

II. And next, assembled as we are here in the House of God—we must gratefully remember that our Queen has been all her life-long a distinctly religious woman—a true believer in God, a devout worshipper of Him, and that she has let her subjects see that in all her trials and sorrows she has sought and found comfort and strength in her Heavenly Father's love and care. The influence of this for good can scarcely be exaggerated.

III. Our Gracious Queen's life has been distinguished by a faithful devotion to the high trusts committed to her care as a constitutional ruler.

From the fact that the British Empire enjoys the highest possible amount of freedom in self-government, our Sovereigns have not the same opportunities of exhibiting great gifts of personal power, of rule and governance, such as despotic monarchs possess. But the duties which fall to the lot of a constitutional Sovereign are of equal importance, and probably of equal difficulty; and in the discharge of these Queen Victoria has been signally successful. Her ability and faithfulness have been fully tested.

The country has passed through times of the greatest peril during her reign—times when political and party feeling ran high; but never has a doubt or suspicion been raised as to the even-handed impartiality with which she held the scales of justice between all parties. And the result is that while the political liberty and share in political power of the great mass of her subjects has been ~~universally~~ ^{imme-} extended under her reign, these important political changes have been brought about in a lawful and constitutional manner, without the rights and prerogatives of the Sovereign being even in the smallest degree called in question, and that this has been achieved in an age of revolutions, which have threatened and shaken nearly every other throne in Europe, is largely due to the sound wisdom, and true sense of her position as a constitutional ruler, which are distinguished characteristics of our Queen.

IV: But most of all have we—has the world—cause to be grateful to Queen Victoria for the influence for good she has exercised on English home-life, on the home-life of the world, by the splendid example she has shown in her own Court and family of a pure sweet true English home. The home is the source of all national life. Where the