

## Anecdotes of Victoria.

Victoria has always been a student. Even at the age of sixty she undertook the study of Hindoostanee, in order to be able to converse with the inhabitants of her vast Indian empire. She kept Hindoo servants, that she might train herself in their native tongue by talking with them.

Bravery was part of Victoria's character. Six times she was attacked by would-be assassins, and yet she continued to drive through the streets of London fearlessly, and made journeys to Italy and France at times when the Anarchists were most threatening, and when her councillors begged her to run no such risk. In the same spirit she visited Ireland last year.

One of the most striking tributes ever paid to Queen Victoria was rendered by Bismarck. The Iron Chancellor heartily detested women rulers, but after an interview with Victoria he was so impressed by her marvelous memory, her complete knowledge, and her statesmanlike grasp of all political themes, that he went away with an opinion of her that was almost idolatrous.

On becoming queen, Victoria's first piece of writing was a letter to her aunt, the widow of King William, and until his death queen of England. Victoria addressed the letter to "Her Majesty the Queen." "She should now be addressed as the queen dowager," the young girl was told. "I know that," replied Victoria, "but I will not be the first to remind her of her altered position."

The Queen had her way even in the household details where sometimes even royalty must be humble. It has just told how, within a year, the Queen consented to receive the delegates of a large organization of women. She purposed that they be served with tea. "Why your Majesty," her steward objected, "there are thousands of them." "Then we will have tea for thousands," replied Victoria.

One of the canons of Windsor went to visit a sick housemaid at the castle. He climbed several flights of stairs to her room, and was much fatigued; but he found the patient radiant. "The Queen has been here!" she exclaimed. "I have got away from them all!" she told me, "and climbed up here to see you. And do you know how I did it? I managed by sitting down on every third stair!"

Among the sweetest pictures in all history are those of the beautiful young girl, reared in the purest and most domestic simplicity, suddenly brought into the fierce glare that beats upon earth's proudest throne. Her first words, when told of her position in the line of succession, have become immortal: "I will be good." Her first words on that night when she was awakened to receive the news of her accession were directed to the Archbishop of Canterbury: "I beg your grace to pray for me."

During Queen Victoria's long reign seventeen presidents of the United States have administered its affairs; France has passed from the rule of Louis Philippe to the second republic, second empire, and third republic; Germany and Italy have become consolidated from many small states; three Czars have ruled Russia, five popes have reigned, Spain has become a republic and again a kingdom, Austria and Hungary have united; one czar has been assassinated, one King of Italy, one president of France; and two presidents of the United States. What a reign, to be contemporary with all this! What an intellect, to be an important factor in it all!

Says a newspaper correspondent who has often seen the Queen: "The picture that

clings most persistently to me to night is of a young girl queen on the balcony of Buckingham Palace. Beneath, a regiment is leaving for Syria; and, as it passes below the porch, the girl bends, draws off her little satin shoe, and casts it after her soldiers for luck. To-night, sixty years later, she lies dying, the most loved queen of whom history has any record."

The mother of the present Emperor of Germany is Victoria's first child. The present Empress of Russia is the daughter of Victoria's third child, Princess Alice. Prince George of Greece is Victoria's great-grandson. Queen Alexandra is from Denmark. There are few important royal families in Europe that are not in some way allied to England through Victoria's children; and this fact is one of the strongest assurances of the world's peace.

## "A Baptism of Blood."

In addressing the men of the Toronto Garrison in St. Andrew's church on Saturday, Rev. Armstrong Black spoke in terms that many may deem sensational. He is reported to have said:

"Soldiers of Canada, there will come sooner or later a day of trouble in the history of this land. Unless history of every kind is to be falsified by the record of this land, we cannot attain to true and full life until we shall have passed through some great crisis, until, I say, we shall have experience of war in the life of this fair land. History tells us we must prepare for this. Before we come into the full and true and noble work of life we must be consecrated to that work in blood. I know not whence it may come, and I dare not desire the day to come. But come it will and it may come soon. It may be the result of racial questions; it may be a war of religion, or we may fight on account of some old-world quarrels. But come the day will. Come it must. When that day comes Canada will have full measure of that baptism of blood, some of the drops of which have but been sprinkled on some of your gallant and noble heads.

