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## Edward the Seventh

The British nation has lost not only its sovereign, but its greatest statesman, and its best beloved public man. The blow was staggering in its suddenness. Rumours regarding the King's health had always been more or less current, and always greatly discounted. On Friday morning came the first intelligence to cause serious public anxiety and, before midnight, came the distressing news of His Majesty's death. Never, not even in the case of the dearly loved Queen Victoria, has there been among our people, a more wide-spread sense of personal bereavement; and not even in that case such a profound sense of national loss. It was a marvellous thing that in our crowned republic properly jealous of the liberties of the people public confidence centered more in the King, than in his constitutional advisers, or in the chosen representatives of the electorate in Parliament. Never did monarch wield such absolute power over a federation of nations committed to his charge; and that not by the exercise of physical force, but by the moral influence of a great mind and a devoted heart. In Homeric language, the "willing nations knew their lawful lord," they trusted him and they loved him. Well did he justify their confidence. England has had many great diplomatists and foreign ministers, but not one to equal in sagacity and tact King Edward the Seventh. It is not too much to say that his personal influence has been almost paramount throughout Europe, and even beyond the borders of Europe during his reign. Nearly all nations have had reasons for thankfulness to the King for his kindly influence; and the best evidence of this is to be found in the appreciative tributes to his memory, and the warm expressions of sympathy that have been showered upon the royal family and the British people during the last week, from the four corners of the earth. His influence outlives him and still makes for the peace for which he lived and died. It

will be long before our people cease to feel that the nations which were the friends of King Edward are our friends; and even in the stormy sea of domestic politics, the common loss has already had a calming effect. In the presence of a great national calamity, the issues, which have almost torn the United Kingdom asunder, begin to show their true insignificant proportions.

The nation relied greatly upon the King to extricate from the difficult situation created by the politicians; and the first thought, when his death became certain was one of alarm approaching to despair. But God moves in a mysterious way; and even in death the King may accomplish the peace of his people. The monarchy still lives and a nation's hopes are centred upon Edward's son, Victoria's grandson. With such monarchs upon the throne as Edward and Victoria, the dynasty is secure—broad based upon the people's will. The death of the King must set the most thoughtless thinking, and tend to check whatever may have existed of revolutionary tendencies. It is no small tribute to the character of the last two British sovereigns, that the most radical of reformers never dreamt of any attack upon the stability of the throne during their life time. So may it be, and so will it be, during the reign of His Most Gracious Majesty King George the Fifth, whom may God long preserve.

Nothing more touching has ever appeared than Queen Alexandra's message to the nation thanking all classes for their sympathy and commending the new King and Queen to their trust and loyalty. Never for an instant has Her Majesty lost the affection bestowed upon her by the whole people when she first landed upon the shores of England. The sympathetic relations between Her Majesty and the people are stronger to-day than ever, and will continue to the last day of her life.