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THE KING'S MESSAGE. THE message addressed by King George the Fifth to his People Beyond the Seas is a dignified and cordial declaration of His Majesty's intention to uphold the principles of constitutional government and popular liberties throughout the Empire. That the new King would be faithful to these principles was of course never for a moment in doubt. The formal declaration is nevertheless gratifying to His Majesty's subjects.

York yellow journalist. We are convinced that it is not history, and it is not even good fiction.

HALLEYS COMET. THERE is a good deal of disappointment over the behaviour of Halley's Comet. The brilliant spectacle anticipated, has not been forthcoming. Many people are not sure whether they have seen it or not; and the great majority are quite sure they have not seen it. For this however the comet is not wholly to blame, the sky has been so cloudy every evening, since the celestial visitor was scheduled to appear, that there was no chance to see it however brilliant until last evening. The reports from distant points of observation are very contradictory, but not necessarily to be disbelieved on that account. That something unexpected has happened to the comet seems highly probable. One report credits it with two tails and one with two heads. Some people were under the impression that it has vanished altogether and some that only the tail had disappeared. Neither of these misfortunes happened; but such metamorphoses are by no means unprecedented. Biela's comet turned up with great regularity five times at intervals of six years and thirty-eight weeks but vanished after its appearance in 1852. As THE CHRONICLE said recently there are two wonderful things about comets. One is what a lot we know about them and the other is what a lot we don't know about them. Extraordinary preparations had been made by astronomers in every country, for increasing the world's stock of knowledge, by observations of Halley's Comet on this trip; but the stars in their courses seem to be fighting against the astronomers.

CHAUNCEY DEPEW'S BAD BREAK. WE do not of course question Senator Chauncey Depew's veracity, but we do question the accuracy of his information about Lord Salisbury's desire to go to war with the United States. As to the unwisdom of the eloquent senator bringing up such a matter at the present time, simply to promote an appropriation in the United States Senate there is no question. Nobody will take more pleasure in seeing the naval strength of the United States immensely increased, than the people of the United Kingdom—especially as they do not have to pay for it and in the last resort may reasonably expect the American navy to prove to their advantage. It looks like a case of silver tongued oratory degenerating into unpatriotic garrulity. If Lord Salisbury made the speech attributed to him by Mr. Depew's friend; it was exceedingly unlike anything else ever said by one of the greatest diplomats that ever lived. It reads more like the imaginative composition of a New