

of the people must be safe-guarded as the ultimate source of political authority, and by prevailing upon the leaders of the House of Commons to act in a statesman-like spirit of conciliation.

The right queenly dignity with which the maiden entered upon the discharge of her high duties left no doubt upon the minds of her people that she felt herself to be the sovereign, and realized the tremendous responsibility which devolved upon her. She has never forgotten that the ministers of the crown are directly responsible to her. It was a matter of surprise to her early advisers to find that the girl Queen would sign no documents of which she did not understand the meaning and significance. Unlike her predecessors, she demanded a minute explanation of all state business ; so that her first prime minister said laughingly, and no doubt proudly, that he would rather deal with ten kings than one queen. She has spared herself no pains to become thoroughly acquainted with all the matters submitted to her for approval, and in the discharge of her high function she has known no rule but duty. When one of her ministers suggested that she sign a document on the ground of expediency, she quietly but firmly said : "I have been taught to judge between what is right and what is wrong ; but ' expediency ' is a word I neither wish to hear nor to understand." When another of her ministers, who had taken her some papers to sign, mentioned having arranged them so as to give Her Majesty less trouble, she replied : "Never mention the word ' trouble,' only tell me how the thing is to be done and done rightly, and I will do it if I