same monarchs are also crowned Kings of Norway at Drontheim Cathedral.

The Turkish Sultans are not crowned, but instead are formally invested with the "Sword of Osman."



The King Conducting the Nation's Business.

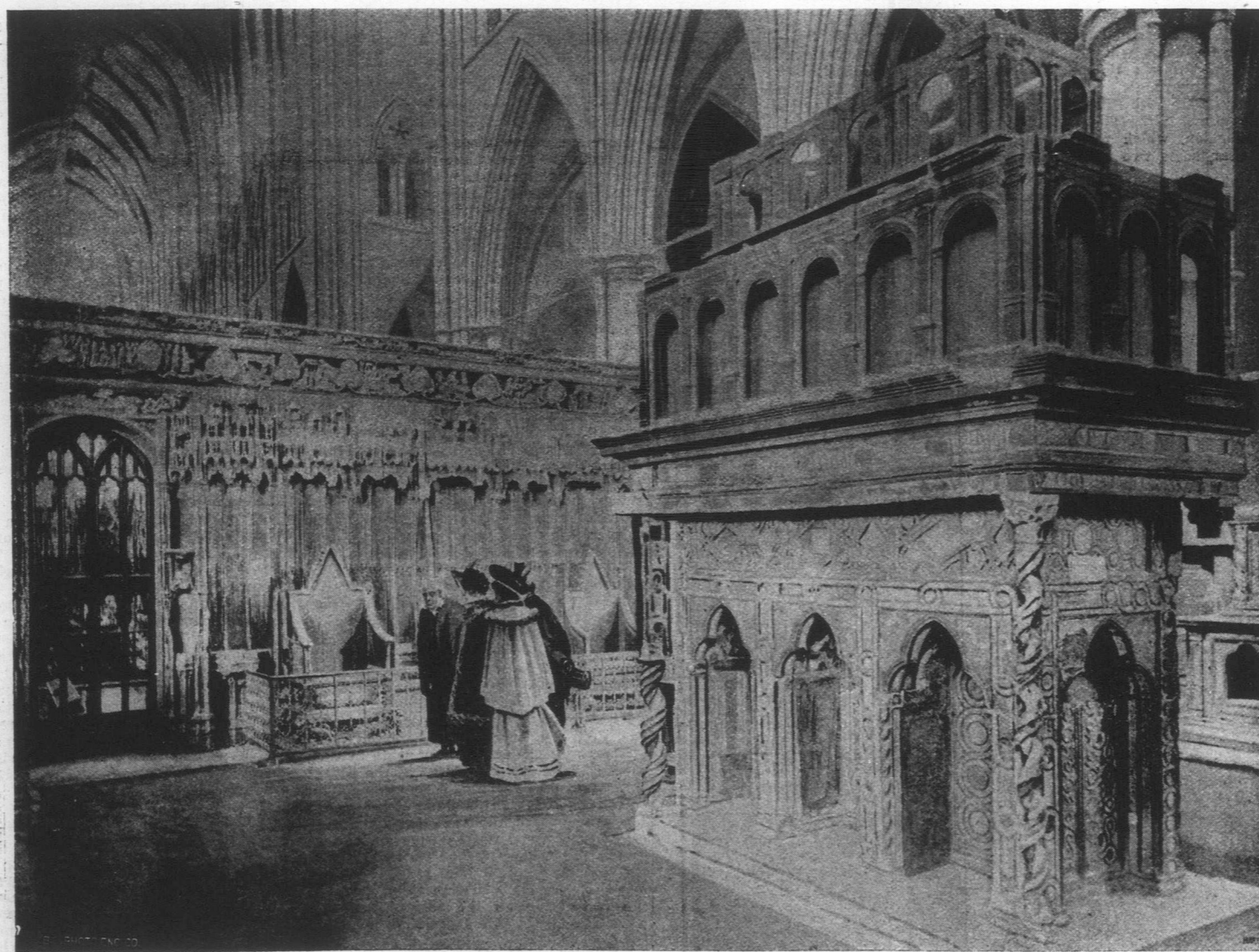
### A CHRONOLOGICAL TABLE.

Of a Few of the Chief Events Connected With Westminster Abbey.

