PREMIER'S ELOQUENT SPEECH

In Moving the Address of Condolence to the King.

Sir Wilfrid's Tribute to Her Late Majesty Queen Victoria.

The Glories of Her Reign-Astonishing Colonic! Development—Influence of the Queen's Personality.

The full text of the elequent speech delivered by Sir Wilfrid Laurier, in moving the address of condolence to the King upon the death of her late majesty Queen Victoria, is herewith Almost every member of the house was present, and the galleries were crowded with black-robed women, who followed closely the words of the premier:

The premier spoke as follows: I rise to move the resolution, of which I gave notice yesterday, which seems to be eminently called for by the fatal occurrence under which we have met. We have met under the shadow of a death which has caused more universal mourning than ever has been recorded in the pages of history. In these words there is no exaggeration. They are a literal truth. There is mourning in the United Kingdom, in the col-onies and in the many Islands and continents which form the great empire over which extended the sovereignty of Queen Victoria. There is mourning, deep, sincere, heartfelt, in the man-sions of the great, of the rich, and in the cottages of the poor and lowly, for to all her subjects, whether high or low, whether rich or poor, the Queen in her long reign had become an object of almost sacred veneration. There is sincere and unaffected regret in all the nations of Europe, for all of the na-tions of Europe had learned to appre-ciate, to admire and to envy the many qualities of Queen Victoria, those many public and domestic virtues many public and domestic virtues which were the pride of her subjects. There is genuit e grief in the neighboring nation of 75,000,000 inhabitants, the kinsmen of her own people, by whom at all times and under all circumstances her name was held in high reverence, and where in the darkest days of civil way, when the relations days of civil wai, when the relations of the two countries were strained almost to the point of snapping, the poet Whittier well expressed the feeling of his country when he exclaimed: "We bowed the heart, if not the knee, to England's Queen, God bless her." There is wailing and langentation amongst the savage and bar barian peoples of her vast empire, in the wigwams of our own Indian tribes, in the huts of the colored races of Africa and of India, to whom she was at all times the great mother, the living personifica-tion of majesty and be nevolence. Aye, and there is mourning also, genuine and unaffected, in the farm houses of Africa, which have been lately and were to give my own appreciation of still are devastated by war, for it is a fact that above the clang of arms, above the many angers engendered by the war, the name of Queen Victoria was always held in high respect, even by those who are fighting: her troops, as an example of justice, and perhaps her kind hand was much relied upon when the supreme hour of reconciliation should come. Undoubtedly we may find in history instances where death has caused perhaps more passionate outbursts of grief, but it is impossible to find instances where death has caused so universal, so sincere, so heartfelt an expression of sor-

HER MAJESTY'S GREAT CHARACTER. In the presence of these many evidences of grief, which come not only from her own dominions but from all of Queen Victoria, it is not too much to accustomed to call great those exceptional beings upon whom heaven has bestowed some of its choicest gifts, who astonish and dazzle the world by the splendor of faculties who wno astonish and dazzle the world by the splendor of faculties phenomenally developed, even when these faculties are much marred by defects and weaknesses, which make them nugatory of good: but this is not splends. Herst of all sovereigns who was absolutely impersonal — impersonal politically, I mean. Whether the question at issue was the abolition of the corn laws, or the war in the Crimea, or the extension of the suffrage on the difference of the suffrage on the difference of the suffrage of of the s conception of greatness. The equipose of a well-balanced mind, the equilibrium of faculties well and evenly balanced, the luminous insight of a calm

