

In these democratic days some people may have a notion that the Throne of England is more ornamental than useful, but that notion is a foolish delusion. True, the Queen of Great Britain does not appoint men to offices in the civil service; she has no authority to do such things; she does not impose the royal veto upon the manifest will of her people. Yet, the Queen as a matter of fact, is of powerful authority, and though the limitations of sovereignty encompass her, she is powerful but not arbitrary, she is influential but not autocratic.

You have only to be in England and see the Queen received by the people whenever she appears in public, and any notions about the waning popularity of royalty will encounter a great shock. As for the cost of royalty and the groans of reluctant ratepayers, you must make allowances, first, for political catch-cries, which most people can see through, even when they are bellowing them; and, secondly, for the cost of Governments not monarchical in countries which need not be named, and then you will see that the bogie of maintaining a regal state is not such a terrible bogie after all, and that, by certain comparisons, it is rather an economical bogie."—*Arthur Warren in Hamilton paper, 1896.*

The occasion of this year's enthusiastic celebration is one without a parallel in our history, or in any national history. No other British monarch has resigned so long. The average length of reign during the last 600 years of English monarchs is about 21 years. No other monarch in any land, since the dawn of history, has reigned so well, and continued so steadily to grow in the admiration and love of her subjects as Victoria, Queen of Great Britain and Ireland, of Canada and all the British dependencies from east to west, and also Empress of India.

May it please God to spare the life of our gracious sovereign for many years, and finally, after this life, having wisely served her generation, may she attain everlasting joy and felicity through Jesus Christ our Lord.—Amen.

Let me add a passing thought. It is this: As we have attained a high position among nations, let there be a continuous effort to keep what we have won, and never to sink below the level which it is the boast of Queen Victoria's reign to have attained.

LITERATURE.

Of one thing we are most certain, that the press everywhere will this year fairly teem with volumes of literature relating to the Great Reign of Her Majesty. Every department of human life in the Empire will be represented. In the realms of art and literature it might be claimed that this reign had surpassed any preceding it, though there had been two great reigns of literature before it, of which the Elizabethan had produced the greatest poetic genius of all times. "Books are a guide in youth, and are entertainment in old age." Without knowledge of history the present cannot be understood nor the future

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