

**The Queen's Birthday.**

The following song has been written and set to music by Mr. F. H. Torrington, Toronto :

Old England calls upon her sons  
To honour England's Queen ;  
Her sons respond, and daughters, too,  
To keep her mem'ry green.  
With loyal hearts and ready hands  
The Empire's children stand  
Prepared to do, prepared to die,  
For Queen and native land.

For fifty years our country's flag,  
Hath borne o'er earth and main,  
The name of Empress, Queen beloved,  
With neither spot nor stain.  
Long may it bear Victoria's name,  
Long o'er us may she reign,  
And for our Empire, broad and grand,  
May she new honour gain.

Upon our Queen—our country—flag,  
God's blessing ever rest,  
With peace and plenty everywhere  
Her people's homes be blest.  
God save the Queen, her people pray  
From hearts sincere and free,  
God save our loved Victoria,  
And crown her Jubilee.

Chorus—  
Victoria! our Queen beloved  
With loyal heart and hand,  
Thy Colonies and Fatherland  
United by thee stand.

**SCENES IN THE LIFE OF QUEEN VICTORIA.**

**THE EARLY TRAINING OF OUR QUEEN.**

From the days when the infant daughter of Ernest, Duke of Kent, was dandled in her father's arms, with the proud parental cry : "Look at her well ; she will yet be Queen of England !" her noble German mother seems to have cherished the idea of forming in her child, by careful training and restraining, under the Divine blessing, such a character as might pass unrebuked before her people, even in the "fierce light that beats upon a throne."

She was kept with jealous care from the evil influences of a corrupt court, and brought up, as only too small a proportion of her subjects have been, in habits of simplicity, obedience, frugality, and piety.

The following story shows that she was early made to bear the "discipline of consequences" : "The Princess had her allowance, and was expected to make it suffice and never to overrun it. Once, at the bazaar at Tunbridge Wells, she had expended all her pocket-money in a number of presents for various relations and friends, when she remembered another cousin, and saw a box marked half-a-crown, which would be just the thing for him. The bazaar people wished to enclose it with the other articles purchased. But the governess said : "No! You see the Princess has not the money, and so, of course, she cannot buy the box." The offer was then made to lay it aside till purchased, and the Princess thankfully assented. As soon as quarter-day came, down she came to the bazaar on her donkey, before seven o'clock in the morning, and carried the box away with her."

The young Princess was kept—notwithstanding her child-like wonderment at the little attentions paid to her and not to her sister—in ignorance of her nearness to the throne until she had reached the age of twelve. Her comment, when the matter was explained to her, shows that her reflective powers were quite beyond her years : "Now, many a child," said the young Princess, "would boast; but they don't know the difficulty. There is much splendour, but there is much responsibility."

We pass over the six happy years of free, open-air life, spent, for the most part, in seclusion, until the death of her royal uncle placed Victoria on the throne.

**THE MAIDEN QUEEN.**

Most of us have read Miss Wynn's pleasant story of the manner in which, after much ringing and knocking at the gates of Kensington Palace, and many remonstrances on the part of the maid, who was reluctant to disturb the sweet sleep of her mistress, the Archbishop of Canterbury and the Lord Chamberlain obtained access to her Majesty in the early dawn of morning; and how, "standing in a loose, white night-gown and shawl, her night-cap thrown off and her hair flowing upon her shoulders, her feet in slippers, tears in her eyes, but perfectly collected and dignified," the young Queen opened her lips for the first time in her new character, saying simply to the Archbishop, "I beg your Grace to pray for me." Then all three knelt down together. And thus the reign of

Queen Victoria was inaugurated by a prayer-meeting! Surely a fitting beginning for fifty years of blessing!

The delicacy of feeling in which she had been trained is strikingly illustrated by her gentle refusal to observe the propriety of addressing her letter of condolence to the late Queen—to her Majesty the Queen Dowager, instead of to her Majesty the Queen. "I will not be the first," said Victoria, "to remind her of her altered position."

The touching incident of her proclamation, when the young Queen, overcome by the enthusiasm of her subjects and the novelty of her situation, fell weeping on her mother's neck, has been exquisitely immortalized by Mrs. Browning :

"God bless thee, weeping Queen,  
With blessings more divine,  
And fill with better love than earth  
That tender heart of thine;  
That when the thrones of earth shall be  
As low as graves brought down,  
A pierced Hand may give to thee  
The crown which angels shout to see,  
Thou wilt not weep  
To wear that heavenly crown."

Victoria was soon to find a helpmeet in the cares of State; but, during the brief period of her life as Maiden Queen, she gave evidence of great decision of character and firmness of principle, coupled with a most earnest desire to understand the duties of her high position.

