


## CHAPTER XXVI.

### A Final Survey.

Officers of State and Church—Recreation of Royalty—Governors-General and Premiers of Canada—Duration of English Reigns—Leading Events in Chronological Order.

N September 23, 1896, Queen Victoria, as we have already noted, had reigned longer than any other British sovereign, and longer than any European prince except Louis XIV. of France, who was King for seventy-two years, but who remained under tutelage for a long period after his accession to the throne. During her time there were eleven Lord Chancellors; ten Prime Ministers; six Speakers of the Commons; at least three Bishops of every see, and five or six of many sees; six Archbishops of Canterbury, and six of York, and five Commanders-in-Chief. She was contemporary with eighteen Presidents of the United States, eleven Viceroys of Canada, and sixteen Viceroyes of India. During her time France was ruled by one King, one Emperor, and seven Presidents. Four Kings occupied the throne of Prussia during her reign, and four Emperors ruled in Russia. Navies have been built where none were before, and the position of Great Britain as Mistress of the Seas is enviously disputed.

Among all the changes since 1837 none is more remarkable than the change in the sentiments of the British people towards the throne and the person of the Sovereign. At the Queen's accession there was among the people no loyalty whatever. Attachment to the Sovereign, personal devotion to the young Queen, rallying round the throne—these things were not even phrases to the working class. They never heard them used.

There was no loyalty at all, either to the Queen or to the institution of a limited monarchy, or to the Constitution, or to the Church. Loyalty went out with the Stuarts. The Hanoverian kings were in no sense popular; they represented a principle; they governed with the assistance of a few families, and by the vote of a small class.

Loyalty was extinct, it had to be re-created. It was re-created. Once more there was on the throne a sovereign who possessed the love of her people.