



After Coronation Reflections.

Now that the coronation of King George V.—the greatest pageant of the year—is over, there is time to look past the gauds, the hurrying of ships England-bound from all parts of the earth, the vast congregation of people who have overflowed London, the greatest mart of the world, to its carrying capacity, and see the real signification of this event that has taken place.

The mere fact that a new king sits upon the throne has, perhaps, no especial bearing upon the question. A "good king" may, it is true, exercise considerable influence; a "bad" one may cause some confusion and trouble; yet to-day, as never before, perhaps, in the history of Great Britain, is the Empire in the hands of the people. To-day the king, as never before, holds a position hard to define by a single word. He is not a representative of the people—for the whole circumstances of his birth and training preclude that possibility; he is not their leader. Rather does he stand as a figure upon whom (for one must personify in such a case), with the anointing of oil, and the investment with spurs and sceptre, with the sword which has lain upon the high altar and the rod of equity and mercy, with the wedding-ring of England, the Imperial orb, and the crown of the vast British Empire, has descended the privilege of standing as the symbol of that for which the British Empire should stand—the Sir Galahad spirit which, in the sublime words of the sacred ceremonial, calls upon the King, in reality upon the Empire in his name, to "do justice, stop the growth of iniquity, protect the Holy Church of God, help and defend widows and orphans, restore the things that are gone to decay, maintain the things that are restored," remembering that "the whole world is subject to the Power and Empire of Christ our Redeemer."

Whether the sovereigns of Britain have, heretofore, personally carried out these noble injunctions or not, is a story that has been told, for, however hidden behind the walls of protection he may have been, no king has ever yet been able to wholly escape "the white light that beats upon a throne." Whether the new king, George, is of that quality which will lead him, heart and soul, to direct his influence towards their fulfilment, time alone can tell. Whether the Peers who stood last Thursday in Westminster Abbey, with bowed, uncoroneted heads, while the oil was poured from the ampula and the prayers of consecration were said, also pledged themselves to assist, as in their power lay, in the out-carrying of those solemn vows as wholeheartedly as the men without the walls, the fighters of the British Commons, who have already sworn themselves to the lightening of the burdens of the poor, even though the rich must help to carry them, is a story which also the immediate course of events must indicate.

But it is not upon these alone—King, and Peers, and Commons—that the whole responsibility rests. To us, the great "commons," remains the reflection that it is, after all, individuals that the British Empire is made; that upon each of us, if we be true British subjects, rests to some extent the burden to which the King of England, as our symbol,

gives consent—"to do justice," "to stop the growth of iniquity," "to defend widows and orphans," "to restore the things that have gone to decay, and maintain those that are restored."

As the successor of the genial King Edward, George the Fifth may find it hard to win universal popularity. But that is not the question. Rather, is he a king who will hold up the the highest ideals of the Empire?—that is the question which he, by his life, must answer. Too often in the past have those ideals been smirched in the mire of mere commercialism and self-seeking. Will George the Fifth prove a king who will tolerate no smirch, so far as his influence may reach—a king who will hold aloft a white banner which all nations may read? From such hints as have leaked out from the pre-coronation confusion of preparation, it appears that he is taking his responsibilities seriously. If it shall prove that he will take them wisely and tenderly, as well, the nations of the Empire will be only too ready to sing, with growing respect and sincerity, "God Save the King!" The world is slowly growing better. May George the Fifth be a power to help it on its upward way.

Coronation Topics.

THE QUEEN VICTORIA MEMORIAL.

It must seem to every thoughtful mind that no moment during the coronation period could have been more appropriately chosen for the unveiling, with all the ceremonial respect due to it, of the beautiful work of art to the honored memory of Queen Victoria, only about one short month before the great day of coronation.

It struck the right keynote of England's pride in a glorious past, and of its recognition of the undying gratitude it owed to her whose guiding hands had helped to win for it so proud a position amongst the nations of the earth, thus linking a glorious past with a joyous present and a most hopeful future. This is what The Times writes of the occasion:

"It is now full ten years and more since Queen Victoria left us, and the gracious voice which so often stirred, sustained and inspired her people was stilled forever. Within those ten years we have welcomed, loved and lost another great sovereign, who had inherited from his royal mother the inestimable gift of identifying himself with all the joys and all the sorrows of his people, and, if it were possible, had even bettered her example. But the dead do not all die. Rather, they live again in the hearts of those who loved them, and come back to us after a time transfigured in the recollection of all that was noblest and best in them. It is a happy augury for the reign of King George V. that its most solemn moment should thus be closely associated with a ceremony which symbolizes so well and so opportunely the indefeasible continuity of the present with the past."

