

the wisdom she has always shown in her regard for the spirit and forms of the constitution, and the happy relation she has always maintained with her constitutional advisers. Even granting that she has been blessed with wise and prudent public advisers, when one considers the many, and difficult, and critical duties she has had to perform, and situations she has been placed in, and that in all there has been so little friction, she must be acknowledged to have proved herself a woman of great skill, tact, wisdom, and capacity for business.

The period of her reign which the Queen has now reached has naturally called large attention to its main features in many respects, and comparisons of the state of things at its beginning and today. The increase of population in Britain, the vast extension of the empire and increase in the number of her subjects, the material progress, the rapid growth in wealth, the discoveries of science, the great public undertakings, the wonderful literary activity, the improved condition of the great body of the people, their higher morals, the power and influence of religion at home, its far-reaching activities abroad—all combine to make the long reign of Queen Victoria the most glorious, take it all in all, in the history of England, or even of any country. It may be hoped that all which has made her reign so glorious, may last and mature into something so much better than we have seen in the past or attained to in the present, that it shall not in the future be looked back to as the Golden Age. For there remains yet much to be done, so very much that the heart is often saddened at the sight of all the wrongs that need to be righted. But this dissatisfaction with the present, bright as it is, and so much better than the past, has in it an element of hope, and a spur to effort, for it arises in no small measure from the higher idea that now prevails of the good that is possible, and of the imperativeness of the claims which all wrongs have for an attempt to right them, and which the most neglected and abandoned have to the efforts of their fellow-men to save and elevate them. There is room yet in every way, in every department of human effort, to make a succeeding reign as glorious for beneficent achievement as has been that whose great length calls forth in every part of the globe the congratulations and thanksgivings of millions of happy subjects of our good Queen.

THE VOICE OF THE PEOPLE.

LEAVING aside all reference to the circumstances and connection in which the words were spoken, Mr. Laurier, in a speech in his place in Parliament on a recent occasion stated a principle and a fact, which to Canadians as citizens of a free country, enjoying responsible, representative government, are of exceeding importance. They were stated by Mr. Laurier in these words.

"In early days Government was responsible to Parliament. But it could hardly be said that Parliament represented the people. It represented the classes and the privileged classes, but not the people. The great Reform bill of 1832, followed as it has been by successive instalments of extensions of the franchise, has brought the Parliament of Great Britain and the Parliament of Canada to be expressions of the direct voice of the people. This is the new doctrine which is now in operation."

We believe that there are both a principle and a fact stated in these words which every intelligent citizen, whether Conservative or Liberal, will admit is sound and true. The transition noted here by the Premier is really one of those bloodless but beneficent revolutions which have again and again marked the history of Britons in their native home or in their colonies abroad. It is a mark which distinguishes all free, stable and enlightened governments from every other, that it is the people, the whole mass of the people who count, the voice of the people which rules, that they are, and are rightfully entitled to be the masters, and that kings, queens, princes and governments and ministers, are but their servants, their ministers to carry out and give effect to their behests. Compare this doctrine with that of the divine right of kings to rule, and that the people exist only for their comfort or convenience, to do their will without question, and minister to their pleasure or their vices, and is it anything less than a revolution, and even a very momentous one? The divine right of kings is dead and buried beyond the power of any possible future resurrection; the divine right of the people is very much alive, is strong and always growing stronger.

The causes of this revolution, as is usual in all

such cases, are very many; many of them latent and subtle in their working, gradual but sure in their operation. We shall not attempt an analysis of them, but two, which we conceive have operated very conspicuously and powerfully, and which may be regarded partly as effects as well as causes of this revolution, may be pointed out. These are the assertion of their independence by the United States, and the exhibition before the world since they did so of the great object lesson—a free, independent, rapidly growing, powerful state, whose government is the expression in a very clear and direct sense of the voice of the people. The other clear and powerful cause of it was that wild outburst of the voice of the people, and maddened and bloody protest against the divine right of kings, and the arrogant assumptions and claims of a class, and their monstrous abuse of privilege which was seen in the French Revolution of 1789. The struggle which the voice of the people has had, the right of the people to say who shall govern them, and how they shall be governed, has been a long and hard one, often marked with blood, from the days of Greece and Rome, down through all the ages in different countries till the present day, when among English-speaking people, at any rate, the right of the voice of the people to rule, if not yet completely victorious, will soon be.

