

The Coronation of Queen Victoria.

The coronation ceremony in England is something more than the mere placing of a crown on the head of a new ruler as a sign of sovereignty. It is the sealing of a compact between the people and the monarch to observe the constitution. The ceremonies are partly derived from the old Jewish custom of anointing the king, and partly evolved during the long struggle between the people and the Crown, which resulted in the present harmonious and well balanced system of government.

In early times the King's title to office to a great extent depended upon the ceremony by which the people acknowledged his right to rule over them. Sir W. R. Anson says: "The coronation gave religious sanction to the title by election, constituted also the formal compact between King and people that the King should govern well, and that the people should obey. The King's promise made by oath or charter, or both, was to keep Church and people in peace to forbid wrong and rapine in all degrees of men, and to do justice with mercy; the people by acclamation and the great men by oath promised him their fealty and allegiance, and the coronation gave a religious sanction to the title of the new King. That these ceremonies were no mere form is plain from the fact that there was a real interregnum between the death of one King and the election and coronation of another; that until the new King was crowned the King's peace was in abeyance; the maintenance of order was the business of no one, while the State had no one to represent it for the purpose of enforcing the peace."

The coronation of the Queen was a grand spectacle. There was a magnificent procession from Buckingham Palace to Westminster Abbey, at the west door of which the Queen was received by the great officers of State, the noblemen bearing the regalia, the bishops carrying the patina, the chalice and the Bible. Her Majesty proceeded to the robing room.

"Underneath the galleries and below the platform were ranged lines of Foot Guards," says Sarah Tytler. "The platform under the central tower was the most conspicuous object. It was covered with cloth of gold and bore the chair of homage, or throne, facing the altar. Farther on within the altar rails, was St. Edward's Chair, or the chair decorated by William the Painter for Edward. Enclosed within it is the "Stone of Destiny," or Fatal Stone of Soane—a sandy stone, supposed to have formed the pillow on which Jacob slept at Bethel, and long used in the coronation of the Scotch kings. In this chair, all the Kings of England, since the time of Edward I., have been crowned. The altar was covered with massive gold plate. The galleries of the Abbey were arranged for the members of orders, the judges, Knights of the Bath, members of the Corporation, and other officials. The floor of the transepts was occupied by benches for the peers and peeresses; the space behind them was for the ticket-holders."

Harriet Martineau says of the scene: "The sight of the rapidly filling Abbey was enough to go for. The stone architecture contrasted finely with the gay colours of the multitude. From my high seat I commanded the whole north transept, the area with the throne, and many portions of galleries, and the balconies, which were called the vaultings. Except a mere sprinkling of oddities everybody was in full dress. In the whole assemblage I counted six bonnets. The scarlet of the military officers mixed in well, and the groups of the clergy were dignified; but to an unaccustomed eye the prevalence of Court dresses had a curious effect. I was perpetually taking whole groups of gentlemen for Quakers till I recollected myself. The Earl Marshall's assistants, called gold sticks, looked well from above, lightly fluttering about in white breeches, silk stockings, blue-laced frocks and white sashes."

Diamonds Flash in the Sun.

Each peeress was conducted by two gold sticks, one of whom headed her to her seat, and the other bore and arranged her train on her lap, and saw that her coronet, footstool and book were comfortably placed. About nine the first gleams of the sun slanted into the Abbey, and presently travelled down to the peeresses. I had never before seen the full effect of diamonds. As the light travelled each peeress shone like a rainbow. The brightness, vastness and dreamy magnificence of the scene produced a strange effect of exhaustion and sleepiness. The great guns told when the Queen had set forth and there was renewed animation. The old sticks fitted about, there was tuning in the orchestra, and the foreign ambassadors and their suites arrived in quick succession.

Prince Esterházy crossing a bar of sunshine was the most prodigious rainbow of all. He was covered with diamonds and pearls, and as he dangled his hat it cast a dancing radiance all around."

The Queen Enters.

