

through her descent from the four Georges who denied their descent from the palatine elector. There are, however, many who are not cognizant of the fact that she descended from the Stuarts and Tudors. Mary Stuart and Darnley were her ancestors, and they were both descended from Margaret Tudor, sister of Henry VIII, their father being Henry VII, the first reigning Tudor.

Queen Victoria came to the throne in June, 1837, or about three years before postage stamps came into existence. Since then the stamps of Great Britain and her Colonies have borne her likeness on the large majority of issues, and counting from 1840, when her head first appeared on stamps, the total number must be in thousands.

At her death, I believe, English colonies numbered over 100, and as nearly half used stamps with her likeness on, probably at the present time several hundreds of stamps have her features on them, counting postal cards and envelopes. In the natural order of things, the coins and stamps of the British Kingdom and her tributaries will be changed in the main and new sets may be soon expected with King Edward as the subject of design. Owing to his somewhat advanced age, another change is likely to take place in a few years and his likeness will be replaced by that of George V, and later by that of Edward VIII. King Edward is older than Emperor Frederic of Germany was when he followed his father, yet Frederic lived to bear his title only 97 days. I mention this to show the uncertain hold persons have on life and that changes may happen often.

Whether the Queen's death will affect the prices of the stamps which bear her

likeness is an open question, but it is very certain that the collection of them will be "quite the thing" for a while. To many Americans, next to the stamps of the United States the British issues are favorites. It is very certain that the 1d and 2d Maur of 1847 would be thankfully accepted by any collector, or the 2d of 1858. Who would refuse the 12d black of Canada, or the 6d violet or purple? There are many issues of Ceylon which would not be sneezed at, the 3a red, 1854 of India ditto. I would gloat over the possession of a 1sh. Gibraltar of 1886, or the 1d black 1840 and 1876 of Great Britain. Any one who is not the possessor of the "Grand Old Stamp," the 5d green of New South Wales, ought to have it, and the issue of 1882-88 can be procured cheaply. The 5sh purple of the same country is a beautiful stamp of the medallion style. Very few object to the pretty Jubilee issues, even if they were so so strongly suggestive of speculation. The issues of the Niger Coast are favorites with many. I could enlarge on this subject but I think enough has been said to give an idea of what a collection of valuable stamps could be made if a person's pocket book was plethoric enough and the said collection her likeness.

It seems to me that some issues should continue to bear her likeness. Canada's later issues have shown her as an octogenarian, and it wouldn't be a bad idea to keep one of these stamps perpetually in existence—the 20c green, for instance. Let this or some stamp bearing her likeness, be a constant reminder of the grandest woman of the 19th Century or any other century: Alexandrina Victoria, Queen of England and Empress of India.