less solid qualities, and when these high qualities are found in a ruler of men, combined with purity of soul, kindness of heart, generosity of disposition, elevation of purpose and devotion to duty, this is what seems to me to be the highest conception of greatness, greatness which will be abundantly productive of happiness and glory to the people under such a sovereign; and if I mistake not, such was the character of Queen Victoria, and such were the results of her rule. It has been our privilege to live under her reign, it must be admitted to be one of the grandest in history, rivaling in length, and more than rivaling in glory, the long reign of Louis XIV., and likely to project its lustre into future ages. If we cast our glance back over the 64 years into which was compressed the reign of Queen Victoria we stand astonished, however familiar we may be with the facts, at the development of civilization which has taken place during that period. We stand astonished at the advance of culture, of wealth, of legislation of education, of literature, of the arts and scences, and particularly of navigation and locomotion by land and sea. The age of Queen Victoria must be held to be on a par with the most famous within the memory of man. Of course of many facts and occurrences which have contributed to make the reign of Queen Victoria what it was, to give it the splendor rences which have contributed to make the reign of Queen Victoria what it was, to give it the splendor which created such an impression upon her own country, and which has shed such a luminous trail all over the world, many took place apart and away from her, in relation to which the most partial panegyrist would no doubt have to say that they were doubt have to say that they were simply the happy circumstances of the times in which she lived. Science, for instance, might have obtained the same degree of development under another monarch.

> HER INFLUENCE IN LITERA-TURE.

It is also possible that literature might have equally flourished under another monarch. But I believe that the contention can be advanced, and advanced truly, that the literature of the Victorian age to ome extent reflected the influence of the Queen. To the eternal glory of the literature of the reign of Queen Victoria be it said that it was pure and absolutely free from the grossness which degraded it in former ages, which still unhappily is the shame of the literature of some other countries. Happy indeed is the country whose literature is of such a character that it can be the intellectual food of the family circle, that it can be placed by the mother in the hands of her daughter with abundant assurance that while the abundant assurance that while the mind is improved the heart is not polluted. Such is the literature of the Victorian age. For this blessing, in my judgment, no small credit is due to the example and influence of our departed Queen. It is a fact well known in history that in England as in other countries the influence of the sovereign was always reflected upon the literature of the reign. In former ages when the court was impure, the but in the age of Queen Victoria, where the life of the court was pure, the literature of the age was pure also. If it be true that there is a real connection between the high moral standard of the court of the sovereign and the literature of the age, then I can say, without hesitation, that Queen Victoria has conferred not only upon her own people but men literature of the nation was impure, only upon her own people but upon mankind at large, a gift for which we can never have sufficient appreciation. A CONSTITUTIONAL SOVEREIGN.

But there are features of the reign

of Queen Victoria which are directly

traceable to her influence, and if I

events as they have made their impression upon my judgment, I would say that in three particulars has the reign of Queen Victoria been most beneficial. It has been stated more Queen Victoria been most It has been stated more than once that she was a model coastitutional sovereign. She was more than that. She was not only a model constitutional sovereign, but she was undoubtedly the first constitutional sovereign the world ever saw; she was the first absolutely constitutional sovewhich England ever had, and England, we know, has been in advance of the world in constitutional parliamentary government. It may be said without exaggeration that up to the time of the accession of Queen Vic-toria to the throne the history of England was a record of contest between the sovereign and the parliament for supremacy. That contest was of many parts of the globe, in the presence of centuries duration, and it was not terparts of the globe, in the presence of centuries duration, and it was not terso many tokens of admiration where it is not possible to find a single discordant note, in the presence of the immeasurable void caused by the death it was continued for many reigns, in court intrigues and plots; the strug-gle on the part of the sovereign being history. What is greatness? We are accustomed to call great those exceptional beings upon whom heaven them nugatory of good; but this is not, establishment of the Irish Church, or in my estimation at least, the highest home rule in Ireland—the Queen never gave evidence of what her views were upon any of these great political issues. Her subjects never knew what were her personal views (the views she judgement, are gifts which are as rare- had, because she was a woman of ly found in one human being as the strong intellect, and we know that she possession of more dazzling though followed public events with great