"It is clear," says Dr. Arnold, "that those matters in which it is our duty to act, it is also our duty to study." Acting on this principle, the young Queen was each morning in consultation with her ministers, and was soon initiated into the details of State affairs.

**THE ROYAL WIFE AND MOTHER.**

The Queen's marriage with her cousin, Prince Albert of Saxe-Coburg, took place on February 10th, 1840. It is well known that love dictated and ruled the union of the royal pair. "Father, brother, friends, country," writes her Majesty, with that simplicity and absence of assumption which charms the hearts of her people; "all has he left, and all for me. What is in my power to make him happy I will do."

"Her Majesty's tender regard for her husband made her very sensitive to the unjust aspersions to which he was occasionally subject, and correspondingly delighted when his merits were duly appreciated. Every true wife will appreciate the Queen's letter to Lord John Russell, when he had expressed himself very warmly concerning the Prince Consort's speech on the Jubilee of the Society for the Propagation of the Gospel, in 1851 :

"The Queen felt sure that the Prince would say the right thing, from her entire confidence in his great tact and judgment. The Queen, at the risk of not appearing sufficiently modest—and yet, why should a wife ever be modest about her husband's merits?—must say that she thinks Lord John Russell will admit now that the Prince is possessed of very extraordinary powers of mind and heart. She feels so proud of being his wife, that she cannot refrain from herself paying a tribute to his noble character."

Her Majesty's sacrifice of personal feelings in laying before her people so many of the sacred details of her family life, renders it superfluous for us to do more than refer to the pages of her published journals in proof of the fact that her own mother's lessons were thoroughly carried out in the royal nursery. As they grew older, her Majesty's children learned—by unconscious imitation of their mother—to take the warmest and most sympathetic interest in the lives of the poor.

One specimen must suffice. "I walked out with the two girls," writes her Majesty, in her Highland Journal; "stopped at the shop, and made some purchases for poor people and others. Really the affection of these poor people, who are so hearty and happy to see you taking an interest in everything, is very touching and gratifying."

**THE WIDOWED QUEEN.**

Many of our readers remember that terrible December night, when the light of the royal home was quenched. Even in that "first lone hour of widowhood," the Queen writes : "I can see the mercy and love which are mingled with my trial." She was much affected by the present of a richly-bound Bible—an offering from "many widows of England." In that graceful, sympathetic style which is peculiarly her own, the Queen wrote her thanks to her kind sister-widows, gratefully acknowledging "the consolations of God," adding, "that our heavenly Father may impart to many widows

those sources of consolation and support, is their broken-hearted Queen's earnest prayer."

In the many sorrows which have fallen upon the Queen since the sunshine of her life was shadowed by that first terrible storm-cloud, her Majesty has always responded sensitively to the touch of sympathy, though since that sad event her public appearances have been comparatively rare. She has never been careless of her people's love. When the nation watched with her in trembling hope round the sick-bed of her first-born, and rejoiced with her on his marvellous restoration in answer to prayer, her Majesty was deeply touched; not less so when that fated December day deprived her of the daughter who had been her husband's chosen companion, and hence specially dear to herself—the lamented Princess Alice; nor yet again, when the son, who, more than his brothers, seemed to inherit his father's literary tastes, was stricken down.

In all her sorrows—and in all their sorrows—ever the first to send a sympathetic message in any national calamity, our widowed Queen has "dwelt among her people."

No empty acclamations greet her jubilee, but heartfelt gratitude to God rises from the nation, as with one voice, that he has so long spared to it a Queen whom it can love and reverence without stint. Her name is worthily linked with that of her noble husband, who did so much for his adopted country.

**THE PRINCE OF WALES AND SUNDAY.**

It may be of interest to know how the Prince of Wales, the heir to the British throne, observes the Sabbath day. The London Quiver, in a recent issue, has an article upon this matter which shows how strictly he and his household observe the sacred day. We make some quotations :

When in their country home they are seven miles from a town; and although there is a station some two miles away, it is closed on Sunday, and no train whatever runs on that day. The result is that the church which he and his household attend is kept clear of visitors prompted by curiosity. The men employed on the estate have the entire day's rest secured to them. In fact no unnecessary work, in any shape or way, is performed in any part of the Prince's domain. Sunday at Marlborough House (his town house) is also spent in comparative quietude. Divine service is attended in the morning by their Royal Highnesses, and after luncheon the Princess and her daughters often attend one of the West End churches to hear some popular preacher, or to be present at a children's service, such services being much enjoyed by her Royal Highness. Beyond this, however, the royal family are, of necessity, compelled to pass the majority of their London Sundays either in the house or in the very beautiful grounds about it. When the Prince goes to Paris he always makes it a rule on Sundays to attend the English church near the Embassy.

