

upheaval and shaking of the faith of Christendom in our day,—still holding fast to the revelation of Jesus Christ; especially when we consider the wonderful revival of true religion which has taken place throughout the British Empire, and has gone on steadily increasing during those 50 years—a revival shared in by all Christian bodies of whatever name,—a revival unparalleled in the entire history of Christianity for its depth, its sober reality, its intensely practical nature and results; when we survey the splendid missionary work which British Christians of every name have carried on during those fifty years and are carrying on with a zeal, never surpassed in the best days of Christianity, to extend the blessings of the Gospel of Christ to the heathen nations of the world;—when we cast our eyes over the face of the world and see our country,—see the name of Great Britain, everywhere feared and held in honor, and the name of Britain's Sons synonymous everywhere for integrity, truth, justice, manliness;—it is hard to keep down the swellings of pride at the thought that in all this glory and greatness we share;—it is right that our hearts should overflow in love and thankfulness to that good and gracious Father to whose merciful Providence we know that we owe it all.

These are the splendid results of the Victorian era of England's history; and for it all, we thank our God to-day.

And what share in the achievement of all these splendid triumphs is justly to be ascribed to our Gracious Sovereign Lady Queen Victoria? For this is what we are especially to recall to-day. What benefits have we,—has our country,—has the world received directly through that noble Lady, for which we have to be personally grateful to herself?

These let us briefly review.

I. And first among these benefits must be placed her good and pure life, and her noble and widely influential example. If the British Empire is the greatest in the world, the Queen of England must be the most conspicuous person in the world, and her example the most influential. That we have had at the head of our Empire a Sovereign in whose life no flaw has ever been found is a benefit for which not only her subjects but the whole human race has reason to be grateful.