

# The Chatham Daily Planet.

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## Our Beloved Queen At Death's Door

### AGED MONARCH OF OUR EMPIRE LAID LOW WITH PARALYSIS.

PRINCE OF WALES REPORTED TO HAVE RECEIVED AUTHORITY TO ACT AS REGENT FOR HER MAJESTY.

Members of the Royal Family Gathered in Osborne at the Bed-side of the Distinguished Sufferer.

Cowes, Eng., Jan. 20.—Midnight.—The Queen of England lies at death's door. She was stricken with paralysis to-night. Reuter's telegraph Co. understands that the Prince of Wales has received authority to act in Her Majesty's stead and thus has been created a practical, though not constitutional, regent.

A local rumor, purveyed by Osborne House employees, declares that the Queen cannot live until Monday, but this receives no official confirmation, though it is admitted that the Queen is unlikely, if she recovers at all, to regain the use of those vigorous faculties which have distinguished her among the women of all time.

Gathered at her bedside are the Prince and Princess of Wales, Princess Louise and other members of the royal family, while Mr. Ritchie, the secretary of state for home affairs, officially represents the cabinet. Lord Salisbury is in constant telephonic communication with Osborne House, and it was rumored that he had arrived at Osborne, but this does not appear to be true.

The arrival of Emperor William and other members of the royal family is anxiously awaited.

For three days the Queen has been kept strictly to herself. The last time she drove out in Cowes the rain beat down heavily upon her. Even the natives, who have grown to look upon Her Majesty as an ordinary body, have noticed that she looked more delicate and shrunken than ever—a mere shadow of her former self—yet, with feminine persistence the Queen forbade those around her saying she was ill.

Tradition and etiquette decree that she is never ill; and so with dogged determination she fought off the ravages that worry over the Boer war, the deaths in her own family and her increasing years have brought upon her. But against the ruthless hand of nature even the imperial resolve of the ruler of the great empire proved futile.

Over two nights she dined at one and never stirred from the apartments she occupied at Osborne.

Humbly, for this monarch rules her court with no uncertain hand, her court officials implored her to seek medical advice. These messages she steadfastly ignored, and, though to-night her condition is admitted to be most serious, there are only in attendance Doctors Powell and Reid. Doubtless the Prince of Wales tomorrow will secure additional medical talent.

Her Majesty lies helpless and almost speechless in her bed in Osborne House, surrounded by every comfort.

Fruits, flowers, ice and all the accessories of the modern medicine are at hand. Osborne House is buried amidst a gloomy park of firs. It is brightly lit outside. The wind comes up from the channel and surges through the trees like a death dirge. A mile away stands the lodge. Beyond its portals none but the household can pass. On them, without the sovereign's knowledge, are posted bulletins announcing her condition.

Beyond the bulletins nothing official is obtainable; but not a soul connected in any way with Osborne seems to believe Her Majesty can survive this attack. In fact, locally the announcement of her death is awaited with something approaching composure. Never in the memory of her subjects has the Queen been ill before and that at her advanced age she has been stricken, it seems to those who have lived around her that it is impossible for her to recover. The village vintners, who have seen her from girlhood, wag their heads to-day and to-night and say it is a sad day for England.

The official bulletins may safely be described as optimistic. Their vagueness in describing the Queen's illness may be accepted as merely official evasions of the facts.

The information obtained by Reuter's Telegraph Company to the effect that it is a paralysis from which the Queen is suffering is based upon the highest possible authority. By Monday it is likely that the truth will be announced to the nation. The

extreme weakness of Her Majesty and the loss of her faculties appear to be at present the chief cause for anxiety. Stimulants are being freely administered. In the opinion of those best qualified to judge, the Queen's present serious condition is precipitated by intense worry over the losses and hardships suffered by the British troops in South Africa. Frequently she has remarked to the Court attachés that another war would kill her.

In this connection Reuter's Telegram Co. learns that she was most seriously ill while last at Balmoral in the autumn. No word of this be-

### RECESSIONAL.

God of our fathers, known of old,  
Lord of our far-flung battle line,  
Beneath whose awful hand we hold  
Dominion over palm and pine,  
Lord God of Hosts, be with us yet,  
Lest we forget—

The tumult and the shouting dies,  
The Captains and the Kings depart;  
Still stands Thine ancient sacrifice,  
An humble and a contrite heart.  
Lord God of Hosts, be with us yet,  
Lest we forget—

Far call'd our navies melt away,  
On dune and head-land sinks the fire—  
Lo, all our pomp of yesterday  
Is one with Nineveh and Tyre!  
Judge of the Nations, spare us yet,  
Lest we forget—

If drunk with sight of power we loose  
Wild tongues that have not Thee in awe,  
Such boasting as the Gentiles use,  
Or lesser breeds without the law,  
Lord God of Hosts, be with us yet,  
Lest we forget—

For heathen heart that puts her trust  
In reeking tube and iron shard—  
All valiant dust that builds on dust,  
And guarding calls not Thee to guard,  
For frantic boast and foolish word,  
Thy mercy on Thy people, Lord.  
Amen.

—Rudyard Kipling.

### A SOLEMN SABBATH IN CITY SANCTUARIES.

CHATHAM UNITES IN COLONIAL SUPPLICATIONS FOR OUR BELOVED SOVEREIGN.

Peculiar Emotion and Deep Interest of Citizens Who Saw and Were Honored by Her Majesty Recently.

