

The Rockwood Review.

of a bad system, even if it did not extirpate the whole of them. These were all great steps in advance, and cleared the way for the happy reign of his successor. On the 20th June, 1837, he yielded his sceptre to the King of Kings, and passed away amidst the universal regrets of the British nation. There were some who styled him "Silly Billy" while he lived, but none who did not regard him as "Good King William" when he died. The writer can still hear the solemn "boom" of Great Tom o' Lincoln as the huge bell, on June 21st., slowly tolled the announcement of the departure of the King, and the clash and merry jangle of the joyous peal which burst from the old cathedral towers on the following day,—for there was no electric telegraph then, and the daily budget of news came in the mail-coach with its spanking four-horse team, and covered the doings of the yesterday,—told of the accession of young Victoria on the 21st. He had witnessed the illumination that evinced popular satisfaction at the advent of William, and so saw that which welcomed the coming of the Queen. He took part, too, in the procession traversing the streets of the ancient city, on its way to a grand commemoration service in its vast cathedral, on June 28th of the following year, when Victoria was crowned in Westminster; and proudly wore a white favor on the lapel of his jacket, when even a larger crowd, with a more pronounced display of enthusiasm, marched to the large church, on Feb. 10th, 1840, to join in thanksgiving for the happy union of Victoria the Beloved, and Albert the Good.

What a rage for everything Victorian marked the opening of the new Era! From a carriage to a shoe, all things bore the magic name. It started from every win-

dow, was posted on every bill-board, was to be found on a new street in every city. "Vic" was a term of endearment. Babies galore rejoiced in the title. Even cigars sold the better because warranted to be of the genuine Victorian brand. One of the most attractive proofs of the prevailing "rage" was the publication of the London daily "Sun," telling, in letters of gold, the story of the Coronation, and was embellished, in gold, with a medallion portrait of the Queen. What a rush there was for one of the mementoes of this glad event. A copy went up to fabulous price, and he was to be envied who possessed it.

Times speedily came that tested the fitness of the young Queen for the position to which she had been called. With clear-headed advisers, and her own good sense, she avoided rocks upon which her predecessors had run. She never set preogative above common right! never committed the error of even apparent opposition to the will of the majority. The rebellion in Canada beset her at the opening of her reign, but was happily quelled by the moderation displayed by Her Majesty and her Cabinet. Believing that intelligent men do not rebel against constituted authority, and so jeopardize life and property, without some reason, of greater or less importance, enquiry was made, and wrongs were righted with little effusion of blood. The blunders of George III., when American subjects rebelled in the previous century, were not repeated. She had, probably, a more severe test of her constitutional knowledge, and yet more narrow escape from the assumption of a false position, when a question arose as to the selection of the ladies of her bed-chamber. She, perhaps naturally, desired to retain about her person those for whom she had friendly