

Victoria.

BY MONIEE L. IN SWART.

Name whose marble binds are one All thy children meet the sun— None we love to dwell upon— Victoria

Name that wins the hearty cheer, Name of every Briton dear, Fondly cherished far and near Victoria.

As thou proved thy life has been Fit and good the Queen's "Duoet" None nobler has England seen— Victoria

Rolling not by power of might But by virtue and by flight Of thy life so stainless, white Victoria.

Thy kindness and sympathy Make thee loved on land and sea Even the alien bend the knee— Victoria

May our God prolong thy days' Thy children's voices raise With new songs and heart-felt praise Victoria.

Dorchester.

OUR PERIODICALS:

Table listing various periodicals such as 'The Best', 'The Weekly', 'The Monthly', etc., with their respective prices and descriptions.

WILLIAM BRIGGS, Montreal Book and Publishing House, Toronto. C. W. Coates, S. F. H. Bess, 217 St. Catherine St., Montreal.

Pleasant Hours:

A PAPER FOR OUR YOUNG FOLK. Rev. W. H. Willough, D.D., Editor.

TORONTO, MAY 19, 1900.

THE QUEEN AND HER LOYAL SUBJECTS.

The twenty-fourth of May, with its bonfires, crackers, and hosts of happy children, is with us once again, and her Majesty's birthday promises to be celebrated this year throughout the Empire with greater rejoicings and more of them than ever before.

As Queen and Empress, Victoria is honoured than the London crowd, unless it's a London policeman, so they laugh and chaff and sometimes make penny buns to make the me go quicker till I cry of "Here she is— Here she comes!"

THE QUEEN ENJOYS IT, and shows her enjoyment in her face. The English love always consider her their own inalienable property, and she is pleased and willing to be so considered.

forms the nucleus, and they will not be denied the privilege of cheering her, of looking at her, or of loving her. It is safe to say that in ninety-nine per cent of the homes in England, pictures of the Queen can be found.

Sometimes it is claimed that the Queen's portraits are softened and toned down till the more recent ones make her look younger than she really is, but this is certainly not the case with her photographs exhibited in the shop windows, which seem true to every line and every wrinkle.

APPECTION FOR HER PEOPLE, is sanguine and most sincere, no one can doubt who has watched her while the crowd shouted and applauded, not only on the occasion of the last great Jubilee procession, when she was so overcome that she cried, but on the occasion of some little unexpected outburst from the populace.

The Queen's leading characteristic is motherliness. She is a "homely" woman, in the good old-fashioned acceptance of the term. Higher than her state she holds her womanhood. In Court robes, surrounded by the pomp of a throne, the woman may be forgotten in the ruler of nations, but in everyday life as the people see her, dining in English streets, Scotch roads, or through the leafy paths in and about Climbie, visiting cottages, or enjoying alfresco teas by the wayside, she is, though

THE GREATEST WOMAN OF HER DAY, but a woman, essentially feminine after all, and taking the same genuine interest in her surroundings as the rest of humanity.

There is no adequate way in which to express the intense loyalty feeling for the Queen by all classes of the English people, she is more than popular, more than beloved, she is part of themselves, of their homes, and of the nationality of which they are so proud. Such words, perhaps, may sound overstrained, but the

interested in every detail, for the light that beats upon a throne has not left that of Victoria of England in darkness. The time and space have been devoted to the public side of the Queen's life that comparatively few people know much of.

HER WONDERFUL PERSONALITY.

The Queen is and always has been devoted to art. All the Princesses were taught to draw at an early age, and many of their sketches, as well as many of her Majesty's, were exhibited at Earl's Court during the Jubilee year. The Prince Consort shared the Queen's artistic tastes, and in the early days of their marriage they bought many carefully selected pictures, which have since increased many thousand pounds in value.

The Queen's coronation ring is among her most cherished possessions. It is designed to represent Faith, Hope, and Charity in diamonds, rubies, and emeralds, and is so heavy that it is only worn on state occasions. The engagement ring is of diamonds in heart shape, with one magnificent ruby, which the Prince Consort considered typical of the former is so that it is only kept in position by a "keeper". The engagement ring is of diamonds in heart shape, with one magnificent ruby, which the Prince Consort considered typical of the former is so that it is only kept in position by a "keeper".

