

English Royal Jubilees.

The princely authors of *The Cruise of Her Majesty's Ship Bacchante, 1870-82*, in speaking of the Australian City of Melbourne, recall the circumstance that it is just as old as the Queen's reign. It was founded, they tell us with a charming devotion to chronological precision and statistics in 1837, and called after Lord Melbourne, the premier at the Queen's accession 'in the same year; and it was then a few wooden huts and a wooden church, with a bell suspended from a tree. It is now one of the two largest cities in the world south of the equator—the other being Buenos Ayres, in South America—and seventh for size in the British Empire. Its population of 350,000 persons—although fifty years ago the whole shore of Victoria was unknown to Europeans—is now very nearly the same as that of Manchester. The present rateable value of the property in the city is over ten millions. Few cities, if any, have ever attained so great a size with such rapidity. Old colonists remember cows tied up to the trees where the town hall now stands. Land, which at that time was thought dear at a pound an acre, now realizes £500 per square foot, and plots which were then bought for £20 have been sold for £70,000. The park squares and gardens are so numerous that, with only one-thirtieth of the population of London, it occupies very nearly half as great an area.

The history of this busy city of the antipodes is an allegory of the progress of the empire under the reign of her present most gracious Majesty; not that every part of the Queen's dominions has exhibited the same degree of development; but that it requires some startling rapidity and immensity of growth, such as are so uniquely illustrated in the case of Melbourne, to excite the too laudid imagination, which must, after all, be beaten in its efforts to grasp the accessions of grandeur, influence, and importance which within the last fifty years have given such unparalleled sublimity and magnificence to our Greater Britain.

The story of the memorable Tuesday, June 20th, 1837, has been amply celebrated by pen and pencil—by the poet, the painter and the historian. Shortly after two o'clock in the morning of that day—the time when the human system is proverbially at its lowest in point of nerve and vitality—the Archbishop of Canterbury and Lord Conyngham, the Lord Chamberlain, left Windsor for Kensington Palace, where the Princess Victoria was residing with her mother, the Duchess of Kent, to inform Her Royal Highness of the death of her uncle, King William the Fourth. The details of the interview current in society at the time are very interestingly preserved by Miss Frances Williams Wynn, a selection from whose voluminous manuscripts was edited by the late Mr. A. Hayward, Q. C., under the title of "Diaries of a Lady of Quality from 1797 to 1844."

"They reached Kensington Palace," says Miss Wynn, "about five; they knocked, they rang, they thumped for a considerable time before they could rouse the porter at the gates; they were again kept waiting in the court-yard, then turned into one of the lower rooms, where they seemed forgo-ton by everybody. They rang the bell, desired that the attendant of the Princess Victoria might be sent to inform Her Royal Highness that they requested an audience on business of importance. After another delay, and another ringing to inquire the cause, the attendant was summoned, who stated that the

Princess was in such a sweet sleep she could not venture to disturb her. They said, 'We have come to the Queen on business of state, and even her sleep must give way to that!' It did; and to prove that she did not keep them waiting, in a few minutes she came into the room in a loose white night-gown and shawl, her night-cap thrown off, and her hair falling upon her shoulders, her feet in slippers, tears in her eyes, but perfectly collected and dignified."

The first act of the reign was, of course, the summoning of the Council, and most of the summonses were not received till after the early hour, eleven o'clock in the forenoon, fixed for its meeting. On the opening of the doors, the Queen was found sitting at the head of the table. She received first the homage of the Duke of Cumberland, who became King of Hanover by the same event which made her Queen of England; the Duke of Sussex rose to perform the same ceremony, but the Queen with admirable grace stood up, and prevented him from kneeling, kissed him on the forehead. The crowd was so great, and the arrangements were so hastily and therefore incompletely made, that Miss Wynn's brothers told her the scene of swearing allegiance to their young sovereign was more like that of the bidding at an auction than anything else.

It is hard to conceive of any refinement of loyalty paying the Queen a more thorough or more delicate compliment than the reproduction of her first Declaration; seeing that, so different from the "everlasting promise which no man keeps," it has been so splendidly and so patiently redeemed amid the concurrent tribute and acclamation of the world.

