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THE DIAMOND JUBILEE OF QUEEN VICTORIA.*

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Silent forces are mightiest. Spiritual, moral, social, political changes are wrought for the most part by hidden energies. Spasms, convulsions, sudden revolutions, come not of the regular action of the forces, but from interruptions, diversions, and obstructions. In nature, the life-force, the growth-force, the health-force, are quiet in operation, but stupendous in results. Fibre and bark, trunk and limb, sinew and nerve, muscle and bone, are built up without display and noise. Disorder, disease, entail deformity, weakness, agony, and cries; but the life-product is symmetry, beauty, strength.

As in the body-physical, so in the body-social and the body-political, what is least observed is generally the most important and effective. "The things which are seen were not made of things which do appear." "The things which are seen are temporal, but the things which are not seen are eternal."

Before the world, in the open gaze of mankind we have in the closing years of the century the

most interesting political development and most impressive and instructive national lesson of human history. That armies should march forth from the capital of a warlike race, subdue peoples and enlarge kingdoms, is not wonderful; it has often been done. That ships should go by the way of the seas, found cities, extend trade, and enrich the parent state, is not wonderful; it has often been done. That devastating and fanatical hordes should demolish national ramparts, overturn thrones and dynasties, and agglomerate tribes and tongues in a barbaric and tyrannic civilization, is not wonderful; for it has often been done. Aggression and blood, power and conquest, have in all ages been the delight of millions of men. Broad domains are laid under tribute, and the sword cleaves the warrior's way to the crown.

But that in little isles of the sea, far remote from the original seats of men, beyond the boundaries of vast empires, there should grow up through the centuries a system of government, not of terror and force, not of standing army and imperial decree, but of law and administration, of parliament and court, is indeed a study, a wonder. That not the will of the monarch, but the voice of the people, should be supreme; that, indeed, the voice of the people should be the will of the monarch; and that it should

* The cut we use as frontispiece is by kind permission of the publisher borrowed from the "Kings and Queens of England." This little book gives an admirable résumé of the history of England in a rhyme, thus enabling the reader to remember with ease the succession and characteristics of the British Sovereigns. It is copiously illustrated and a very attractive little book.