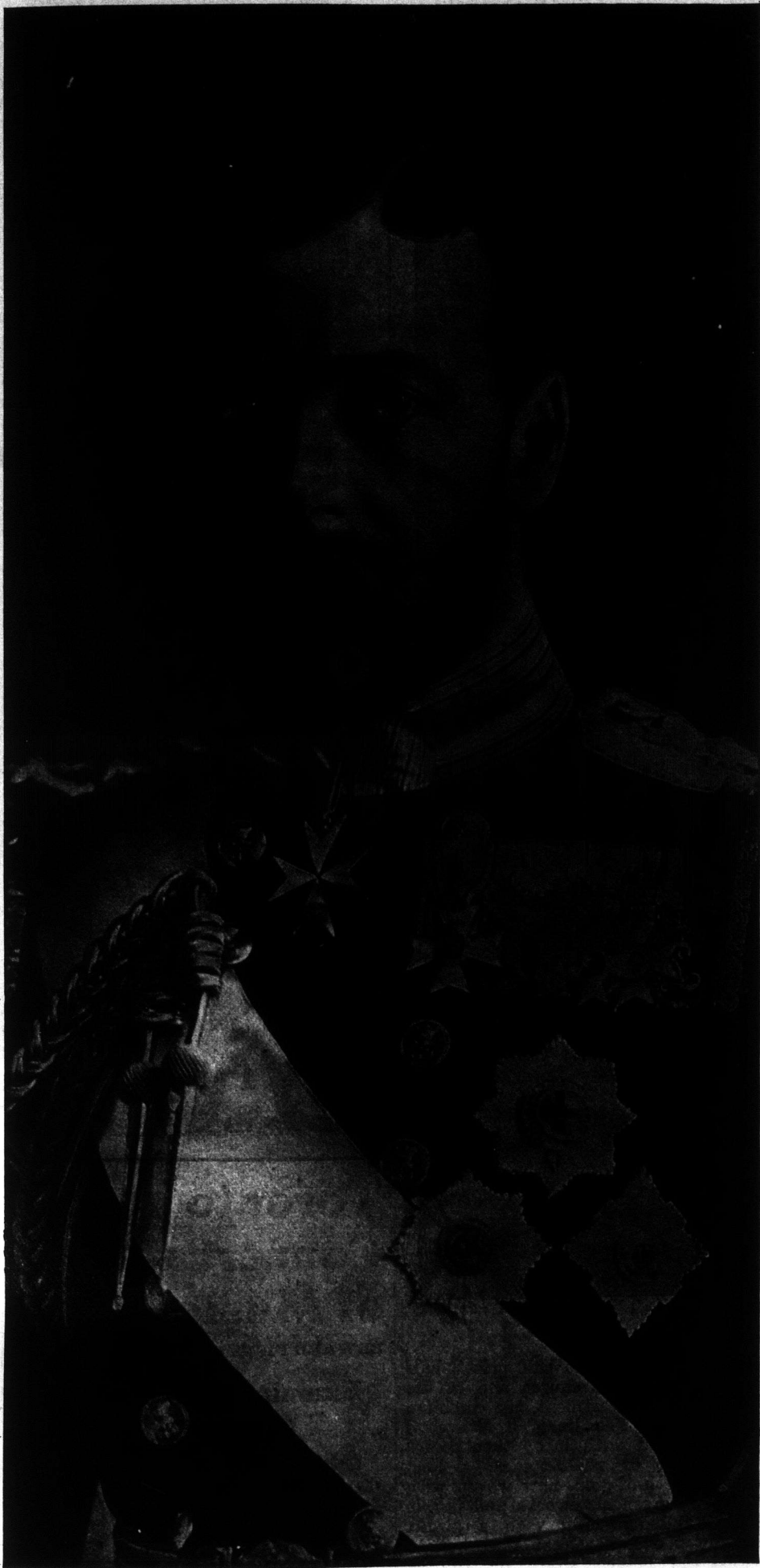


Normandy and Aquitaine, which once belonged to us, still followed the Sergeants-at-Arms. Not until 150 years after we had lost our last possession in France, was the custom discontinued of representing these two provinces at a king's coronation.

The Regalia have for centuries past been kept in the Tower, where in 1841 they were nearly destroyed by fire. A day or two before a Coronation they are removed from the Tower and placed in the Jerusalem Chamber of the Abbey—a room built about 1380, in which Henry IV. died in 1413. (See "King Henry IV., Part II., Act 5., Scene

origin in very early days, when Kings were "elected" or chosen by the people before being crowned. The first sovereign actually "recognised" was William I. The Archbishop advances and asks the people assembled whether they will choose their King, and they reply: "Yea, yea, God Save the King," whoever it may be. William I. was "recognised" four times, but King Edward VII. only once (in order somewhat to shorten the service.)

Instead of the King prostrating himself after the recognition, as King Harold did, he now kneels at the altar. He then presents his first oblation—a fine



The King

5). The Regalia are now brought from the Jerusalem Chamber on the Coronation day into the "annexe," a temporary structure at the western door of the Abbey, built only for Coronation. Here the King and Queen robe, and here the Regalia are distributed to the various noblemen who have to carry them.

When the Royal procession, with the Regalia and all, arrives at the choir of the Abbey, the ceremony known as "the recognition" takes place. This has its

altar cloth, and a wedge of gold weighing a pound. The litany and sermon should here follow but were omitted from the last Coronation. When, as in the case of King John in 1199, the sovereign being crowned is not the rightful heir the sermon calls for much tact and diplomacy. The Bishop of London has generally been called upon to preach the Coronation sermon, but not always.

The sermon being over, the Archbishop administer the Coronation

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