

speak of Abraham as a providential man. He was chosen because he was faithful in all his house. Moses was emphatically a providential man, so also Joseph and Samuel, King David and the Apostle Paul are resplendent on the list. The humble maiden Ruth and Esther the Queen filled their places in the providential order. Martin Luther, John Knox, and John Wesley were men raised up for their times and the necessities of their generation in the providence of God.

It is in such a sense that we say, our noble Queen Victoria was a providential sovereign. The times needed her. God knew it, prepared her for her place, and gave her her opportunity. And thank God for such a queen. She filled her place to its utmost demands. The court needed her, and she purified the palaces and the royal homes. The statesmen needed her; and she filled councils and parliaments with wise and gentle intimations, suggestions and decisions. Her own domains abroad needed her, and she helped them to peace and prosperity. Our Canada was in turmoil when she ascended the throne. We soon had better government and constitutional order. India and the Australian colonies needed and felt the touch of her hand. South Africa and the Isles of the Sea are learning the benignity of her sceptre. Her own Great Britain and Ireland show the impulses of mighty onward movements and the healthful restraints of patriotic legislation and pure administration.

The God of the nations who gave her her crown, gave her also illustrious and mighty men for councillors of state. She has enjoyed the benefit of three generations of British statesmen, Melbourne, Peel, Aberdeen, Derby, Wellington, Palmerston, Disraeli,

Gladstone; what national roll of fame shines with brighter names? Only well-ordered constitutional government can produce such galaxies of immortals. The generals of her army and the admirals of her navy are the admiration of the age. The scholars and philosophers of her time would adorn any era. The advancement of commerce, manufactures and industrial art have brightened the homes and life and increased the wealth and power of her people. Surely we may praise God for such a time, and such government and rule?

Then our Queen was emphatically and pre-eminently a constitutional sovereign. She was no mere monarchical figurehead, no mechanical signer of documents. She undertook no arbitrary measures outside of the constitution; but exerted great and beneficial influence within the bounds of the constitution. As yet there has been no other such sovereign in this regard upon the face of the earth. Under our system of limited constitutional monarchy, the sovereign cannot well be a nonentity. There must be positive action for good or for ill to the whole realm and to all the nations of men. Mr. Gladstone speaks thus of the occupant of the British throne:

“The Sovereign in England is the symbol of the nation's unity, and the apex of the social structure; the maker (with advice) of the laws; the Supreme Governor of the Church; the fountain of justice; the sole source of honour; the person to whom all military, all naval, all civil service is rendered. The Sovereign owns very large properties; receives and holds in law the entire revenue of the state; appoints and dismisses ministers; makes treaties; pardons crime, or abates its punishments; wages war, or concludes peace; summons or dissolves the Parliaments; exercises these vast powers for the most part without any restraint of law; and yet enjoys in regard to them and every other function, an absolute immunity from consequences. There is no provision in the law of the United