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eagerness). We can presume, indeed we know, that whenever a new policy was presented to her by her prime minister, she discussed that policy with him, and sometimes approved, or sometimes approved, or sometimes perhaps dissented. But whether she approved or not, no one ever knew what her views were, and she left the praise or the blame to those who were responsible to the people. That wise policy upon the part of our late sovereign early bore good fruit, and in ever-increasing about fruit, and in ever-increasing abundance. The reward to the Queen was not only in the gratitude and affection of her people, but in the security of her throne and dynasty. When the terrible year of 1848 came, when all the nations of Europe were convulsed by revolution, when thrones were bat-tered by the infuriated billows of popular passions, England, England alone, was absolutely calm and peace-ful. Thrones crumbled to pieces like steeples in an earthquake, but the throne of the Sovereign Queen of England was never disturbed. It was firm in the affection of her subjects. As the reign advanced it became the pride of her subjects that there was more freedom in monarchical England than under any democratic or republican form of government in existence. That being true, the Queen has rendered her people a very great service indeed. She saved them from socialistic agitation, and so the great prosperity of England today is due not only to wise and economic laws, but due also to her prudent conduct all through the sixty years of her reign.

COLONIAL DEVELOPMENT.

But that is not all. The most remarkable event in the reign of Queen Victoria—an event which took place in silence and unobserved—the most remarkable event in the reign of the late Queen, was the marvelous progress in colonial development, which, based upon local autonomy, ended in colonial expansion. Let us remember that in the first year of the Queen's reign there was rebellion in this very country. There was rebellion in the then foremost colony of Great Britain, rebellion in Lower Canada, re-bellion in Upper Canada; rebellion (let me say it at once, because it is only the truth to say it), rebellion, not against the authority of the young Queen, but rebellion against the per-nicious system of government which then prevailed. This rebellion was down by force, and if the question had then been put: "What shall be the condition of these colonies at the end of Victoria's reign?" the universal answer would have been: "Let the end of the reign be near or let it be remote, when that end comes the rebellious colonies shall have wrenched their independence, or they shall be sullen and discontented, kept down by force." If, on the contrary, some one had then said: "You are all mistaken; when the reign comes to an end these colonies shall not be rebellious, shall not have claimed their they shall have a nation covering independence, shall have grown into continent, they shall become to all intents and independent nation under the flag of England, and that flag shall not be maintained by force, but shall be maintained by the affection and gratitude of the people." If such a prophecy had been made in 1837 it would have been concidered the hallucination of a visionary dreamer. But, sir, today that dream is a reality, that prophecy has come true. Today the rebellious colonies of 1837 are the nation of Canada, acknowledging the supremacy of the crown of England, maintaining that supremacy not by force of arms, but surely by their own affection, with only one garrison in Canada at this present moment, and that garrison manned by Canadian volunteers.

DUE TO THE QUEEN'S PERSONAL-

What has been the cause of that marvelous change? The cause is primarily the personality of Queen Victoria. course, the visible and chief cause of all is the bold policy inaugurated many years ago of introducing parliamany years ago of introducing parnamentary constitutional government, and allowing the colonies to govern themselves. But, sir, it is manifest that self-government could never have a violation of the territory of England has always because England has always not been that there was a wise sovereign reigning in England, who had herself given the fullest measure of constitutional government to her own people. If the people of England had not been ruled by a wise Queen, if they had not themselves possessed parliamentary government in the truest sense of the term, if the British Parliament had been as it had been under former kings and under former sovereigns, then it is quite manifest that Canada could not have enjoyed the de-velopment of constitutional government which she enjoys today. It is quite manifest that if the people of England had not possessed constitu-tional government in the fullest degree at home, they could not have given it to the colonies, and the action of the Queen in giving constitu-tional government to England has strengthened the throne not only in England but in the colonies as well. There is another feature of the Queen's reign which is but little taken notice of today, but which in my the strength has an inventence which is judgment has an importance which we have not yet fully realized, and perhaps the trend of which we have not yet seen. Towards the end of the 18th century all the colonies of England in America, with the single exception of the French colony of Que-bec, claimed their independence and obtained it by the force of arms. The contest was a long and arduous one. It left in the breast of the new nation which was then born a feeling of—shall I say the word?—yes, a feeling of hatred, which continued from of hatred, which continued from generation to generation, and which extended into our own time. Happily, we can say at this moment that the feeling of hatred has largely abated. feeling of hatred has largely abated. I would not say that it has altogether disappeared. Perhaps we can still find traces of it here and there, but that feeling has so largely abated that there is today between England and the United States of America an ever-growing feeling of friendship. What are the factors which have made this possible? Of all the factors which have made this reconciliation possible, the personality of the Queen is doubtless the foremost.

