

Alice. The people of this country sincerely mourned her, for they had learned to love and admire the Princess for her life of simple and unobtrusive benevolence to those around her.

On the 27th of April, 1882, the Queen's fourth son, the Duke of Albany, was married to the Princess Helen of Waldeck. In March 1884, he had gone to Cannes to avoid our east winds. But a few days had elapsed before news of his death reached this country; he had been seized by an apoplectic fit, from which he never rallied. The remains of the dead Prince were brought to England and buried in the crypt of St. George's Chapel, Windsor.

The early part of the year 1885 brought the terrible news of the fall of Khartoum, and the death of its heroic defender, General Gordon. Her Majesty's sympathy was shown in a letter addressed to Miss Gordon. Her Majesty was presented by Miss Gordon with the well-worn Bible, the constant companion of that prince of men.

Sunshine and shade! The same year that witnessed the death of Gordon witnessed also the marriage of the Queen's youngest daughter, the Princess Beatrice to Prince Henry of Battenberg.

On the 4th of June, 1886, the Colonial and Indian Exhibition was opened by the Queen at South Kensington. The actual promoter of this truly interesting Exhibition was the Prince of Wales, who was thus developing the idea of his father, the Prince Consort.

The year following was an important one in Her Majesty's life, for it marked the completion of fifty years' reign. Great preparations were made to celebrate this Jubilee. The 21st of June was kept as a general holiday throughout the kingdom. Potentates from all parts of the world came to do her honor.

The presents to the Queen in commemoration of the Jubilee exceeded 700; they were exhibited at St. James's Palace and the Bethnal Green Museum, where thousands came to view them. The most interesting of all was the Women's Jubilee Offering—a penny subscription—which reached the sum of £75,000. The greater part of this money was invested in a fund for the benefit of nurses labouring amongst the sick poor.

THE "RECORD" REACHED.

The years following the Jubilee have not been uneventful ones for the Queen. Early in March, 1888, the Emperor William I. of Germany was gathered to his fathers. He was succeeded on the throne by the Crown Prince, the husband of the Princess Royal. But he was not destined to reign long. At the time of his accession he was suffering from a disease which, a few months later, developed alarmingly; and to the great and sincere regret of everyone he passed away. Ever sympathetic, the Queen crossed to Germany to console the sorrowing widow.

The succeeding year (1889) the Queen went to Biarritz in the company of Princess Beatrice. The Count de Rochefoucauld had gallantly placed his beautiful villa at her disposal, with its valuable library and unique collection of fine art books and water-colour drawings.

On her return to England, Her Majesty was the central figure of a large party met to celebrate the wedding of the daughter of the Prince of Wales, Princess Louise, to the Duke of Fife, and testified her hearty approval by her gracious demeanour and evident enjoyment of the festivities.

In little more than two years later the nation was mourning the death of the young Duke of Clarence, the Prince of Wales' eldest son. He had caught a cold while standing at the grave of Prince Victor of Hohenlohe. In spite of every effort of the physicians in charge, pneumonia set in, and on the 14th of January—a fateful day for the Royal house—he lay dead.

At Windsor the Queen entertained a curious visitor in the person of Mrs. Martha Ricks, who was a native of Liberia, and had travelled 35000 miles to see her Majesty. This good old lady had spent the accumulated savings of fifty years—stored for this purpose—in the journey to England, and brought with her a present in the shape of a quilt of beautiful workmanship. Her Majesty was very gracious to the stout-hearted old lady, who went back to her farm in Liberia with delightful recollections of the Sovereign of the greatest empire in the world.

The year 1893 brought two events of importance—the opening of the Imperial Institute, and the marriage of the Duke of York (Prince George of Wales) to Princess May of Teck.

The Queen, a little later, paid a visit to the place

associated with her early youth—Kensington Gardens—there to unveil a statue of herself by her daughter, Princess Louise. A large number of the flower of the land were there to receive her. Her Majesty made a neat little speech after the unveiling, which we append:—"I thank you very heartily for your loyal address, and for the kind wish to commemorate my Jubilee by the erection of a statue of myself on the spot where I was born and lived till my accession. It gives me great pleasure to be here on this occasion, in my dear old home, and to witness the unveiling of this fine statue, so admirably designed and executed by my daughter."

The statue represents the Queen at the time of her accession, and is of marble. It stands upon a pedestal of Portland cement, which bears the following inscription:—

"VICTORIA R.

1837.

In front of the Palace where she was born and where she lived till her Accession, her loyal subjects of Kensington place this statue, the work of her Daughter, to commemorate fifty years of her reign."

The Christmas of 1895 was spent at Osborne, where the Queen, happy in the presence of her children and grandchildren, dispensed seasonable generosity. Alas! that the shadow of death should then be looming so heavily over so much happiness in the Royal house. The new year had just commenced when news arrived that the Prince of Battenberg, who was serving the country of his adoption in West Africa, had succumbed to an attack of fever.

Our narrative draws to a close. On the 24th day of September, 1896, the reign of Her Majesty passed the longest on record—that of her grandfather, George III. Only once had this been exceeded in the history of the world—by Louis XIV. Her beneficent reign of purity has been blessed by the Almighty; for during the sixty years she has sat upon the British throne, prosperity and happiness have been showered upon her people. The Empire of today is proud of their Queen, and what is even more to be desired, she has their affection and respect—she is a Mother of the people! That God may spare her valuable life for many years to come, to occupy the throne and fulfil her duties with the same characteristic dignity, is the earnest prayer of her loyal subjects throughout her extensive dominions! GOD SAVE THE QUEEN!

THE BIBLE CLASS.

THE MISSION TO THE GENTILES.

(For June 27th.)

BY PHILIP A. NORDELL, D.D.

The lessons of the quarter cover the larger portion of the active work of Paul as an Apostle of Christ; that is, from his conversion to the close of his long ministry at Ephesus during his third missionary journey, or about twenty-two years in all. About ten years of this period may be assigned to his training for his future work, and twelve to the first and second missionary journeys and the work in Ephesus.

PAUL'S CONVERSION AND TRAINING.

Paul's age at his conversion is not known, but it is conjectured to have been about thirty years. At that time he had received the amplest education that the best Jewish schools and the most celebrated Jewish teachers could give him. By education, experience, and natural endowments he was fully qualified for a career of extraordinary distinction as a Rabbi among his people. Yet it will be noticed that when the Lord called him to become a chosen vessel to carry His name to the Gentiles, this wealth of preparation was not considered sufficient. Three years were spent under direct divine tuition in the solitudes of Arabia, and seven years in preliminary evangelistic work in Syria and Cilicia. All this while the heathen world was perishing for lack of the Gospel. Why then this long delay? If God could wait millenniums to prepare a perishing world for the coming of Christ He could easily give a decade to the special preparation of an instrument of world-wide influence such as Paul. God never calls a man to special service in His kingdom without also calling him to acquire all needed preparation for the work. That is a false zeal which under the plea of saving the perishing rushes by short cuts into a ministry which demands the largest qualifications.

PAUL'S WORK AMONG THE GENTILES.

Paul's apostleship was a commission given by the Holy Spirit,

*An Exposition of Lesson 52 in *The Bible Study Union Sunday School Lessons* on "The Three Great Apostles."