

Queen has ever stood for national unity—that she has been the one political power in the nation which is dissociated from the petty squabbles and ignoble sacrifices of party. She recognizes fully and confesses frankly that in the Empire over which she presides the will of the people is the ultimate authority. The people's decision may be wrong, but it is binding. To this fundamental principle in which she was early schooled, she has ever given her complete allegiance; and many cases are on record of her sacrifice of personal feeling and private opinion in the exercise of her royal prerogative.

So consistent has she been in living up to this article of her creed that the idea has sometimes gone abroad that our Sovereign is only a figure-head, a sort of Chinese Mandarin, one who mechanically nods assent to the will of the people as expressed in the proposals of her ministers. This is far from the truth. Time and again by the exercise of her royal office, has the Queen warded off national disaster. More than once has she prevailed upon political leaders to abandon a party victory for the sake of the national welfare. The temptation is very great to such men to use their power in the interests of party, regardless of the effect upon the weal of the whole community. When the national interests have been endangered by party conflicts, the Queen has ever urged moderation upon political leaders and the responsible use of the power entrusted to them. In one very notable case when a dead-lock was threatened between the Lords and Commons, the Queen prevented the disaster by firmly reminding the leaders of the House of Lords that the will