There is a very true ring in the touching words of the King, in reply to the address, acknowledging the monument as the gift not only of the people of England only, but of the "Dominions and Colonies beyond the seas, who have united thus to enshrine the memory of Queen Victoria." "My beloved father," said

his Majesty, "during the ten years which have passed since the work was begun, had watched over it with tender interest and close attention, anxiously looking forward to the ceremony now to be performed. Though, alas! not spared to see the completion of the Memorial, King Edward VII. is more than ever in our loving thoughts to-day. . . . It now stands complete before our eyes, to revive for us, and to convey to our descendants the lustre and fame which shine upon that happy age of British history, when a woman's hand held for a period which almost equalled the allotted span of human life the sceptre of the Empire, and when the simple virtues of a Queen comforted the heart of nations," and then followed words which have already become historic:

"I pray that this monument may stand for ever in London to proclaim the glories of the reign of Queen Victoria, and to prove to future generations the sentiments of affection and reverence which Her people felt for Her and for Her memory. As time passes and the years unfold, events are revealed in their true character and proportion. We are sure that the tributes we pay to-day will not be disputed by posterity. Her life was devoted to the discharge of Her solemn public duty. Her authority was exercised on all occasions with sincere respect for Constitutional usage and tradition. No Sovereign in history reigned so long over so many millions of mankind; no ruler saw so many wonderful changes come to pass or witnessed such a vast expansion in the scale and power of human arrangements; no reign in this Kingdom ever gathered up more carefully the treasure of the past, or prepared more hopefully the path of the future. No woman was ever held in higher honor. No Queen was ever loved so well."

When the King had finished speaking, and before the moment had arrived when, surrounded by her descendants of three generations, his Majesty was to touch the electric button which should unveil to the eyes of the assembled multitude the beautiful memorial of a nation's undying affection, there was a short service of dedication, conducted by Archbishop of Canterbury and the Bishop of London. After the Lord's Prayer, intoned by the massed choirs, was offered the following thanksgiving and petition:

"O Lord our Heavenly Father, Almighty and Everlasting God, by whom Kings reign and Princes decree justice, we thank Thee for all the blessings which Thou didst bestow upon us through Thy Servant, Our Most Gracious Sovereign Lady Queen Victoria. We thank Thee for the wisdom of her counsels, for the care and love with which she watched over her people, for the bright example of her noble life, for the prosperity which we enjoyed during her happy reign: And we beseech Thee to give us grace that, having these Thy mercies in remembrance, we may with one heart and with one mind set forward the welfare of this Land and Empire, and hasten the coming of Thy Kingdom of peace and goodwill among men, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen."

Then, raising his voice, the Primate cried:

"To the Glory of God, and in memory of our Gracious Sovereign Lady Queen Victoria, we dedicate this memorial in the name of the

Father, the Son, and the Holy Ghost."

The choir answered with a loud Amen.

Perhaps the supreme moment of the service came when the massed bands of the Guards Regiments crashed out the opening chord of the hymn, "O God, our help in ages past." A thousand soldiers took up the grand old tune, mingling with the sweeter notes of the choir, till, swelled by the full power of the drums, the music of the last verse went sweeping a great wave of melody across the park:

"O God, our help in ages past,
Our hope for years to come,
Be Thou our guard while troubles last,
And our eternal home."

At the end, the Archbishop, holding a golden crozier in his left hand, blessed the assembly, and the service closed with the sweetly-sounding harmony of the Sevenfold Amen."

Truly, the 16th of May, with its dazzling military and naval displays, its entourage of royalties, some bound by ties of kinship as well as of national relationship to England and its royal family, and best of all by its devotional recognition of what even the greatest of nations must owe to the King of Kings, must pass into the pages of history as a day of the deepest significance to the people of the British Empire.

H. A. B.

The Windrow.

The first aeroplane smuggler was recently captured on the border between Switzerland and Italy.

A Correction.—A mistake occurred in our issue of June 22nd. "Osborne House" is the name of the Isle of Wight royal palace, not "Osgoode," as appeared.

An interesting railway has just been opened in the Scandinavian Peninsula. There are 184 tunnels on the line—24 miles of tunnels in 300 miles of road.

The "railophone," a contrivance by which telephone communication can be kept up between a moving train and a stationary point, has been put in operation at Stratford-on-Avon, England.

In the United States, many newspapers are now expressing their opinion that trust magnates who have violated the Sherman Anti-trust Law should be imprisoned, in accordance with that statute which names imprisonment as one of the penalties. So far, no man of great wealth has suffered other than fine.

Thousands of school-boards are now advertising for teachers, and it is pleasing to note that an increasing number are stating the salary to be paid. This is the only honorable and satisfactory method. Teachers should not be compelled to underbid one another. Indeed, many of the teachers of highest principle now absolutely refuse to apply for schools for which the salary has not been publicly stated.

The history of the coronation ceremonial dates back to the early ages. First composed by Monks, it has been added to and modified from time to time, one of the most radical additions being the Oath of the Revolution of 1688. In early times, the oil used in anointing the sovereign