A.D.	133 (7) Fall of the Temple of Apollo.	1559 CORONATION OF ELIZABETH, Jan. 15.
00-100 (7) Foundation by Lucius.	016 (7) Foundation by Segbert.	1563 Signature of the Thirty-nine Articles.
1042 Fulfillment of Edward the Confessor's Vow.	1059 Foundation of the Abbey.	1603 CORONATION OF JAMES I., July 25.
1066 CORONATION OF HAROLD, Jan. 6.	1066 CORONATION OF WILLIAM THE CONQUEROR, Dec. 25.	1626 CORONATION OF CHARLES I., Feb. 2.
1076 First Council of Westminster.	1087 CORONATION OF WILLIAM RUFUS, Sept. 26.	1642 Regalia taken from Abbey and destroyed.
1100 CORONATION OF HENRY I., August 5.	1135 CORONATION OF STEPHEN, Dec. 23.	1657 INSTALLATION OF CROMWELL AS LORD PROTECTOR, June 28, in Westminster Hall.
1163 CORONATION OF THE CONFESSOR.	1170 CORONATION OF PRINCE HENRY, June 14.	1661 CORONATION OF CHARLES II., April 23.
1180 CORONATION OF RICHARD I., Sept. 3.	1190 CONSECRATION OF BISHOP OF LONDON, May 23.	1685 CORONATION OF JAMES II., April 23.
1220 CORONATION OF HENRY III., May 17.	1236 Marriage of Henry III. and Eleanor, Jan. 14.	1689 CORONATION OF WILLIAM AND MARY, April 11.
1245 Part of Abbey rebuilt by Henry III.	1250 Chapter House begun.	First Chair for Queen's Consort.
1252 Excommunication of transgressors of Magna Charta.	1256 Parliament met in Chapter House, March 23.	1702 CORONATION OF ANNE, April 23.
1263 Commons assemble in Cloisters.	1267 Mosaic Pavement brought from Rome.	1714 CORONATION OF GEORGE I., Oct. 20.
1274 CORONATION OF EDWARD I., Aug. 19.	1290 Council expelled Jews from England.	1715 Great Bell removed to St. Paul's.
1296 Dedication of stone at Scone.	1308 CORONATION OF EDWARD II., Feb. 25.	1727 CORONATION OF GEORGE II., Oct. 11.
1327 CORONATION OF EDWARD III., Feb. 1.	1363 Building of south and west Cloisters.	1737 Monument to Milton.
1377 CORONATION OF RICHARD II., July 16.	1390 CORONATION OF HENRY IV., Oct. 13.	1740 Monument to Shakespeare.
1413 CORONATION OF HENRY V., April 9.	1415 Te Deum for Agincourt, Nov. 23.	1760 Celebration of 300th anniversary of Foundation, Dec. 28.
1429 CORONATION OF HENRY VI., Nov. 6.	1461 CORONATION OF EDWARD IV., June 28.	1761 CORONATION OF GEORGE III., Sept. 22.
1483 CORONATION OF RICHARD III., July 6.	1485 CORONATION OF HENRY VII., Oct. 30.	1771 Tomb of the Confessor opened.
1503 Foundation of Henry VII.'s Chapel.	1500 CORONATION OF HENRY VIII., June 24.	1812 Installation of the Knights of the Bath.
1547 First Bell Ringers.	1547 Last Sittings of Commons in Chapter House.	1821 CORONATION OF GEORGE IV., July 19.
1553 CORONATION OF EDWARD VI., Feb. 20.	1553 CORONATION OF MARY, Oct. 1.	1831 CORONATION OF WILLIAM IV., Sept. 8.
1554 High Mass for opening of Parlia-		1838 CORONATION OF VICTORIA, June 28.
		1842 Consecration of five Australian Bishops.
		1850 Consecration of Bishops of Columbia, St. Helena and Barbadoes.
		1865 Celebration of eight hundredth anniversary of Foundation, Dec. 28.
		1868 Consecration of Bishops of Grafton and Armidale and Mauritius. Also Bishops of Auckland and Bathurst.
		1877 Caxton Celebration.
		1881 Jubilee Service for King's College.
		1902 CORONATION OF EDWARD VII., "WHOM GOD PRESERVE."

### UNIFORMS FOR CORONATION.

The Kings-at-Arms, Heralds and Pursuivants, all of whom will perform incidental duties at the coronation, adding considerable splendor to its effect, will all have completely new outfits made for the event. The Kings-at-Arms will wear tabards or surcoats of velvet and cloth of gold, on which the royal insignia are emblazoned. They resemble sleeveless gowns in form, but are furnished with wings which fold over the arms. Their collars will be composed of links shaped like the letter S, made of silver gilt, with badges at the centre containing the shamrock, rose and thistle enamelled in their proper colors. They will be entitled to wear coronets. The heralds are to wear tabards of crimson damask, and the pursuivants tabards of satin.



Shrine of Edward and Coronation Chair.

### A FORECAST OF CORONATION

Continued from

and going along with the Kings Right into the Archbishop's Chair. Receive this King now from the Altar, delivered to you by the bishops and through unworthy. Then the King, sword, and going to there in the scabbard and sits down in King Section X.—The In

Then the King at and Imperial Mantle Gold are by the Master delivered to the Dean of by Him put upon the Lord Great Chamberlain.

The King sits down, Orb, with the Cross, altar by the Dean of delivered into the King Archbishop, pronounce exhortation.

Section XI.—The In nulum et H

Then the Officer of delivers the King's r Bishop, in which give church, the Archbishop fourth finger of His hand.

Then the Dean of the Sceptre with the De Bishop. The Glove Lord of the Manor put on, the Archbishop Sceptre with the Cross right hand, saying:

Receive the Royal sign of Kingly Power. And then he delivers the Dove into the King's hand.

Receive the Rod of Mercy, and God, who holy desires, all give all just works do and assist you in the and exercise of all which He hath given merciful that you be so execute justice, not mercy. Punish, tect and cherish the your people, in that they should go.

Section XII.—Putting

The Archbishop, sit altar, taketh the Cross and laying it again be altar saith a prayer.

Then the King sits Edward's chair, the Altar with other bishops, altar; the Dean of W the Crown, and the A it of him, reverently p King's head. At the people, with loud and cry, "God save the King and the Kings of Ar coronets; and the true by a signal given the Tower are shot off.

The presenting of the Benedictus, and the forming Sections XIII

Section XV.—The

The Te Deum being is lifted into his throne bishops and Bishops, of the Kingdom; and being placed therein, all the those that bear the sceptres, and the noble the other regalia, stand steps of the Throne; an standing before the King's head, the true hold fast."

Section XVI.—The

The Exhortation be