

"The common problem, yours, mine, everyone's,
Is—not to fancy what were fair in life,
Provided it could be—but finding first
What may be, then find how to make it fair
Up to our means."

Jubilee Celebrations at the Heart of the Empire.

The Diamond Jubilee of Queen Victoria's reign which was all but universally commemorated will make the year 1897 one of the most memorable on record. Never before has a single human being been the centre of so much earthly splendour. Our Queen has been with the Empire, she has watched it grow, helped it grow, aided it with wise, ripe counsel and a virtuous example for 60 years.

In March it was first officially proclaimed, that Her Majesty would go in procession to St. Paul's Cathedral to offer up her thanks to the Supreme Being for all the blessings of her long reign. London, the Empire's metropolis, at once began to prepare for the great event. Every where her reception was the same—a magnificent outburst of love and devotion. The Sovereigns of the other European States may well have envied the happy lot of a Queen, whose chief protection is her people's love.

The streets through which the procession was to pass between Buckingham Palace and St. Paul's are among the busiest in this great city. But for weeks, prior to Jubilee day these presented a more than usually animated scene. Every space available however small, or large, in the corners, along the sides, on the roofs or between buildings was being fitted up as stands. Large houses, halls and even churches appeared to be simply pieces of furniture that were to be packed up and sent abroad. One of the largest stands erected was in Whitehall opposite the Horse-guards. It took over six weeks to build. The rent of the site was \$45,000 and cost of construction \$30,000,000. It was built on foundations of solid concrete from 3ft. to 6ft thick, 150 tons of timber and 15 tons of 45ft. steel girders being used. There were several similar stands holding upwards of 5000 people. Every house, platform and seat had to be closely inspected and decided upon by specially appointed officials as safe, ere the owners could let them to the public. Venetian masts were erected along the whole way, from which festoons of flowers and loyal inscriptions were suspended. St. James Street transcended all in beauty. At either end were two massive Corinthian pillars, their capitals of gold surmounted by large globes, and their bases adorned with choice growing palms and flowers. Forty Venetian masts capped with the Imperial crown stood on each side of the street. From mast to mast were laced festoons of evergreens from which hung baskets of of rare flowers, birds in flight and globes of red, white and blue