"The severe and afflicting loss," said the youthful sovereign, "which the nation has sustained by the death of His Majesty, my beloved uncle, has devolved upon me the duty of administering the government of this empire. This awful responsibility is imposed upon me so suddenly, and at so early a period of my life, that I should feel myself utterly oppressed by the burden were I not sustained by the hope that Divine Providence, which has called me to this work, will give me strength for the performance of it, and that I shall find in the purity of my intentions and in my zeal for public welfare that support and those resources which usually belong to a more mature age and to longer experience. I place my firm reliance upon the wisdom of Parliament and upon the loyalty and affection of my people. I esteem it also a peculiar advantage that I succeed to a sovereign whose constant regard for the rights and liberties of his subjects, and whose desire to promote the amelioration of the laws and institutions of the country, have rendered his name the object of general attachment and veneration. Educated in England, under the tender and enlightened care of a most affectionate mother, I have learned from my infancy to respect and love the constitution of my native country. It will be my unceasing study to maintain the Reformed Religion as by law established, securing at the same time to all the full enjoyment of religious liberty; and I shall steadily protect the rights, and promote to the utmost of my power the happiness and welfare of all classes of my subjects."

The dawn of the fiftieth year of the Queen's reign met at the exact moment of its occurrence with a variety of celebrations in different parts of the country. These, as was natural, on account of the coincidence of Accession Day with Trinity Sunday, were for the most part religious; and the expres-

sions of a more secular and social joy are to be deterred until the completion of the year of jubilee.

Of all the celebrants of the occasion, the learned and loyal members of the Temple, and especially of the Inner Temple, attracted by a function *sui generis* the greatest amount of popular regard and attention. A choral service was held at midnight on Saturday, June 19, in the Temple Church, when the Princess Louise, the Marquis of Lorne, and a representative gathering of Her Majesty's judges, Queen's counsel, benchers of the Inner Temple, barristers and students, besides a large number of ladies, were present. The service, which was conducted by Dean Vaughan, Master of the Temple, opened with a festival march on the organ, and then Handel's Coronation Anthem was sung in effective style by the choir. In the National Anthem, which followed, the whole congregation joined, and an organ fanfare brought the service to a close.

Earlier in the evening, an entertainment, partly musical and partly dramatic, was given in the beautiful ball room of the Inner Temple, in the presence of upward of three hundred ladies and gentlemen, the guests of the Treasurer and the other benchers of the Inn.

The principal feature of the programme was the representation of some of the comic scenes from "A Midsummer Night's Dream," by members of the Inn. This selection went with great spirit, especially in the *Thisbe* and *Pyramus* scene; and the ease and finish of the amateur actors met with cordial recognitions from the audience in hearty laughter and bountiful applause. The performance took place on a dainty little stage, richly curtained and embellished with flowers, plants and a bust of Her Majesty; and the old-fashioned device of leaving the *locus in quo* to the imagination was advantageously adopted. Beyond a written notification, "This is Quince his house," "This is a wood," and so on; there was no change of scene—a plan no doubt adopted when "Twelfth Night" was acted in the Temple, during Shakespeare's life-time, on the 2nd of February, 1601. Madrigals, glees, part-songs and solos, almost without exception by composers of the past, lent variety to the programme, and were admirably rendered by members of the Temple choir. Thus the old world impression was cunningly preserved throughout, and the audience of the Victorian era was charmed by the selections which appealed to them as echoes from the glorious reign of another female sovereign. In a brief address at the close of the entertainment, the Treasurer, Mr. Stavely Hill, Q. C., D. C., M. P., asked the Princess Louise to convey to her gracious mother an expression of the loyalty of the Society of the Inner Temple; and added that the members of the Inn had endeavored to bring before the audience some matters which seemed to unite the reigns of two of the most renowned queens of the world.

There is another reason beside the accidental occurrence of Accession Day with Trinity Sunday in this auspicious year which naturally determines the first celebrations of the Queen's Jubilee for the most part in a religious or ecclesiastical direction. For the jubilee itself, a festival year among the Jews, of Mosiac intimation, was of an "entirely sacred" character, deriving the name from the Hebrew *joel*, the blast of a trumpet, and being so-called because it was proclaimed with the sound of trumpets "throughout all the land." The year of Jubilee occurred once in every half century, marking the close of every period of "seven