On this the Globe remarks

To say that such a conflict is inevitable seems to us to be calculated to weaken the hands of those who are striving for peace; and to say that the baptism of blood is necessary for full national life and nobility seems to be casting a doubt upon the efficacy of that Gospel which Dr. Black preaches. We do not believe that a war of races or creeds in Canada is necessary to the attainment of a full and noble national life. On the contrary, we believe that a war resulting from such a quarrel would lower the standard of national life, check if not destroy our national development, and leave behind it seeds of hatred and bitterness the harvest of which would be reaped for hundreds of years. True nobility will be attained by addressing ourselves patiently and firmly to the task of keeping French and English people, Protestant and Catholic, on good terms, and encouraging them to work in harmony for the building up of a strong and united nation. As to the other contingency that of war with the United States, it may be that some day it will be forced upon us, though we hope and trust that that day may never come. Military preparation, is of course, not unimportant, but the country which is strong in peace, in natural resources, in national character, is strong also in war. Whether the war in which Dr. Black expects is a civil war or a foreign war, we are wholly opposed to the idea that a baptism of blood is essential to full and noble national life.

## Sparks From Other Anvils.

United Presbyterian:—It is the positive declaration of truth that commands attention. Speculation and faith do not go together.

Herald and Presbyterian:—One of the greatest events of the Nineteenth Century has been the abolition of slavery in all civilized nations.

"A Bystander" in Weekly Sun:—It is strange that any thoughtful Roman Catholic should fail to see how much the Pope has gained in spiritual dignity and authority by the loss of his temporal power.

Philadelphia Presbyterian:—Sheldonism is one of the modern fads. It consists in displacing the evening service with a novel on some taking subject. The intention may be good, but its wisdom is of questionable.

Michigan Presbyterian:—Whatever position the ministry may take in regard to comparative religion, new theology, higher criticism, and kindred studies, it must be evident that the pulpit is not the place to air their speculations.

Christian Intelligencer:—The dying Queen clearly recognized that the joint influence of the Sovereigns of England and Germany in promoting peace would go far to insure its prevalence. Her counsel, we are optimistic enough to believe, will be followed, and King and Kaiser will seek to maintain and establish peace.

Lutheran Observer:—Without undervaluing in any way the work that has been done by the Establishment, these non-conformist churches can point to a "historic" past, quite as rich in all the manifold works of Christian activity, and to powerful influences steadily exerted in forcing legislative and administrative reforms, and in securing for Englishmen the liberties which they enjoy to-day.

Canadian Baptist:—He takes the crown at an age that many kings desire to lay it aside, or death takes it from them, and he escapes the snares that ever beset a young ruler, but he is at a giddy height, and no human arm alone can keep him in safety in the perilous trials of state and society that will encompass him. His mother reigned in righteousness and her voice was ever for peace. She left her palaces pure and her royal home sacred. She loved God and served her realm. We shall all pray that her son may follow in her royal footsteps, and deserve honors like hers when the crown is again transferred to another head.

Sunday School Times:—Woman: Wife: Mother: Queen. Four divinely created spheres in one. And it was through the fulfilment of her mission in each of those spheres that the gracious Queen of our mother country held such loving sway over the hearts of millions outside of her own earthly empire. Her summons from God's Footstool to a place high in the Eternal Kingdom leaves such a sorrow-stricken sense of loss and personal bereavement as is not often caused by the death of an earthly ruler. But the very keenness of that sorrow carries with it an equally heartfelt rejoicing and thanksgiving for the singular beauty of the life we mourn. Dark indeed would be the memory if there were no regret at the going. The fourscore years lived in the search light of a world-publicity recorded only lessons of love, and purity, and motherliness, and wisdom, and Christian grace, that are a heritage to the Anglo-Saxon race. May that race rise to the responsibility of honoring in its life the ruler whom it mourns!