

# PLEASANT HOURS

A PAPER FOR OUR YOUNG FOLK.

Vol. XVII.]

TORONTO, MAY 22, 1897.

[No. 21.]

**God Save the Queen.**

BY T. WATSON.

Ring out, sweet music, glad and free,  
And boundless as the ocean's tide.  
Let loyal subjects joyful be  
While all their needs are well supplied,  
And keep the holiday again  
In honour of Victoria's reign.

The praises of Jehovah tell,  
For all his favours freely shown  
To her who rules the empire well,  
And sits on Britain's ancient throne,  
LONG may Victoria's honoured name  
Stand foremost in the ranks of fame.

And may her counsellors receive  
Such light and wisdom for their day,  
That they may to all goodness cleave,  
And tread the path of right alway,  
And keep unstained on every coast,  
The flag that Britons love the most.

And may her subjects everywhere,  
In one grand federation stand,  
To make the good of all their care,  
And peace promote in every land,  
Thus through all ages shall remain  
The good of Queen Victoria's reign.  
Colborne, Ont.

**QUEEN VICTORIA.**

BY ROBIN MERRY.

Our readers will be pleased to see this fine portrait of their Queen. It is after a photograph taken in 1877, and varies but slightly from the pictures taken more recently, the latter showing a little more definitely the marks of advancing age. The Queen has passed the seventy-seventh anniversary of her birth. At this ripe age she is exceedingly well-preserved, being in fine vigour, and able to endure the strain of a very large amount of business; for while it is true that the affairs of the great empire are conducted chiefly by her wisely-chosen and trusted officers, it is also true that she keeps herself well informed in all its vast departments of business, and personally supervises all its most important matters.

Victoria's rule over England has reached nearly sixty years, and has been one of the best in the entire history of the country. Indeed, it is quite worthy of remark that the two most brilliant reigns in all English history are those of women, the other being that of Queen Elizabeth. In no period since the government began was the country marked by a more decided development or a greater prosperity than during the reigns of these two illustrious women.

The principles of democratic government have for some time past had decided growth in England, and the people, through the House of Commons and the extension of the franchise, or privilege of voting, have gained a large share in the government of the country. There are probably few people in England who desire the overthrow of royalty, though there are many who desire to take away the hereditary privileges of the House of Lords. It seems probable that in no great time some important changes may take place in this regard in the English Government; but so long as rulers are as wise and conservative as the present honoured Queen, there is little



likelihood that an elective system, like that of the United States, for instance, will take the place of that which has so long given stability to the British Government and nation.

**HER MAJESTY THE QUEEN AND SABBATH OBSERVANCE.**

The religious feeling of her Majesty was evidenced, soon after ascent to the

throne, in the case of a certain noble lord occupying an important post in the Government, who, late one Saturday night, arrived at Windsor with some State papers.

"I have brought," said he, "for your Majesty's inspection some documents; but as I shall be obliged to trouble you to examine them in detail, I will not encroach upon your Majesty's time to-night, but will request your attention to-morrow morning."

"To-morrow morning!" repeated the Queen, "to-morrow is Sunday, my lord."

"True, your Majesty, but business of the State will not admit of delay."

"I am aware of that," replied the Queen, "and as, of course, your lordship could not have arrived earlier at the palace to-night, I will, if these papers are of such pressing importance, attend to their contents after service to-morrow morning."

In the morning the Queen and her Court went to church, and much to the surprise of the noble lord, the subject of the discourse was the sacredness of the Christian Sabbath.

"How did your lordship like the sermon?" asked the Queen.

"Very much, indeed, your Majesty," he replied.

"Well, then," added the Queen, "I will not conceal from you that last night I sent the clergyman the text from which he preached. I hope we shall all be improved by the sermon."

Not another word was said about the State papers during the day; but at night, when about to retire, the Queen said:

"To-morrow morning, my lord, as early as seven o'clock, if you please, we will look into the papers."

"I cannot think," was the reply, "of intruding upon your Majesty at so early an hour. Nine o'clock will do well."

"No, no, my lord, as the papers are of importance, I wish them to be attended to very early; but if you wish it to be nine, be it so."

At nine the next morning the Queen was seated at her table, ready to receive the nobleman and his papers.—Labour of Love.

**THE QUEEN AS A WORKER.**

It is not generally known that the Queen is one of the very few persons who never have a holiday.

Last year her Majesty was obliged to append her signature to some fifty thousand documents.

These were signed at Windsor on the Continent, at Balmoral, at Buckingham Palace, and even in railway trains.

If you go to King's Cross any morning, when the Queen is residing at her Scotch abode, you will see a Queen's messenger starting off for Scotland with forty or fifty bags and boxes.

Most of these contain letters and papers of various sorts, the remainder consist of domestic supplies, for even when in Scotland the Queen gets her butter and cream and fruit from her own farm near Windsor.

The messenger arrives at Aberdeen at three in the morning where he finds a special train awaiting him to take him to Balmoral. He remains at Balmoral about twenty-four hours, and then takes back to town all the



THE QUEEN'S PRIVATE APARTMENTS, OSBORNE HOUSE.