

known, are with progress and the advancement of the liberties of the people. She has never hindered these; nor is it known that she ever objected to any of the many measures for the popularising of the government of the country, to which she has, from time to time, set her seal and name. To-day Victoria is still Queen—reigning more than ever in the heart of the nation; and there is not an artisan among her subjects who has not a share in the power of the sceptre she holds in her hand. By her loyalty to our liberal constitution she has done much to secure the civil and religious privileges and toleration we have had throughout her reign.

III.—We are thankful for the wise counsellors, in peace and war, who have been at the helm of the state. Many of them have fallen by the side of their sovereign. The mother of her people, more than any of her subjects, has known the ravages of death, and she has felt more than others the power of the kingdom of sorrow and tears. She has borne all nobly, and we offer thanksgiving to God, and prayer for continuance to her in the time to come of the lovingkindness that is better than life.

IV.—Her sympathy with the people in joy and sorrow is known the world over. It has often brightened the rays, or lighted up the dark cloud in cottage and castle—in hamlet and city—throughout our land.

V.—She is an example of liberty and liberality in religious thought and toleration. Though a member of the national Church of England, she takes her place at the Communion Table of our lowly Presbyterian Church, when she resides among us in her northern home. This is her own judgment and act. Even political ecclesiastics of our own Church advised her otherwise, in deference to certain narrowness and bigotry. But Her Majesty eventually claimed for herself the toleration she accords to all her people. Therefore she partakes with us of the same cup of our Lord. This has been the strength of Victoria and her realm. To God be the glory!

VI.—She is no stranger to personal woe. Fifty years a Queen; for six and twenty of them she has been a widow. Twice she has laid the wreath on the last resting place of pure and devoted children. The noble Princess Alice fell in the prime of womanhood, a martyr to a mother's love; and, in the highest promise of early manhood, Prince Leopold was borne to the grave. Her eye no stranger to tears for her own, no wonder though they fall also over the graves of her people. Many friends have gone from her side at the call of God; but, with the strength that upheld the young

woman ascending the throne, she has gone with Christian courage through all her trial. She has given us an example of the sorrow of faith, and not of gloom and despair.

With the great assembly of her people we gather as loyal subjects around her to-day in her 60th year, and we offer thanksgiving that she is still able to hold the sceptre in a strong hand. May she have continuance of every grace and power. Long live our Queen!

THE NATION.

We must, in a word, refer to the nation's progress ere we close.

I.—Measures of Reform have succeeded one another until the Commons' House of Parliament rests upon the franchise of the male householders of the land. It is scarcely consistent that, with a Queen, the women of our country should not have the franchise. Perhaps Her Majesty would advise her daughters to avoid the cares of Government and State. There would be no other objection from her.

II.—Knowledge has extended, and especially practical Science. Newspapers daily—Magazines of all kinds for Saturday and Sunday—Post Office facilities—Free Bread-basket and Breakfast Table—Ships of Commerce—Steamboats and Railways—Telegraphs and Telephones—Agricultural Machinery—Machinery for manufactures—Ships and Engines for war—Photography—Art and Literature—Medical Science and Skill—Sanitation—Water and Light—the world of Electricity—Astronomy—Natural History and Science—Adventure and Discovery in African deserts and Polar regions,—may be said either to have been born or to have reached their majority in what shall ever be known as the Victorian era of the world's history.

III.—We have had convulsions of states in this time. The face of Europe and of the world has been changed; so that the maps at the beginning of the century have become obsolete. Our empire has grown over all the world. It has grown and become consolidated in India, Africa, Canada, and Australasia. The temporal power of Rome—the little horn of Daniel—came to an end in 1870. The fifth kingdom which is to possess the earth, is thus far represented by the sceptre held aloft to-day in the hand of our Christian Queen. If we were only faithful to God, He would give us a kingdom that could never be moved. To him be all the glory and praise!

IV.—If not at home, our Sovereign has shared with the nation in the anxieties of foreign war. We have been chastised with the sword that brings wailing alike to victorious