**THE QUEEN'S WALKING-STICK.**

The walking-stick which Queen Victoria has found it necessary to use during the last few years is a staff of stout British oak, originally made for and presented to Charles II. by a loyal citizen of Worcester. When the Queen first used it, it only had a plain gold top, but in after years she required something to give her a firmer "grip" and to support her better, so there was added a queer little Indian idol which formed part of the booty of Seringapatam.

In the lobby of the British House of Commons, when jeered because he had been a poor boy who cleaned boots, the noble Joseph Bretherton replied : "It is true; and, my lords and gentlemen, it is also true that I cleaned them well!" In revealing the disposition of God, did not Christ learn to make doors and build walls? Every needful earthly trade is as glorious as the service rendered by angels in heaven. To sweep a chimney and to guide an empire are equally beautiful to God if beautifully done. Ignobility arises only when the black-coated professional takes a mean advantage of a fellow-creature or the shirt-sleeved workman puts in rotten wood and hides it with deceptive paint.

Reason Enough. "Mike, what makes you talk so much?" "Shure, an' I coom by it natural, sor." "How's that?" "Faith, an' wasn't me fayer an Oirish-man, and me mother a woman?"

**1837-1897.**

It was five o'clock on the morning of June 20, 1837, ten days after her eighteenth birthday, that the Princess Victoria was roused from her slumbers to receive the announcement that the burden of the great responsibilities for which she had been so carefully trained had at length fallen upon her young shoulders. The manner of her reception of that news and the impression the scene made upon the minds of the little gathering at Kensington Palace on that early June morning have been often told in stirring words by men who were spared to realize the strength of character, the quiet earnestness and the capacity for administration which underlay the artless innocence and modest manner of the young Queen.

By the time of her formal coronation, on 28th June, 1838, she had mastered the cumbrous details of court etiquette and, despite her slight stature, acquired that dignity of deportment and royal bearing which has been the admiration of Indian potentates and the envy of European courts, and has rendered itself especially remarkable at those numerous official functions and ceremonies which it is one of the penalties of her position to hold.

How fortunate the young Queen was in her choice of a partner who was not only a good man and a loving husband, but a cultured scholar and wise councillor, the nation at large only knew, alas, too late; but it must have been one of the most solid consolations on that sad 14th of December, 1861, for the young widow of forty-two to realize that the man whom she had delighted to honour had made his mark and was held in increasingly high esteem by the men of his time who were most celebrated for nobility of character, fertility of genius and breadth of statesmanship.

Her loss was indeed a double loss dooming her in truthful phrase to a position of "splendid isolation" for consolations and friendly counsels which could be enjoyed by the subject, custom and etiquette denied to the sovereign and that personal likes and dislikes must not be indulged in by the head of a constitutional government, the Queen had had early proof by the intrigues of Whig and Tory ministers and ex-ministers in connection with what has passed down to history, as the great Bedchamber plot.

It is interesting to recall the striking features of the long Georgian reign—1760-1820—and contrast the large part the pomp and circumstance of war played in that period as compared with the Victorian age, in which the achievements of science will most occupy the pages of history.

The reign of George IV opened almost with the Peace of Paris, which, on the 10th of February, 1763, secured Canada to British rule. But from 1776 to 1815 a struggle for very existence went on and stirring scenes were witnessed and daring deeds done by land and sea which will ever be glorious memories, with the sad exception of the blundering and impotent statesmanship which brought about the separation of the American colonies from the Mother Country, under circumstances which left so many seeds of bitterness behind—bitterness, however, which in the Mother Country itself has now wholly passed away. The days when Pitt, Chatham, Fox and Burke were the shining lights of the political world seem far more remote than they really are, and the effect which the victories of Howe, Rodney, Nelson and Wellington had towards establishing the commercial supremacy of the empire is seldom appreciated by this later generation, and it is only the very few who think of the political problems which began to be solved during the reign of the greatest of the Georges.

We can scarcely credit that the stage coach was the ordinary mode of inland communication when our Queen was only of her teens, that the only communication between the old world and the new was carried on at irregular intervals and under most uncomfortable conditions with a degree of legitimate apprehension which we now as justly ridicule, but that is not the place to review the vast changes in social and political life which have followed and are still seething as a result of the working of mighty intellects during the Victorian reign.

Had the Queen taken life less seriously and been content to act as the mere figure-head of the democratic movement which has succeeded the monarchical oligarchy of her long-lived uncle, the history of England and the Empire would have afforded no pleasant reading. Probably not till this generation has passed away will the evidence see the light of day which can incontrovertibly prove and that her influence has effected for the cause of peace during the last forty years.