The Queen, though she has travelled extensively in the United Kingdom, has not been much of a traveller outside of it. The greatest precautions are taken for her safety whenever she changes residence. A pilot engine in charge of a man thoroughly familiar with the road to be traversed precedes the Royal train. Nothing is allowed to cross the main line for half an hour before the time fixed for the Queen to pass.



CHAPEL ROYAL, ST. JAMES'S PALACE.

connected as it is with monarchs, statesmen, and generals famous to history.

To go back to the beginning: it was probably about the year 1100 when the first building on the present site of the palace was put up as a sort of hospital, being a lazaret house for women. Henry VIII, liking the position, purchased the ground, turned the occupants out, razed the hospital, put up a mansion on the spot, and, enclosing the neighbouring fields with a brick wall, surrounded himself with a fine park, at that time well stocked with game.

The building, of course, has been much added to at later periods, chiefly by Charles I, Queen Anne, George and George III. It has a somewhat rambling appearance, and is of mixed architecture—chiefly Gothic. The front centre shows much of the original, comprising the clock-tower and gateway, and the Chapel Royal.

This chapel, apart from its architectural interest, has many associations which make it more interesting still. In the first place, the Liturgy, as now used in the Church of England, was rendered here for the first time. Secondly, King Charles I. attended in these walls his last service on earth, just prior to setting out for his journey to Whitehall and the execution block. Here were married George IV. and Queen Caroline; and, coming down to our own times, here it was our beloved Queen was both confirmed and married. Later on, the Princess Royal and Crown Prince of Prussia were also married here; and at a still more recent date the marriage ceremony of His Royal Highness the Duke of York and Her Serene Highness the Princess Mary was performed.

George III. attended the Royal Chapel every Sunday morning in state, so long as the service, and so devout was he, that the Queen and family were in the habit of dropping off one by one, leaving the King to stand alone with his Majesty's equerry to freeze it out together.

Certain it is that not all the attendants were so devout as the King, for the story goes that one day a collection of Prussia and her daughter, coming hither one Sunday, found the chapel quite full—not a seat to be had! Looking round and finding the case hopeless, the duchess somewhat audibly observed—"Come away, Louisa; at any rate we have done the civil thing."

The Levees are still held in St. James's Palace. From the window of this room the accession of the monarch is proclaimed, and it was here so many years ago that our Queen stood and looked out on the surging, cheering crowd who had assembled to listen to the proclamation of her accession. In this palace died Queen Mary, two children of Charles I., Queen Caroline—wife of George II., the Princess Elizabeth—daughter of the Duke and Duchess of Clarence, and other celebrities. Here also were born Charles II. and George II.

The Palace of St. James's is one of the most valuable relics of old London, but its interior is very little known to the public. Who, on looking back upon the happy and prosperous reign of Queen Victoria, will now join me in the wish that she may long be spared as Sovereign of "Our Court of St. James's"?



ST. JAMES'S PALACE.

knowledge which inspires them has been gained in every grade of English society. The Prince of Wales is popular, his wife is essentially "the people's Princess," and for them, no other Princess exists, but the Queen stands alone in their affectionate regard, and the explanation, apart from all personal reasons, lies in the fact that those who in the height of their maturity are now teaching their children to reverence their Queen, were themselves born and brought up under the aegis of her protection.

The anecdotal side of the Queen's life has been thoroughly exploited. Stories of herself and her children have been told and retold till they are as familiar as nursery rhymes. Her coronation, marriage, widowhood, and triumphant Jubilee are as widely known as though each of her subjects had been personally

ST. JAMES'S PALACE.

St. James's Palace—it is no exaggeration to say—is better known by name than any other palace throughout the world. The very mention of it—in countries remote, and amongst peoples who speak other languages and have different manners and customs—wins instant respect and recognition; for does not its court wield a mightier influence than any other court; and are not its accredited emissaries the representatives of a power than which none is mightier? Being, then, what we may term the official headquarters of a nation on whose realms the sun never sets, St. James's Palace must ever possess a singular interest to the great majority. This is further enhanced by its past associations,