

happiness of living under her auspices. And those who, by virtue of their office, have been brought in contact with the Queen well know that if there is any feature in her character more remarkable than another it is her strict adherence to her word under all circumstances and under all conditions. Of her it may be truly said—

"Her memory is her honest thought,
And simple truth her only skill."

In all the time that this great Sovereign has reigned over us no one has ever tried or ventured for a moment to point out that she has stepped one hair's breadth beyond the prerogative the law has assigned to her, or done anything in any way to violate the letter of spirit of the Constitution. No one can ever allege that she has ever made a promise that she did not fulfil. No one can even say anything ever dropped from her lips or from her pen that was not absolutely true, without the slightest intention in the world to mislead, deceive, or to conceal. (Hear, hear.) It is because I feel and know this so thoroughly, and all those who have the honour of anything to do with the affairs of the State know it too—that I really feel almost ashamed to say what I am going to say with regard to the statement that this promise to pay income-tax has not been fulfilled. I am not going into details, but I state to you, in the person from whom such statements would come with the proper official authority, that the sums which Her Majesty has contributed to the income-tax since 1842, when the income-tax was imposed, are counted in hundreds of thousands. (Cheers.) I have selected that single instance, and shall deal no further with the matter, but leave it to your conviction. If it should be the decision of the Honourable Gentleman in question to bring the matter before the House of Commons I shall be most happy to give the fullest explanation, and I do not doubt that the country will be satisfied in this as in all other things relating to Her Majesty and her office—the high, honourable office which she holds over us. Her Majesty has been true to herself, and a worthy representative of the feeling of the honest and truth-speaking people of England. (Cheers.) As for the rest of this matter, I shall certainly not discuss it. I should think it degrading to myself—I should think it insulting to you—if I were to be led, for one moment even, into any discussion on the relative merits of a Monarchy or Republic. Politics are not speculative or metaphysical, but a practical and inductive science. The test of what is politically right is what has answered and worked well. (Hear, hear.) The English Monarchy, beginning under William the Conqueror with the sternest and most cruel tyranny, has, in the course of eight hundred years, advanced until under it we have obtained in this happy country more of order connected with liberty, and more of ancient tradition connected with the springing power of boundless improvement than has been granted to any people on the earth. I think I do not misread the feelings of my countrymen when I say that they will not be disposed to consider for a moment the propriety of changing an institution under which they have derived so many and so great benefits.

6. QUEEN VICTORIA AND HER PEOPLE.

Now that His Royal Highness the Prince of Wales is steadily recovering—the latest telegram stating that he continues to gain strength and that the swelling above the hip subsides slowly—Her Majesty has, in a letter to the London papers, the substance of which is telegraphed, promptly and gracefully expressed her "deep sense of the touching sympathy exhibited for her family by the whole nation during the illness of her dear son." Her Majesty further states that a deep and ineffaceable impression has been made upon her heart by the general joy manifested at the improvement of His Royal Highness' health. This painful experience—happily not going down to the depths of desolation, with its wide awakening of national sympathy—reminds Her Majesty of that inexpressibly sad occasion when death removed "the mainstay of her life—the best, wisest and kindest husband that ever lived." Her Majesty expresses deep affection for and gratitude to the Princess of Wales, who has been most devoted in the attendance in the sick room, and is devoutly thankful for the recovery of the Heir Apparent.

7. A PLEASING ROYAL PICTURE.

The Berlin *Cross Gazette* takes the following account of the life of Her Royal Highness the Crown Princess at Hamburg, from a private letter: Our Crown Princess has now been here four weeks. Her sister, Princess Alice of Darmstadt, often comes with her children to visit her. At such times the sight of the family excursions from the old castle is very pleasant, as there are then eleven children together; and they are all very lively. Several of them lately

rode out on donkeys, and two pushed a chaise from behind, which was drawn by two small horses, and in which some of the children were also seated. The Crown Princess is exceeding simple in her tastes and manners. She herself carries refreshments in a basket to the patients in the Lazareth. She has had everything there arranged in the most excellent manner. She has had the beds covered with white sheets and coverlets, and neat curtains put up. By her orders, flowers were placed in the rooms, and a concert was given by the band of the Kurhaus, on which occasion the wounded were carried in their beds into the court of the barracks. The Crown Princess, beyond all doubt, possesses a great deal of energy, and she is fond of simplicity and good order. The fire guard here desired to place a guard of honour at the castle, but she refused the honour with thanks. She arrived with her children in a carriage. No one recognized or saluted her; a splendid entrance had been expected, but she was past. She has generally one of her children on her lap when she drives out. It is no wonder she has gained all hearts, especially those of the mothers.

8. CANADA'S SUBSCRIPTION FOR THE CHICAGO SUFFERERS.

As far as heard, from the subscriptions from Canada, towards the relief of Chicago's sufferers, are as follows:

Montreal	\$33,000
Toronto	15,000
Hamilton	7,000
London	4,000
Kingston	2,000
Brantford	1,000
Belleville	500
Miscellaneous	7,500
Total	\$70,000

9. TABLE OF FORMER GREAT FIRES.

Norfolk, Va., destroyed by fire and the cannon balls of the British. Property to the amount of \$1,500,000 destroyed. January 1, 1776.

City of New York, soon after passing into possession of the British; 500 buildings consumed. September 20, 21, 1776.

Theatre at Richmond, Va. The Governor of the State and a large number of the leading inhabitants perished. December 28, 1811.

City of New York; 530 buildings destroyed; loss \$20,000,000. December 16, 1835.

Washington City. General Post Office and Patent Office, with over ten thousand valuable models, drawings, &c., destroyed. December 15, 1836.

Philadelphia. Fifty-two buildings destroyed. Loss, \$500,000. October 4, 1839.

Quebec, Canada; 1,500 buildings and many lives destroyed. May 28, 1845.

Quebec, Canada; 1,300 buildings destroyed. June 28, 1845.

City of New York; 300 buildings destroyed; loss, \$6,000,000. June 20, 1845.

St. John's, N. F., nearly destroyed; 6,000 people made homeless. June 12, 1846.

Quebec, Canada; Theatre Royal; 47 persons burned to death. June 14, 1846.

Nantucket; 300 buildings and other property destroyed; value, \$800,000. July 13, 1846.

At Albany; 600 buildings, steamboats, piers, &c., destroyed; loss, \$3,000,000. August 17, 1848.

Brooklyn; 300 buildings destroyed. September 9, 1848.

At St. Louis; 15 blocks of houses and 23 steamboats; loss estimated at \$3,000,000. May 17, 1849.

Fredericton, N. B.; about 300 buildings destroyed. November 11, 1850.

Nevada, Cal.; 200 buildings destroyed; loss, \$1,300,000. March 12, 1851.

At Stockton, Cal.; loss, \$1,500,000. May 14, 1851.

Concord, N. H.; greater part of the business portion of the town destroyed. August 24, 1851.

Congressional Library, at Washington; 35,000 volumes, with works of art, destroyed. December 24, 1851.

At Montreal, Canada; 1,200 houses destroyed; loss, \$5,000,000. July 8, 1852.

Harper Brothers' establishment, in New York; loss over \$1,000,000. December 10, 1853.