

girlhood she has reigned for the girls of the kingdom; a mother with sons, she has ruled for the boys. One of the united head of a family, she has seen her people, in the goodness of God, set in families; the mistress in a home, she has realized that the pure home is the strength of the State; a leader in society, she has felt that society must be incorrupt and incorruptible, and has done her best to make and keep it so. Her standards have been high, and they have been well enforced.

The Queen is a lover of parliamentary constitutional government, and for long years has been well equipped in all knowledge and experience concerning it. There can be no doubt she is now as well informed in political matters as her Ministers of State, and in all international concerns she is fully abreast of the times, and manifests the keenest interest. Her influence has more than once preserved the peace of Europe, and perpetually fosters the spirit of amity among the nations. From her many years of felicitous government, and the many branches of her family, she has become a sort of Queen-mother among the royal houses of the Continent, and kinship is often a power in the palace as well as in the cot.

Her reign has well shown how much the character of the sovereign has to do with imperial expansion and national power. Britons all around the world are proud to say "Our Queen." Cicero said character, moral worth has much to do in making the orator; it certainly has much to do in making the successful ruler. Despite all speculations and theories, intelligent humanity respects moral worth. Despite all counterblasts and countercurrents, the hearts of men from the ends of the earth are drawn to the obedient daughter, the faithful wife, the

noble mother, the splendid woman, and we have all these in our most gracious Queen Victoria.

Aye, more, far more. The very sorrows that have pierced her heart, in the way of their bearing, with strong tides of sympathy and love, have made her one with her people in all quarters of the globe. Her widowhood in the death of Albert the Good, and her stricken motherhood in the death of children and grandchildren beloved, have united royal palace, stately mansion, and humble home in purest affection in every land under the folds of Britain's flag.

It is easy in some circumstances to be loyal. In our circumstances it would argue a base and ungrateful nature to be disloyal, to be regardless of affection and duty to crown and throne. The silent forces proceeding from the life and character of Queen Victoria make mightily for imperial unity. A tyrant enthroned would drive us asunder. It has occurred in the past, and would be repeated. But a careful, discreet, intelligent, loving, earnest, constitutional sovereign, forever studying the welfare of the millions under her sway, ever devoting her best thoughts, and warmest love for their good, ever uniting in herself the strong bands of daughter, wife and mother, and these of the highest type known to the race, ever herself a glorious example of respect for authority and law, a pattern of a pure morality and a generous religion, must attract to a common centre, to the heart of the mother land the colonies of kindred sentiment and liberty, kindred race, institution and law. While sinister forces from without may in a way compel us to seek the strength, wealth and peace of a united empire, happily energies from within lend effectually to the same glorious consummation.