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THE SIGNIFICANCE OF THE ROYAL VISIT.

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CANADA is not new ground to the Duke of Cornwall and York. When a lad of eighteen he was midshipman on board a ship attached to the North American station. In 1883, and on subsequent occasions, he visited several of the chief cities of the Dominion, journeying as far west as Niagara. He has not before seen the Great West, which will be to him, as it has been to many others, at once an inspiration and a revelation. Few men of our time, except the most confirmed globe-trotters, have seen so much of the British Empire. Certainly no Prince of a reigning monarchy has had, to anything like the same extent, the education which travel affords.

Other modern Empires have not the world-wide dimensions of ours. Their Princes would waste time in tours to colonial possessions which are either unsettled wastes or military camps. It was once the custom to describe the setting up of self-governing units within this Empire as so many "sucking republics." Time has falsified the apprehension. The rule of Britain is "broad-based upon the people's will." The people desire to see their kings face to face, and to further this object the policy of royal tours has been systematically carried out with excellent results. The tie between Crown and democracy is stronger than in the days of "divine right." Something has re-

placed the mediæval idea. What that something is cannot easily be defined. The personal element was developed to an extraordinary degree by Queen Victoria. The innate respect for law and authority, which is part of the British character, is another element. Racial pride in the illustrious family which traces its descent back to the Saxon kings cannot be ignored. A feeling thus compounded of different sentiments has produced the modern attachment to the throne, so that the British monarchy has evoked that most subtle and telling influence—the willing allegiance of a free people.

"You British," said an observant Frenchman, "change the form but you leave the substance untouched. You pose in Europe as the most democratic of states; in reality you have the most aristocratic of governments." The explanation is often ignored by the foreign critic: fitness to govern continues to the British aristocracy its unchallenged ascendancy in the national councils, and in the same sense the royal house has adapted itself to the new conditions, and created for itself a distinct place in the constitutional system. Its authority is unquestioned. A new nationality sprang into shape in Australia the other day, and the chiefs of state courted the presence of the King's son at the opening of their first Parliament. No country in the world