The changes which have already resulted from this great revolution are very numerous and important, most of them beneficent, and have in them the promise and the potency of greater and more beneficent results yet to be. We can only indicate in brief a very few. A careful observer cannot fail to notice that one of them has been to change largely the very character of government. Let anyone who knows the history of England compare the character of its government for the last fifty years with what it formerly had been, and he cannot but see that a complete change has come over it. Then, though not by any means all so, yet to how great an extent was it a thing of intrigues, plots and cabals of courts, and kings, and princes, wrought out in secret, of personal favouritism, and wars to gratify private ambition or spite, in which the people were simply counters, puppets and slaves to do the bidding of lords and lordlings set over them. It is not necessary to ask if that is the character of government now where the voice of the people is heard? It is not; its character is, if not altogether, at least in its substance changed.

But if a change has been wrought by the voice of the people, speaking with commanding authority, in the manner of government, a still greater change is apparent in the manner of government, or the subjects with which it occupies itself. This may be indicated by the remark attributed to the late Robert Lowe, afterwards better known as Viscount Shelborne, when a bill was passed in the House of Commons greatly enlarging the franchise. "We must now educate our masters," he said. When the people's voice is heard, it says to governments, "you must attend to us, our wants and wellbeing. We have souls and bodies, cravings and aspirations, and claims as well as princes and nobles. Cease your secret intriguing, plots and cabals of princes and courts, home and foreign, and listen to us." And so, domestic questions, questions of equal justice and right to all classes the humblest as well as the highest; of education, of improved social conditions, of trade and commerce and agriculture, of better homes to live in, scientific sanitary arrangements in cities, towns and even villages and rural districts, help in uplifting in every way, not one privileged class or more but the whole body of the people, because the voice of the people is now heard. Because it is the people who must pay for it, who must supply the money and human lives which war demands, who must bear its burden of sorrow and tears, and suffer the effects of the national and race hatreds aroused and kept alive by war; they have spoken, and kings and princes can no longer drive the people like sheep to the slaughter, to gratify their piques, and spite, and private revenge.

These are only the first instalment of those beneficent changes which have been brought about in countries where the voice of the people is heard and rules, and which, let us thank God, are spreading in ever-widening circles, and shall go on to spread, if only those who enjoy rightly appreciate them, and not only hold them fast, but in the wise exercise and use of such blessings seek to spread and share them, until they become universal, by the voice of an enlightened people being heard and ruling the whole world over.

Books and Magazines.

The *Pulpit* for September, in addition to sermons, gives a likeness of the writers of each and in two cases a biographical sketch as well. The sermons are "The Christ Life," by Rev. J. B. Whitford; "The Only Perfect Standard of Right," by Rev. U. F. Swengel; "Power of God," by Rev. Walter S. Smith; "Hospitality," by Rev. Charles E. Wehler; "The Witch of Endor," by Rev. J. E. Lancelotti, D.D.; "Adaptation in Religious Teaching," by Rev. John B. Robins, D.D.; "Leading Thoughts of Recent Sermons," close the periodical for the month. [G. Helzappel, Fredericksburg, Pa., U.S.]

The *Ladies' Home Journal* for October attracts at once by its specially beautiful and attractive cover. The promise of the outside is fulfilled within. It is full of excellent and beautiful things. We note the following articles: "The Most Luxurious City in the World," that is New York; "The Minister of St. Bedes," by Ian Maclaren; "The Most Mysterious People in America," the cliff dwellers; "The Experiment in the Cloister," by Jane G. Austin; "This Country of Ours," by Ex-President Harrison. After these are papers for girls, young men, boys, the housekeeper; hints on dressing and gardening and much else that is good and interesting. [The Curtis Publishing Company, Philadelphia.]