Few events—past or present—have been so painfully interesting and pregnant with emotion, so far-reaching and general in their influence and effect, and so distinctive in their recognition by the sympathy of the whole world as the illness of our beloved Queen.

More especially is this true of her colonies, in whom Her Majesty at all times has taken an especial interest. Canada is under the shadow of the sad news and the universal gloom

H. G. Colles feelingly read the telegram, which had been received at midnight. Special prayers were offered in the Queen's behalf for her restoration. In the evening also earnest supplicatory reference was made.

At Park St. Methodist Church Rev. Dr. Hannon made appropriate reference to Her Majesty. He had read and had been much impressed with her life and earnest Christian character. He also spoke eulogistically of the Queen as a wife, a mother and a monarch. During the offertory Miss Pratt played, in modulated tone and very effectively, the National Anthem. In the evening the choir sang "Abide With Me," the last verse unaccompanied.

At St. Joseph's Church in the morning feeling reference was made to the sad condition of the Queen by Rev. Fr. Geburel, and the prayers of the congregation were offered.

Rev. Mr. Ross conducted the services in William St. Baptist Church, made reference to the Queen being stricken with paralysis and asked for the prayers of those present.

Rev. Dr. Butts preached in St. Andrew's Church yesterday. The reverend gentleman made the sad announcement of the condition of the Queen, asked for the prayers of the congregation and proffered an earnest and eloquent petition from the pulpit.

At Holy Trinity Church Rev. R. A. Sims preached yesterday morning. Reference was made to the Queen being at death's door and the prayers of the congregation were asked.

At the Victoria Ave. Methodist church Rev. H. W. Locke conducted the services and gave out the sad announcement, offering up an earnest prayer.

Especially appropriate were the allusions at the colonial halls of worship, emblematic of the true spirit which pervades all subjects of our Sovereign, whatever their creed or color.

Last evening at the B. M. E. church, Princess street, Rev. J. C. Richards, pastor, referred to the midnight telegram received in regard to the sudden illness from paralysis of Her Majesty, Queen Victoria. He spoke feelingly of her long and successful reign and prayed that she would be speedily restored to her health and strength again.

At the evening service in the A. M. E. Church, the pastor, Rev. Mr. Henderson, touched on the intelligence received from Cowes, and referred to her long career as the oldest sovereign of her extreme goodness, and offered up a fervent prayer for her in her illness.

Rev. Mr. Brady, of the First Baptist Church, King street, referred last evening to the sudden illness of Queen Victoria, and earnestly dwelt on her long and useful career as queen, and prayed earnestly for her restoration to vigor of mind and body. The congregation were deeply moved by the pastor's remarks.

At the afternoon service in the African Union Methodist Church, King street, the pastor, Rev. A. B. Selvey, referred particularly to the serious illness of our beloved Queen, and on behalf of himself and this flock, prayed earnestly for her restoration to health. The church, as a body, repeated the supplication.

HAVE SEEN HER MAJESTY.

Many of our citizens are peculiarly interested from the fact of having but recently seen our Queen, perhaps more especially our returned soldiers, Messrs. Skirving, Burrell and Wilson, whom, with the other Canadians, she graciously honored and received.

Gunner Victor Skirving was one of the favored soldiers who had the pleasure of being reviewed by the Queen. The memorable visit of the South African veterans to Windsor Castle is best told in his own words:

"While the Canadian and Australian soldiers were at Liverpool on their way home," he said in an interview with The Planet, "Chaplain Shercliffe, an English Church clergyman, took forty of the party of Canadians and Australians on a five days' trip through England. It included a visit to Windsor Castle. I was fortunate in



OUR QUEEN

### GOD SAVE THE QUEEN.

God save our gracious Queen,  
Long live our noble Queen,  
God save the Queen;  
Send her victorious,  
Happy and glorious,  
In peace and in power,  
To reign over us,  
God save the Queen.

Thy choicest gifts in store,  
On her be pleased to pour,  
Lump may she reign;  
May she defend our laws,  
And ever give us cause  
To sing with heart and voice,  
God save the Queen.

details of handing over to the Prince of Wales the necessary authority to transmit state business.

Though no official announcement of this transfer appears to be constitutionally necessary, or likely to be made, the tiny town of Cowes and across the Medina river separating them, east Cowes are both filling up with correspondents from all parts of the world and rents have risen to fabulous prices.

Fearful sorrow, not unmixed with

expectation, is written broad upon every face. That official secrecy which stops all callers at the lodge gates does not serve to mitigate the general dread that pervades the islands. They hold in their bosom the most treasured personality that a nation ever worshipped, and it is the general impression that forty-eight hours will bring the crisis of that feeble life upon which so many international

throughout our country is a solemn and silent sacrifice to devout and lasting loyalty.

The Maple City has been profoundly affected. Yesterday was a day of days in its annals, a day devoted to the highest interests of our Empire, a day of fervent prayer to a protecting and preserving Providence.

In all the city sanctuaries reverent reference was made to the critical condition of our suffering Sovereign, and the supplications of many a family altar besought a restoration to health and wonted activity.

At the First Presbyterian Church Rev. J. Muir, M. A., of Grimsby, who occupied the pulpit, made a feeling allusion to the occasion and in his prayer invoked the blessings of the Most High upon our Queen in the hour of her suffering and affliction, and upon the nation throughout this trial. The choir sang the National Anthem at both services and in the evening Mrs. John Cooper, commemorative of the sad circumstance, contributed an exquisite rendition of the Recessional.

At the morning service in Christ Church, at which Rev. Rural Dean McCosh preached the sermon, Rev. W.

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