

The Queen's first request, when informed by the Archbishop of Canterbury that the King was dead and that she was Queen, was: "I ask your prayers on my behalf." It was the devout request of a noble young sovereign and was the keynote to her whole life. She desired to be kept humble that she might fill her responsible position to the glory of the nation and of her God. Apparently she desired no higher tribute than that paid her in her later years by Alfred, Lord Tennyson—

"She wrought her people lasting good."

In her home life, the Queen was no more and no less fortunate than the majority of women. Some two years after she ascended the throne she married the man of her choice. Prince Albert and Queen Victoria lived happily for twenty-one years and raised a family of nine children, four sons and five daughters. The happiness of this twenty-one years was unfortunately offset by subsequent sorrows. Her husband's untimely death was a great blow. Other family sorrows followed until she became so touched with grief that some have thought she felt too keenly the afflictions laid upon her. She was very fond of her sons-in-law, and the deaths of Frederick III. of Germany and of Prince Henry of Battenburg were great blows to her. She loved also her grandchildren and great-grandchildren and a break in the circle was keenly felt. If she grieved too much it was because she was a womanly woman, despite the fact that she was a Queen.

Queen Victoria as a monarch had both less and greater influence than any monarch who ever reigned at London. Government by cabinet has been so developed that the Sovereign has little legislative or administrative power. The House of Commons, since the Reform Bill of 1832, has been a House which a sovereign could not control. These two conditions have grown into the Constitution and become part of it. It was impossible for the Queen to choose her own advisers, to dismiss those she did not like, or to withhold her aid and counsel from those pursuing a policy which might not be entirely agreeable to her. The old days of absolute monarchy had gone, never to return. For this reason Professor Goldwin Smith thinks this vast aggregation of miscellaneous possessions should not be called an