At last the Queen entered, says Sarah Tytler, "walking between the Bishops of Bath and Durham with Gentlemen-at-Arms on each side. She was now a royal maiden of nineteen, with a fair, pleasant face, a slight figure, rather small in stature, but showing a queenly carriage, especially in the pose of the throat and head. She wore a royal robe of crimson velvet furred with ermine and bordered with gold lace. She had on the collar of her orders. Like the other princesses she wore a gold circlet on her head. Her train was borne by eight 'beautiful young ladies,' as Sir David Wilkie called them, all dressed alike. The Queen moved towards a chair placed midway between the chair of homage and the altar, on the carpeted space. Here she knelt down on the faldstool set for her before her chair and used some private prayers."

The Recognition.

First came the Recognition, by the Archbishop of Canterbury, who advanced to the Queen, accompanied by the Lord Chancellor, the Lord Chamberlain, and the Earl Marshall, preceded by the Deputy-Garter, and repeated these words: "Sirs, here present unto you, Queen Victoria, the undoubted Queen of this realm whereto all you who are come this day to do your homage, are you willing to do the same." Then burst forth the universal cry from the portion of Her Majesty's subjects present, "God Save Queen Victoria." The Archbishop, turning to the north, south and west sides of the Abbey repeated, "God Save Queen Victoria," the Queen turning at the same time in the same direction. The Bishops who bore the patina, Bible, and chalice in the procession placed the same on the altar. The Archbishop of Canterbury and the Bishops who were to

read the litany put on their copes. The Queen, attended by the Bishops of Durham and Bath and Wells, and the Dean of Westminster, with the great officers of State and noblemen bearing the regalia, advanced to the altar, and kneeling upon the crimson velvet cushion, made her first offering, being a pall or altar-cloth of gold, which was delivered by an officer of the Wardrobe to the Lord Chamberlain, by his lordship to the Lord Great Chamberlain, and by him to the Queen, who delivered it to the Archbishop of Canterbury, by whom it was placed on the altar. The Treasurer of the Household then delivered an ingot of gold, of one pound weight, to the Lord Great Chamberlain, who having presented the same to the Queen. Her Majesty delivered it to the Archbishop by whom it was put in the oblation basin.

The Archbishop delivered a prayer in the prescribed form. The regalia were laid on the altar by the Archbishop. The great officers of State, except the Lord Chamberlain, retired to their respective places, and the Bishops of Worcester and St. David's read the Litany. Then followed the Communion service, read by the Archbishop of Canterbury and the Bishops of Rochester and Carlisle.

The Bishop of London's Sermon.

Then the Bishop of London preached a sermon from the following text: "And the King stood in his place, and made a covenant before the Lord, to walk after the Lord, and to keep his commandments, and his testimonies and his statutes, with all his heart, and with all his soul, to perform the words of the covenant, which are within this book."

The Oath Administered.

After conclusion of the sermon "the oath" was administered to the Queen by the Archbishop of Canterbury. The form of swearing was as follows: The Archbishop put certain questions, which the Queen answered in the affirmative, relative to the maintenance of the law and the established religion; and then Her Majesty, with the Lord Chamberlain and other officers, the

sword of the state being carried before her went to the altar, and laying her right hand upon the Gospels in the Bible carried in the procession, and now brought to her by the Archbishop of Canterbury, said, kneeling: "The things which I have herebefore promised, I will perform and keep. So help me God." The Queen then kissed the book, and signed a transcript of the oath presented to her by the Archbishop. She then knelt upon the footstool, and the choir sang "Veni, Creator, Spiritus."

The Anointing.

The anointing was the next part of the ceremony. The Queen sat in King Edward's chair; four Knights of the Garter held a rich cloth of gold over her head; the dean of Westminster took the ampulla from the altar, and poured some of the oil it contained into the anointing spoon, then the Archbishop anointed the head and hands of the Queen, marking them in the form of a cross, pronouncing the words, "Be thou anointed with holy oil, as kings, priests and prophets were anointed; and as Solomon was anointed King by Zadock the priest, and Nathan the prophet, so be you anointed, blessed and consecrated Queen over her people, whom the Lord your God hath given you to rule and govern, in the name of the Father, and of the Son and of the Holy Ghost, Amen."

The Archbishop then said the blessing over her. The spurs were presented by the Lord Chamberlain and the sword of State by Viscount Melbourne, who, however, according to custom, redeemed it with a hundred shillings, and carried it during the rest of the ceremony. Then followed the investing with royal robes and the delivery of the orb and the investiture by the ring and sceptre.

