

for me, not for himself!" The Prince said afterwards that Victoria was the only person present who maintained composure and presence of mind.

"PARDONED."

Some of the Queen's duties were particularly painful to her loving heart. Before Parliament relieved her of the necessity, she had to sign the death-warrant of all prisoners sentenced to suffer capital punishment. It is said that this always caused her great distress; and that frequently she begged that the lives of the offenders might be spared. On one occasion she wrote *PARDONED* across the fatal scroll, her hand trembling with eagerness and emotion.

THE QUEEN AND EXPEDIENCY.

From the first Her Majesty evinced her resolve to give her whole mind to the duties of her high station. She felt the responsibilities which rested upon her. Returning from her first Council, we are told she threw herself into a chair, and was absorbed in thought for some minutes. Then addressing herself to the Duchess of Kent, she said: "I can scarcely believe that I am Queen of England: but I suppose I really am so; and in time I shall become accustomed to the change." And then the youthful Queen asked, as her first Royal request, to be left for two hours alone. Such reasons of retirement were often sought, and the result was seen in the devotion of Her Majesty to her public duties.

Her Prime Minister once said he could not place a single document in the Queen's hand for signature but she first asked an infinite variety of questions respecting it: and not unfrequently declined to sign her name until she had taken time to consider the matter.

On one occasion, having submitted some act of Government for Her Majesty's approval, he was proceeding to urge the *expediency* of the measure, when he was stopped short by the Queen, who observed with firmness:—"I have been taught, my lord, to judge between what is right and what is wrong; but *expediency* is a word I neither wish to hear nor to understand."

THE QUEEN AND SUNDAY SCHOLARS.

Mr. John Macgregor (Rob Roy) writes:—"Some years ago I went to Manchester to see a meeting of Sunday School Scholars when the Queen had promised to visit the place. On a wide field was an enormous balcony, like a vast dock for ships, with tier over tier of wooden seats. The children marched in 'fours,' and they took three hours to assemble. There were 50,000 of them present, besides 20,000 teachers. Sixteen tall pulpits each had a man with a bugle, and

as Her Majesty drove into our midst, the whole multitude peated forth the National Anthem, and the Queen of England stood up in her carriage and wept in deep emotion. Glad am I to know that our good Sovereign used to have her children, in their younger days, every morning to read the Bible, and then she prayed with them, and for them, and for the nation, 'and this prayer was not from any book.'"

YOUTHFUL WIT.

Royal personages can make puns as well as others—our own Royal Family being no exception. The Queen, when Princess Victoria, was one day reading Roman history to her preceptress, the Baroness Lehzen. She was at that part where a Roman lady having visited Cornelia, "the mother of the Gracchi," after the custom of the time, displayed her casket of precious jewels, and then called upon the Roman matron to return the compliment, when Cornelia proudly brought forward her children, exclaiming with maternal pride—"Behold my jewels." The Princess Victoria, who was then only a little girl, laid down her book, and, looking archly into the face of the Baroness, said: "Jewels! then I suppose they must have been Cornelian's."

THE MADAGASCAR CHRISTIANS.

At an anniversary of the London Missionary Society, the Rev. W. Ellis, in giving an account of his visit to Madagascar, said that in the draft sent out from England of a proposed treaty of amity and commerce between England and Madagascar, there occurred in the margin these remarkable words: "*Queen Victoria asks, as a personal favour to herself, that the Queen of Madagascar will allow no persecution of the Christians.*" In the treaty which was signed a month before he came over, there occurred these words: "In accordance with the wish of Queen Victoria, the Queen of Madagascar engages there shall be no persecution of the Christians in Madagascar."

WHAT IS "INTILLY"?

During one of the earlier visits of the Royal Family at Balmoral, the late Prince Consort, dressed in a very simple manner, was crossing one of the Scotch lakes in a steamer. He was curious to note everything relating to the management of the vessel, and among other things the cooking. Approaching the "galley," where a brawny Highlander was attending to the culinary matters, he was attracted by the savoury odours of a compound known by Scotchmen as "hodge-podge," which the Highlander was preparing.

"What is that?" asked the Prince, who was not known to the cook.

"Hodge-podge, sir," was the reply.