

rational amusements. She showed her subjects that a life of religion and piety of the strictest virtue and honour, of earnest devotion to duty, was compatible with brightness, with gaiety, with amusements. The Queen and Prince were both gifted musicians. To the elevation of the art of music, to its diffusion amongst the masses, as an attitude of ignoble recreations, they gave a stimulus which was felt as a new source of happiness in millions of homes. When maternity, with all its sacred joys and sorrows, come to bless the Queen, her devotion to the royal offspring touched the nation's heart to the very centre, inspiring every home in the land with love for and sympathy with the Queen as a Mother. The Queen, the Prince and their children were felt to be a part of the national family, every phase of whose domestic life aroused the whole nation's affectionate interest. Our daughters may well,

"Pray but for half the virtues of this wife."

The Queen's tender love of children was seen whenever she visited one of the large towns. At Birmingham, for instance, when passing through an amphitheatre filled with many thousands of children, she stopped the cavalcade to listen to their greeting her with "God Save the Queen." Her eyes were filled with tears, yet sparkling with delight, shining through the veil of tenderness like the sun through mist. She sent to those children a message of love in return for their's.

Of the political and more public life of the Queen we have no space to speak, save in a few words. In 1840 the royal pair paid a visit to Ireland, where they and their children were, of course, most hospitably welcome, for where else is womanly virtue more evidenced, or more honoured, where else is hospitality more generous? But for the lamentably ill-judged advice of her responsible Ministers, the Queen would have repeated that visit frequently. That is now an established fact on the word of a late Minister of the Crown. In a recent year the Queen,

acting on her own initiative, revisited Ireland much to her joy, as it was much to the delight of Her Irish subjects.

Amongst the great historic incidents in the Queen's life must be named her most wise policy in softening the diplomatic message to the United States over the Mason-Slidell affair. To her cool head, sound judgment, profound love of international amity, both England and the States owe the avoidance of a quarrel fraught with terrible possibilities. It is also on record that all the measures passed in the Victorian era which were inspired by a desire to ameliorate the condition of the humbler classes, to cheapen their foods to better their sanitary surroundings, to open out public parks, to enlarge political freedom, to remove obstacles to social progress, to encourage popular education, to advance the science of surgery and the art of medicine; in a word, to all measures and movements of benevolence, of philanthropy, of justice, of statesmanlike intention to add to the welfare and promote the happiness of the people in her realm Queen Victoria was an earnest promoter. The Queen earned the benediction, "Blessed are the peacemakers," for her power was repeatedly exercised to stay such actions as were provocative of war. Yet no monarch was ever served by nobler armies, nor were ever greater victories won than those of "The Soldiers of the Queen." But their sufferings wrung her heart.

Alas! for the Empire, alas! for Humanity, this glorious woman, whose life and example and deeds were a blessing to the whole world, is now no more. For an earthly Crown, She has exchanged a heavenly

One

"So loved when living and when dead so mourned."

never before dwelt on earth. One, and one only, consolation we have, the Queen's rapid descent from life to death was an infinitely more happy fate than would have been a long, painful illness. For this mercy let us be thankful, as we cast our wreath of loyalty, of gratitude, of love upon the tomb of Queen Victoria.

GOD SAVE THE KING!

—
 ○
 EDWARD VII.
 ○
 —

The English Constitution provides that the Throne is never for a moment vacant. The next second to that in which one monarch expires ushers in the

reign of the next in succession. The sovereign who is now ruler of the British Empire is Albert Edward, to be known as Edward VII. The new King succeeds to one of the most difficult of positions. The people can transfer their allegiance from mother to son, but they cannot transfer their affec-