
CURRENT COMMENT.

EDITORIAL.

GOD SAVE THE QUEEN. THE 23rd ultimo was an important occasion throughout the British Empire, for on that day Queen Victoria acquired the distinction of having reigned longer than any other monarch upon the Throne of England. On the twentieth day of June, 1837, Her Majesty ascended the Throne, and on the 23rd ultimo, she had completed fifty-nine years and one hundred and eleven days of her reign; having ruled over the destinies of the English people one day longer than her grandfather, George III., who ascended the Throne on the twenty-fifth of October, 1760, and died on January the twenty-ninth, 1820.

The Victorian era has been marked by advancement along all lines. A comparison of things as they existed when it began and as they are now, discloses changes that are unparalleled in their comprehensiveness. During the reign of Her Majesty the population of the United Kingdom has increased from twenty-five million people in 1837 to nearly forty millions to-day. The value of the aggregate property of the people has enhanced six billion pounds sterling. The shipping of Great Britain has risen over seven hundred per cent.; so that to-day, by long odds, British shipping dominates the maritime commerce of the world. The policy of colonial expansion, pursued during the past fifty years, has added to Her Majesty's dominions to such a material extent also, that the Empire now comprises over ten million square miles of territory, having a population all the way from three hundred and fifty to four hundred million souls; or in other words, a sixth of the inhabitable land of the globe and a fifth of the entire population. Space does not permit of our touching upon all branches of trade, but we cannot refrain from drawing at-

tention to two important interests which have been materially augmented and which may serve as illustrations of the unexampled progress in industry that has been made by Great Britain during the reign of Her Majesty. During the year 1837 but eighty million letters were transmitted through the mails of the United Kingdom, while to-day more than two billion are delivered annually by the Imperial Post Office. Then, again, the year 1836 marked the inauguration of the first line of railway in England, while to-day one billion pounds sterling represents the amount of English money invested in Great Britain in that industry. There are to-day in operation throughout the British Empire twenty thousand locomotives, earning eighty million pounds sterling per annum and providing employment to three hundred and ninety thousand people.

The unbounded confidence and faith which the Crown has shown in its Ministerial advisers is responsible in no small measure for the steady advancement that has been made. Where there is discord and want of harmony between the people's representatives and the sovereign, leading to a thwarting of the measures passed for the well-being of the people, the nation must of course suffer. During her reign, Queen Victoria has steadfastly refused to interfere with the work of her Ministers, and has always shown a willingness to meet the people's wishes. In consequence of this, the harmony and good feeling that has been engendered has had its good effect in promoting the various interests of the realm in a way that could not have been hoped for if a reverse policy had been pursued.

Queen Victoria has indeed been a model sovereign, winning not only the love of the people of the motherland but