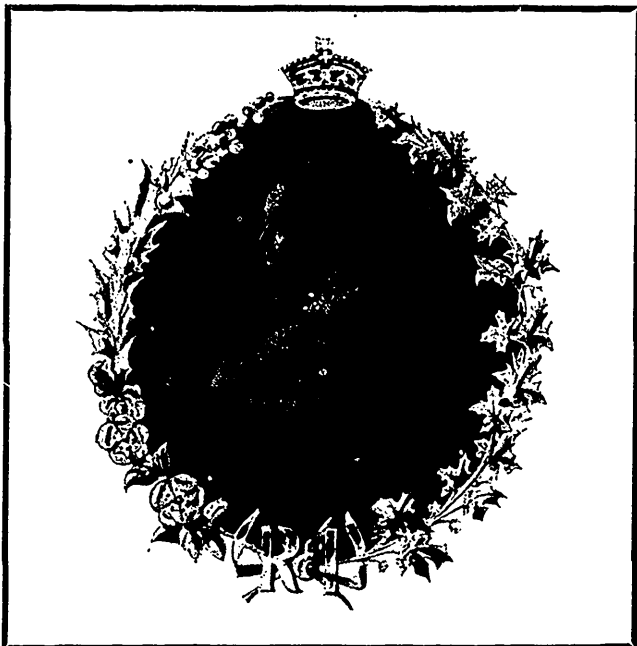


THE LAST NIGHT AND ITS VISION.

BY MRS. DE TOUFFE LAUDER.*



OUR LATE BELOVED QUEEN VICTORIA.

In the island palace of Osborne reigns silence sad and deep,
And the royal—mournful—watchers scarce dare to breathe or to weep.

In the Solent there moves not a wave; hushed in the moon's soft rays,
It seems to hold in its heart the memories of brighter days.

Beauteous Solent! Night her silver stars on thy surface pours,
And many a heavenly visitant is roaming thy lovely shores.

Hark! Hearst the angel messenger? The vision is not for you;
'Tis for our passing Queen Victoria, with heart strong and true.

For spirit-feet are noiseless; unholy hearts are filled with dread,
And Eli, though a priest, heard not the awesome tread.

Now a light in every colour bursts forth in the stately halls;
Above there curves that "Rainbow," and glory falls on the palace walls.

"And He that sat on the throne said: 'Behold I make all things new.'"
"All things new," echoed the wakening Queen; "blessedly true—"

"New home; new life; new crown—the Crown of Life—and day without night
To dwell in His sight near th: throne—His face for ever the light.

"O vision of rapture! Joy and bliss the King gives me in this!
All fear, all doubt at the dreadful abyss of Death I dismiss.

"On the echoing shore I behold my beatified four!
I am coming, Albert, coming, restored to thee evermore."

Toronto, Canada.

*At the Diamond Jubilee Mrs. de Touffe Lauder addressed to Her Majesty a poem entitled, "The Eightieth Birthday of the Queen." On the departure of the Volunteers for South Africa in 1899, she sent her patriotic song:

"O Britain! we fight for you, we stand for you true,"

which was sung in Massey Hall on Empire Day by the city schools, and again, "Afterglow; or, The Cross on the Sands," for all of which she received the Queen's kind acknowledgment and thanks, as well as for her letter of Christmas greetings.