

PLEASANT HOURS

A PAPER FOR OUR YOUNG FOLK

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The Queen's Birthday.

The following song has been written and set to music by Mr. F. H. Torrington, Toronto:

Old England calls upon her sons
To honour England's Queen;
Her sons respond, and daughters too,
To keep her mem'ry green.
With loyal hearts and ready hands
The Empire's children stand
Prepared to do, prepared to die
For Queen and native land.

For fifty years our country's flag
Hath borne o'er earth and main
The name of Empress, Queen beloved,
With neither spot nor stain.
Long may it bear Victoria's name,
Long o'er us may she reign,
And for our Empire, broad and grand,
May she new honour gain.

Upon our Queen—our country—flag
God's blessing ever rest,
With peace and plenty everywhere
Her people's homes be blest.
God save the Queen, her people pray
From hearts sincere and free,
God save our loved Victoria
And crown her Jubilee.

CHORUS.

Victoria! our Queen beloved,
With loyal heart and hand,
Thy Colonies and Fatherland
United by thee stand.

THE QUEEN'S BIRTHDAY.

As is our custom we give special prominence in the Queen's birthday issues of PLEASANT HOURS, *Onward* and the *Methodist Magazine* to the auspicious celebration of Her Gracious Majesty's seventy-fourth birthday. In all these numbers will be found numerous articles on special patriotic interest. The picture on this page shows her Majesty's favourite drive in the beautiful Isle of Wight, in which is situated Osborne Castle, shown in one of our smaller cuts. The Princess Beatrice walks by the Queen's side, and her faithful Highland servant mounts guard over the little pony only half as tall as himself. A couple of maids and two footmen bring up the



QUEEN VICTORIA AT THE ISLE OF WIGHT.

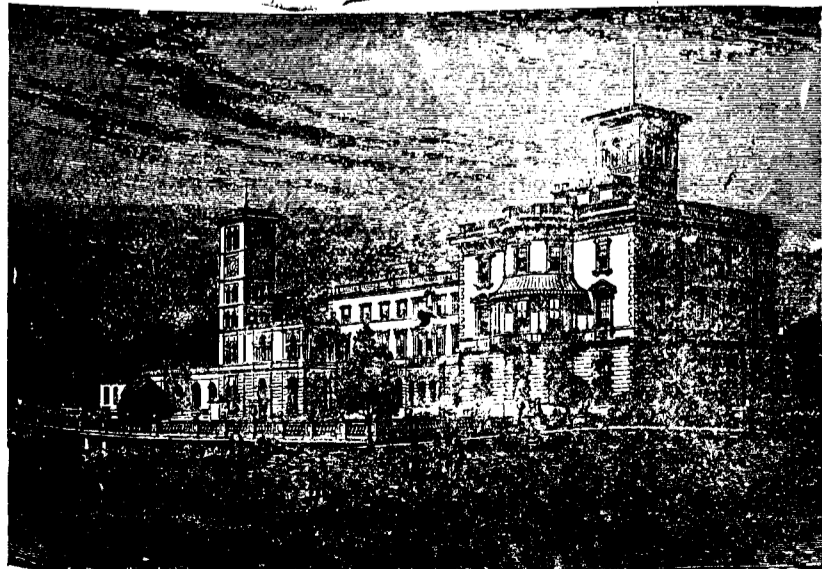
rear. The Queen's favourite palace, however, is at Balmoral, shown in one of our smaller pictures, a fine old castled palace in the Highlands, where the Queen is a perfect lady—bountiful, beloved and revered by the tenantry in the whole country side.

QUEEN VICTORIA'S CROWN.

If Queen Victoria were compelled to wear the beautiful crown, of which she is so worthy, all the time, she would be a woman greatly to be pitied and never to be envied, for that magnificent affair weighs nearly two pounds. "Uneasy lies the head that wears the crown," is a proverb easily understood when one realizes this; and yet when one considers what the crown of the Queen contains, it ought not to be difficult to realize that it is heavy. It holds more than 3,000 precious stones, more than 2,700 of which are diamonds. The golden head-band holds two rows of pearls, the lower having 129 and the upper 112 of these treasured stones. Between these bands in front is a large sapphire, and behind is a small sapphire—small only when compared with the one in front, however—with six still smaller ones and eight emeralds. Between the sapphires fore and aft are ornaments containing 286 diamonds. Surmounting the band are eight sapphires, above which are eight diamonds, and eight festoons which hold 160 diamonds, and in the front, set in a Maltese cross composed of seventy-five large diamonds, is the magnificent ruby given to the Black Prince in 1367 by Pedro, king of Castile, and which was worn by that dashing monarch Henry V. on his helmet at the battle of Agincourt.

In addition to these, three crosses containing 386 diamonds are set around the upper part of the crown, between which are four ornaments, each holding a ruby in its centre, and containing respectively eighty-four, eighty-five, eighty-six and eighty-seven diamonds. From the crosses rise four arches composed of oak leaves and acorns, the oak leaves containing 728 diamonds, and the acorns—thirty-two in number—made each of a single pearl set in cups composed of diamonds. Surmounting the arches is the base of the cross which surmounts the whole. The base, or mound, as it is called, contains 548 diamonds, and the cross—the crowning glory of all this magnificence—contains a huge sapphire and 112 diamonds.

Of course, anything so grand as this is worth a great deal of money and the value



OSBORNE HOUSE, ISLE OF WIGHT.



BALMORAL CASTLE