

The Ancient Ceremony of Proclaiming a King of England



At Charing Cross

After the ceremony at St. James's Palace depicted on the preceding page, the Earl Marshal and his attendants proceeded to the Ambassadors' Court whence they drove to Charing Cross, to read the proclamation to the people at the designated points. The route to the City proper was lined with seven thousand troops, while at the place at which the procession stopped and repeated the ceremony, troops and horse guards were stationed. The royal carriages of the Duke of Norfolk, Sir Alfred Scott-Gatty, and the officers of arms, followed by General French, with the headquarters staff and a troop of cavalry drove briskly from St. James's Palace to Charing Cross. Thousands upon thousands who had waited

since early morning, silently watched the stately progress of the heraldic procession. At Charing Cross there was such a crush that the police and troops had great difficulty in keeping a space clear for the heralds. The royal heralds again blew a fanfare and Sir Alfred once more read the proclamation. Again the people sang the National Anthem, their voices being accompanied by the music of military bands. On the right of the picture is Charing Cross Railway Station. The women at the right are standing on the tops of the cabs lined up on the station rank, and for the privilege most of them paid a good stiff price. The street on which the cavalcade is standing is the world-famous Strand.