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vicious government would still have formed part of her dominions—a friendship which could not fail to touch the minds and hearts of a sensitive people. This was manifest in times of peace, but still more in times of war, especially in the supreme hour of trial of the United States during the civil war. In the early months of the civil war, as perhaps few now remember, an event took place which almost led to hostilities between Great Britain and the United States. A United States man-of-war stopped a land, because England has always held the deck of her ships to be part of her territory. It not only caused excitement in England, but it caused excitement of a different kind in the United States. The commander of the vessel, in making the abduction, aroused a great deal of enthusiasm among the people of the United States which was reflected even on the floor of congress, and evoked many meetings and resolutions in favor of his action. Lord Palmerston was at that time prime minister of Great Britain, and he was not the man to brook such an affront. He had a dispatch prepared by the foreign minister, who, if I remember rightly, was at that time Lord Russell, peremptorily demanding the return of the prisoners and an apology. The dispatch which had been prepared, was submitted to the Queen, and then was revealed the good sense

and kind heart and wise and good woman at the head of the British nation. She sent back the dispatch, remarking that it was couched in too harsh terms, and that it ought to be modified to make possible the sur-render of the prisoners without any surrender of dignity on the part of the United States. This wise counsel was followed; the dispatch was modiwas followed; the dispatch was modified accordingly, and the prisoners were released, and the danger of war was averted. That act on the part of the Queen made a most favorable impression on the minds of the people of the United States; but that was not

A CHARACTERISTIC KINDNESS. Three years or a little more afterwards, at the close of the civil war, when the union of the United States had been confirmed, when slavery had been abolished, when rebellion had been put down, the civilized world was shocked to hear of the foul assassination of the wise and good man who had carried his country through that ordeal. Then the good heart and sound judgment of the Queen was again manifest ed. She sent a letter to the widow of the President—not as a Queen of Great Britain to the widow of the President of the United States—but she sent a letter of sympathy from a widow to a widow, herself being then in the first years of her own bereavement. That action on her part made a very deep impression upon the minds of the American people; it toycled not only the

the souls of strong men: it caused tears to course down the cheeks of veterans who had couried death during the previous four years on a thousand battlefields. I do not say that it brought about reconciliation, but I do say it made reconciliation possible. It was the first rift in the clouds, and today, in the time of England's mourning, the American people flock to their churches pouring their blessings upon the memory of Britain's Queen. For my part I do not hope, I do not believe it possible, that the two countries which were severed in the eighteenth century can ever be again united politically, but perhaps it is not too much to hope that the friendship thus early inaugurated by the hand of the Queen may continue to grow until the two nations are united again, not by legal bonds, but by those of affection, as strong, perhaps, as if sanctioned by the majesty of the laws of the two countries, and if such an event is ever to take place, the credit of it will be due to the wise and noble woman who thus would have proved herself to be one of the greatest of statesmen, simply by following the instincts of her own heart. MOST ADMIRABLE TRAITS.

