

monwealth which has buried the past, and learned to appreciate the equal rights and liberties which, without distinction of creed or race, are the indestructible basis of British citizenship the wide world over?

The passing of Victoria naturally recalls that marvellous expansion in almost every department of human activity which makes her reign without a parallel. Whatever glories have been won by British arms upon the field of battle during the last sixty years, they are excelled by the results of peace. The victorian era of literature has nothing like it since the days of Queen Elizabeth; and it surpasses even that illustrious period in the variety of the intellectual wealth which it is destined to bequeath to future generations. The patience of scientific research has found its ample reward in a clearer understanding of the laws of nature and the subtle mechanism of human life; and so far from placing a ban upon the progress of religions thought, the church has to thank many of the *savants* for giving to her a wider appreciation of the manifold wisdom of God. In the midst of the absorptions of practical affairs, there have not been wanting some latter-day prophets to keep open the road towards the ideal. Never has the English-speaking world enjoyed greater freedom, nobler opportunity, more widely diffused knowledge, or more equable adjustment of the conditions of existence than at the dawn of the twentieth century.

It may be said that progress of some sort is to be looked for in the natural course of human evolution. But real progress does not come of its own accord. There must be effort behind it, and a proper understanding of the chief duties of life. It is the crown of human achievement to fear God and work righteousness, and no people that ignores His laws can ever hope to attain true strength and stability. While eager to consult for every kind of human interest, and to appreciate the results of the best culture, it is in this highest realm, most of all, that our departed Queen gave a pure example to her people. Whatever else is forgotten in the lapse of time, the wonderful spread of religious truth, the contagion of a royal influence which made for what is good, the unifying power of a Christian faith, and the beneficence of a Christian charity will be sufficient to immortalize the name of Queen Victoria.

And though her last days were not without their storm-cloud, the cloud has a silver lining. It does not become us to speculate upon what passed in that sick room at Osborne when those who were dearest to her gathered in awe-struck silence watching the approach of the last dread messenger. But while, to our poor thought, he came all too soon, the Queen lived long enough to behold the splendid spectacle of a whole Empire united in the indissoluble bonds of love and sacrifice. The reality of the joy which marked the Queen's Diamond Jubilee has been demon-

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