

**A RETROSPECTIVE REVIEW OF 1897.****THE ROYAL DIAMOND JUBILEE.**

The year 1897 will ever be memorable in the history of the Empire, because of the Jubilee celebrations of our beloved Sovereign's attainment of her sixtieth year as Queen of the noblest realm ever ruled over by a monarch. The event had been long anticipated with mingled feelings of joy at the thought of so auspicious an event; of anxiety lest it should be marred by a dreaded contingency; and the prayers of all Her Majesty's loyal subjects that the Supreme Ruler, who has the hearts of Kings in His rule and governance, would so extend Her reign as to make its closing years "happy and glorious" by being crowned with the universal acclaims of gratitude and love of Her myriad of subjects, who by heart and voice perpetually pray: God save the Queen. Through the earlier months of the past year preparations for the Jubilee occupied so much attention as gave even business a secondary place in the people's thoughts. The coming event absorbed more energies than were ever before devoted to one object over so vast an area by so many millions of workers, all animated by a common enthusiasm inspired by loyalty to a beloved Ruler. The Empire went into a "Committee of the Whole" to consider the "Ways and Means" by which the Jubilee could be most appropriately celebrated. The dominant wish was to leave, for all time, memorials of an Empire's loyalty and love. It would occupy many volumes to describe the innumerable methods suggested by this common passion. With Her characteristic sympathy with the suffering, and Her noble preference for the permanently useful to the ephemeral ostentations, the Queen gave the key-note to the Jubilee by avowing her desire that whatever Memorials be established they should be designed for the amelioration of the lot of the afflicted by sickness or other bodily distress. Acting upon this suggestion numerous new hospitals and other benevolent institutions have been founded, or existing ones enriched by Jubilee endowments. The late Sir John A. Macdonald once said he hoped from another sphere to enjoy looking down upon the prosperity of the Canadian Pacific Railway. Long distant be the time, but in the same spirit of confidence we may believe that the Queen will look down with "infinite delight" upon the thousands whose sufferings have been and are daily being assuaged by the ministrations of Her Jubilee Memorials. The Empire's Metropolis was the centre of interest. Thither were drawn representatives of all the dependencies under Her Majesty's sceptre. Every military force organized to defend the British flag sent its contingent to London. Most distinguished, however, in interest were the political chieftains of the self-governing Colonies, the presence of whose Premiers was an unparalleled demonstration of the vast extent, the political freedom, and the loyalty of the British Empire. In that

galaxy the "bright particular Star" was the Premier of Canada, "The brightest gem in the British Crown." Upon him the honour of knighthood was conferred, with a seat at the Imperial Privy Council, by which he was raised to be, The Right Honble. Sir Wilfrid Laurier, K.C.M.G., a title none wear with more urbane or graceful dignity. In the Jubilee procession Sir Wilfrid was the cynosure of all eyes, a splendid tribute to the illustrious rank of Canada amongst the autonomous, self-governing powers over which floats the flag that has braved "a thousand years the battle and the breeze." Of that procession space fails us to tell; suffice to say, there were represented in it, "all that rank, all that wealth can give," all "the pomp and circumstance" of arms, all that is illustrious in Government, in Commerce, in the Arts, all that is representative of Imperial races, peoples and forces, all the powers, civic, religious, educational, by which nations are developed, exalted, enriched and glorified. At the supreme moment of this day of days, the Queen saying in Her heart, "Thou who hast honoured me—I worship Thee," bent her royal head as she joined in thanksgiving at St. Paul's Cathedral, while the globe was being belted by the strains of God Save The Queen.

**THE JUBILEE IN MONTREAL.**

Montreal, the commercial Metropolis of Canada, being so rich in benevolent institutions, probably having no rival in this noble feature, it was not deemed desirable to increase them, though a stimulus was given to an effort to establish a Nurses' Home in connection with the General Hospital, which was opened soon after the Jubilee. The City sent a splendidly illuminated Address to Her Majesty, signed by the Mayor, which work of art was enclosed in a handsome case of maple wood adorned with gold hinges, clasps, and a plate stating the nature of its precious contents. This was handed to Her Majesty in person by the Rt. Honble. Sir Wilfrid Laurier. Jubilee day was magnificently celebrated by a procession illustrative of the local history, by illuminations which made the streets and the mountain a blaze of radiance, and by other demonstrations, the Festival eliciting the enthusiastic loyalty of our citizens of every race, creed, and class. The citizens Banquet given as a part of the Diamond Jubilee celebration was an eminent success. The Mayor, Mr. R. Wilson-Smith presided, and made a stirring speech on the glories of the Queen's reign. The Lt.-Governor of Quebec, Sir Adolphe Chapleau's address coruscated with brilliant points of eloquence. A distinguished guest, whose presence excited the greatest interest, was Mgr. Merry Del Val, who was visiting Canada on a special mission from the Vatican, presumably in connection with the Manitoba School question, a mission he avowed to be one of conciliation. His health was proposed by the Lt.-Governor, who, we need hardly say, belongs to the same faith, and the toast was commended to the com-