Sir, in a life where there is so much to be admired, perhaps the one thing most to be admired is that naturalness, that simplicity in the character of the Queen which showed itself in such actions as I have just described. From the first day of her reign to the last she conquered and kept the affections of her people, simply because under all circumstances and on all occasions, whether important or trivial, she did the one thing that ought to be done, and did it in the way most natural and Thus on the day of her accession to the throne, when she had to meet her council of state, veterans of the army, dignitaries of the church and of the state, she performed all her duties in such a way as at once to win the hearts of all present. The Duke of Wellington expressed his gratification in the blunt language of an old soldier, by remarking that if she had been his own daughter he could not have expected her to do better. So it was on the first day, so it was every day, so it was on the last day of her reign.

SHE HAD HER SORROWS. She was a Queen, but she was also a wife and a mother. She had her full share of the joys and sorrows of life. She loved and suffered. Perhaps though a Queen she had a larger share of the sorrows than of the joys of life, for, as Chateaubriand somewhere says, "We have come to know how much there is of tears in the eyes of queens." Her married life was one of the nob-lest that could be conceived. It can be summed up in one word, it was happy But death prematurely placed his cold hand upon her happiness by the removal of the noble companion of her life at an early age. From that moment she never was exactly the same. To the end of her like she governed like Rachel weeping for her children, and would not be consoled. After the lapse of 40 years time may have asthe day of her accession to the throne impression upon the minds of the Am- and would not be consoled. After the sion cares ported the day of her accession to the throne impression upon the minds of the Am- and would not be consoled. After the sion cares ported the day of her accession to the throne impression upon the minds of the Am- and would not be consoled. After the sion cares ported to the day of her accession to the throne impression upon the minds of the Am- and would not be consoled. After the sion cares ported to the day of her accession to the throne impression upon the minds of the Am- and would not be consoled. After the sion cares ported to the accession to the throne impression upon the minds of the Am- and would not be consoled. After the sion cares ported to the accession to the throne impression upon the minds of the Am- and would not be consoled. After the sion cares ported to the accession to the throne impression upon the minds of the Am- and would not be consoled. After the sion care ported to the accession to the throne impression upon the minds of the Am- and would not be consoled. After the sion care ported to the accession to the accession to the throne impression upon the minds of the Am- and would not be consoled. After the sion care ported to the accession to the accession upon the accession

beautiful language of the French poet: "Dans so premiere larme, elle nowa son coeur" ("In her first tearshe drowned her heart"). She is no more. No more? Nay, I boldly say she lives—lives in the hearts of her subjects; lives in the pages of history. And as the ages revolve, as her pure profile stands more marked against the horizon of time, the verdict of posterity will ratify the judgment of those who were her subjects—she ennobled man-kind, she exalted royalty; the world is better for her life.

MESSAGE TO THE KING.

Sir, the Queen is no more; let us with one heart say: "Long live the King." propose to the house that we should unite in a resolution to his majesty the King to convey the expression of our sorrow at the loss he has suffered. a loss which we may say with every respect is ours also. I propose that we should unite in conveying to the King the expression of the loyalty of his Canadian subjects. Only a few days ago his majesty sent a message to his broad dominions across the sea, in which he said it would be his aim in life to follow the footsteps of his great and noble mother. Sir, we did not want that assurance or the part of his majesty to know that the wise policy and the wise conduct of the great Queen whom he has succeeded on the throne would be his guide. We have believed from the first that he who was a wise prince would be a wise king, and that the policy which had made the British empire so great under his predecessor would also be his policy, and the reign of King Edward VII. would be simply a continuation of the reign of Queen Victoria. On our part let us offer to the King an expression of our loyalty—a loyalty which does not spring from any sycophancy or fetishism, but grateful hearts who duly appreciate the blessings of living under British institutions. Let us wish him Godspeed, and let us hope that his reign may be as fruitful of good as was that of his wise predecessor. would be simply a continuation of the

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worked a complete cure, as I am now entirely free of the cold."

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happy to state that the third bottle made me a well man. Insist on having Dr. Chase's Syrup of Linseed and Turpentine when you ask for it, and beware of druggists who offer mixtures of their own for the sake of a little more profit; 25 cents a hottle all dealers or Poles. cents a bottle, all dealers,