Putting on the Crown.

The coronation followed. The Archbishop of Canterbury offered a prayer to God to bless Her Majesty and crown her with all princely virtues. The Dean of Westminster took the crown from the altar, and the Archbishop of Canterbury, with the Archbishops of York and Ar-

magh, the Bishops of London and Durham, and other prelates, advanced towards the Queen, and the Archbishop taking the crown from the Dean, reverently placed it on the Queen's head. This was no sooner done than from every part of the crowd a voice arose a loud and enthusiastic cry of "God Save the Queen," mingled with lusty cheers, and accompanied by the waving of hats and handkerchiefs. At this moment, too, the Peers and Peeresses in unison put on their coronets, the Bishops their caps, and the Kings-of-Arms their crowns; the trumpets sounding, the drums beating and the Tower and park guns firing by signal."

A Beautiful Woman's Embarrassment.

According to Harriet Martineau, the acclamation when the crown was put on her head was very animating; and in the midst of it, in an instant of time, the Peeresses were all coronated with the exception of one beautiful woman, with transcendent complexion and form, and coils upon coils of light hair, who was terribly embarrassed about her coronet; she had apparently forgotten that her hair must be disposed with a view to it, and the large braids at the back would in no way permit the coronet to keep on. She and her neighbors tugged vehemently at her braids, and at last the thing was done after a manner, but so as to spoil the wonderful effect of the self-coronating of the Peeresses.

The Benediction was delivered by the Archbishop, and the Te Deum sung by the choir. At the commencement of the Te Deum, the Queen went to the chair which she first occupied, supported by two Bishops; and was then "enthroned" or "lifted," as the formula states, into the chair of homage by the Archbishops, Bishops, and Peers surrounded Her Majesty. The Queen delivered the sceptre with the cross to the Lord of the Manor of Westwerk (the Duke of Norfolk), and the sceptre with the stone to the Duke of Richmond, to hold during the performance of the ceremony of homage.

Ceremony of Homage.

The Archbishop of Canterbury knelt and did homage for himself and other Lords Spiritual, who all kissed the Queen's hand. The dukes of Sussex and Cambridge removing the coronets, did homage in these words:—"I do become your liege man of life and limb, and of earthly worship; and faith and truth I will bear unto you, to live and die, against all manner of folk, so help me God."

They touched the crown on the Queen's head, kissed her left cheek and then retired. The dukes and other peers then performed their homage after the same fashion but kissing Her Majesty's hand instead of her face as her uncles did.

While the Lords were doing homage, the Earl of Surrey, Treasurer of Household, threw coronation medals, in silver, about the choir and lower galleries, which were scrambled for with great eagerness. At the conclusion of the homage, the choir sang the anthem, "This is the day the Lord hath made."

The Queen received two sceptres from the Dukes of Norfolk and Richmond; the drums beat, the trumpets sounded, and the assembly cried out "God save Queen Victoria."

The Queen's Offering.

The Archbishop of Canterbury then went to the altar. The Queen followed him, and giving the Lord Chamberlain her crown to hold knelt down at the altar. The gospel and epistle of the communion service having been read by the bishops, the Queen made her offering of the chalice and patina, and a purse of gold, which was laid on the altar. Her Majesty received the sacrament kneeling on her faldstool for the chair."

After receiving the communion the Queen put on her crown, and with her sceptres in her hands, took her seat again upon the throne. The Archbishop of Canterbury proceeded with the Communion service, and pronounced the final blessing. The choir sang the anthem, "Hallelujah! for the Lord God omnipotent reigneth." The Queen then left the throne, and attended by two Bishops and noblemen bearing the regalia and swords of State, passed into King Edward's Chapel, the organ playing. The Queen delivered the sceptre with the dove to the Archbishop of Canterbury, who laid it on the altar. The Queen then went to the west door of the Abbey wearing her crown, the sceptre with the cross being in the right and the orb in the left hand. It was about a quarter of four o'clock when the royal procession passed through the nave at the conclusion of the ceremonies in the Abbey. The coronation had lasted three hours.



H. R. H. THE DUKE OF YORK.

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