The October *Missionary Review of the World* well maintains its interest and value. In the "Literature of Missions" we note the following articles: "William E. Dodge, one of the Promoters of Missions," with a beautiful likeness, by the Editor-in-Chief. "Gospel Work in Persia," "The Russian Stundists," "The Malabar Syrians" and "Mohammedan Worship," "Woman in Mohammedan Lands." In the International Department, always valuable, edited by Rev. J. T. Gracey, D.D., we notice "The Power of the Gospel in India," by the Rev. H. F. La Flamme; and "Advance in Korea," by Rev. Geo. H. Jones. Missions in Turkey, Persia, Arabia, Siberia, Russia are noticed in the field of *Monthly Survey*. Other departments of this admirable missionary periodical are well filled with interesting matter. [Funk & Wagnalls Company, 30 Lafayette Place New York, N.Y., U.S.]

Scribner's Magazine for October opens with a beautifully executed symbolic illustration entitled "Military Music." "Sentimental Tommie," by Barrie, which has been continued through many numbers, is to be concluded next month. "On the Trail of Don Quixote," is continued. Interesting illustrations accompany "The Sculpture of Olin Warner." An interesting account is given by P. H. and E. W. Blashfield of Sienna, the city of the Virgin, with illustrations by the former. Important articles are "The Government of the Greater New York," by Francis V. Greene; "From Light to Light," a cruise of the Armeria Supply Ship; "The Expediture of Rich men," and "The New York Working Girl," with illustrations from life, by Mary Gay Humphreys. In "The Point of View," "The Field of Art" and "About the World" are the usual variety of interesting notes on various subjects. [Charles Scribner's Sons N.Y., U.S.]

The *Arena* deals very emphatically with important public questions. Among these in the number for this month may be mentioned: "Silver a Money Metal," by Senator Morgan; "What the Remonetization of Silver would Do for the Republic," "Free Silver vs. Free Gold," "Municipal Reform," "How Prince Edward Island settled its Land Question," "Dual Suffrage." Other articles of a different kind are "The Religion of Jesus Christ in its Relation to Christianity and Reforms," "Are our Christian Missionaries in India Frauds," "The Peril of Encouraging the Persecuting Spirit," by the Editor. Finally we notice "Japanese Elements in the Last Days of Pompeii," "The Question of Genius," "Soul Evolution." The serial "Between Two Worlds" is continued. Reviews of many recent books and notes by the Editor complete the number. [The Arena Publishing Company, Boston, Mass. U.S.]

The following short stories noteworthy in quality are found in *Harper's Magazine* for October: "The Hypnotist," by Olive Thayer; "The Unveiled Life of Little Mary Ellen," by Ruth McEnery Stuart; "The Vigil of McDowell Sutor," a study of New York life, by Brander Matthews; "The Pity of It," by L. D. Underhill; "At the Grand Hotel, St. Louis," is by a writer new to Harper, Georgina Peel; and "Faith and Faithfulness" is a story of Southern life of the last generation. Poems by several well-known writers are to be found in this number. The Editor's Study discusses the "Garden of the Mind," and some effects of land-grabbing. The Editor's Drawer contains an interesting mélange, and special features are: "The Martian," a new novel, by George Du Maurier, with illustrations by the author; "The Blue Quail of the Cactus," by Frederic Remington, with six illustrations by the author; "Electricity," by R. R. Bowker, with twenty-four illustrations; and "A Black Settlement," by Martha McCulloch-Williams, with nine illustrations. [Harper Brothers, New York, N.Y., U.S.]

The October *Atlantic Monthly*, besides continued articles, contains a large and varied amount of interesting reading. The continued papers are: "Marm Lisa," "The Spirit of an Illinois Town," "Girls in a Factory Valley," and "The Old Things," concluded. Among many interesting articles we may mention these: "Five American Contributions to American Civilization," "The Political Menace of the Discontented," "The Imperilled Dignity of Science and Law," "Tis Sixty Years Since," "At Harvard," by Edward Everett Hale; "The Fate of the Colosseum," "Margaret Fuller in a New Aspect," and "The French and the English View of India." W. D. Howells, John Burroughs and W. P. Trent, in "Men of Letters," write brief but interesting notes, and in "The Contributors Club" there are notes on "Desirable Occupations for Ancestors," "The Orbit of Good Stories," and "The English Speech on Irish Lips." Reviews of many new books grouped under appropriate heads are as usual to be found. [Houghton, Mifflin & Company, Boston, Mass., U.S.]