

the proclamation of Queen Victoria again, even more so than the official gazette, testifies to the continuance of the form by which the actors in the ceremony read the proclamation in a manner *pari passu*. 'The Queen,' it says, 'was then proclaimed by the Lord Provost and Islay Herald, who read the writ alternately sentence by sentence; it was immediately afterwards re-read by the Sheriff.' The official gazette varies its language as it describes the repetitions of the ceremony so as to render its account almost useless. It announces that at the Edinburgh Exchange the proclamation was first read by the Provost and 'afterwards repeated' by the Sheriff 'and responded to' by Islay Herald; that at the Town Hall of Leith the proclamation was read 'first by the Provost of Leith, then by the Sheriff,' and was 'repeated' by Islay; and that at the pier and shore of Leith it was 'again read by the Provost of Leith and Sheriff Substitute assisted' by Islay.

We must take it as practically certain that at all the places of proclamation of the Queen's accession, the proclamation was read out sentence by sentence by some local official and a Herald, the local official reading each sentence first and the Herald repeating it.

On the occasion of the proclamation of the accession of King Edward VII. on 25th January, 1901, 'the State Trumpeters, Pursuivants, Heralds, Lord Lyon King-of-Arms, the Sheriff and Lord Provost ... having proceeded to the balcony of the Cross,'¹ which was draped in black,² the Lord Provost called upon the Lord Lyon to read the Proclamation which he did, and was responded to by Unicorn Pursuivant.³

It was said sometime afterwards, that on this occasion the Provost had meant to perform the whole ceremony alone, both to read and to proclaim with his own voice had his health permitted. But even with all allowance for the loss, during the long reign of Queen Victoria, of the tradition of the parts played by the Lord Provosts on former Royal Accessions, the saying bears the mark of an imagination of a later birth. A proclamation from the Cross of Edinburgh by one single person was not known till 1902, when the Heralds introduced the practice in ordinary Royal Proclamations. The Royal Accession of 1901 was proclaimed and 'responded to' at the Castle and Holyrood; and even at Leith, where no Officer of Arms performed any part in it, it was 'read' by the Provost of Leith and 'responded to' by a Sheriff Substitute of the County of Midlothian!

¹ The market cross had been re-erected some years previously, the gift of the late Mr. W. E. Gladstone, then Member of Parliament for the county of Midlothian.

² Very doubtfully correct for such an occasion.

³ The *Edinburgh Gazette*, 29th January, 1901. The Lyon was the present holder of that office, Sir James Balfour Paul. The pursuivant was the late Mr. S. M. Livingstone. The present writer, who was in attendance as a member of the Bodyguard, vouches for the fact that the voice of Lyon, who was in theory reading to Unicorn only, was heard far and wide, whereas Unicorn's voice, which was meant for the people, was lost in his paper.