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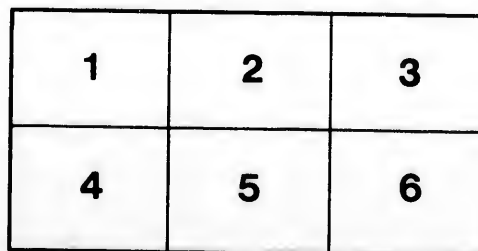
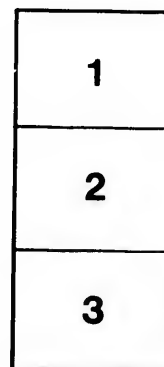
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Miss Grout
With the Author's Brief
God Save the Queen. *revised*

Sermon

PREACHED AT ST. GEORGE'S CHURCH, LENNOXVILLE, P. Q., ON JUNE
21ST, 1887, THE DAY APPOINTED FOR THE OBSERVANCE OF
THE QUEEN'S JUBILEE,

BY THE

REV. HENRY ROE, D.D.,

VICE-PRINCIPAL AND PROFESSOR OF DIVINITY IN BISHOP'S COLLEGE.

This Sermon is published by the special request of

THE MUNICIPAL COUNCIL OF LENNOXVILLE,
THE ASCOT LODGE OF FREE MASONS, NO. 30, G. R. Q., AND
THE INDEPENDENT ORDER OF FORESTERS,

Before whom it was Preached.

Sherbrooke :

PRINTED BY GEO. H. BRADFORD.

1887.

God Save the Queen.

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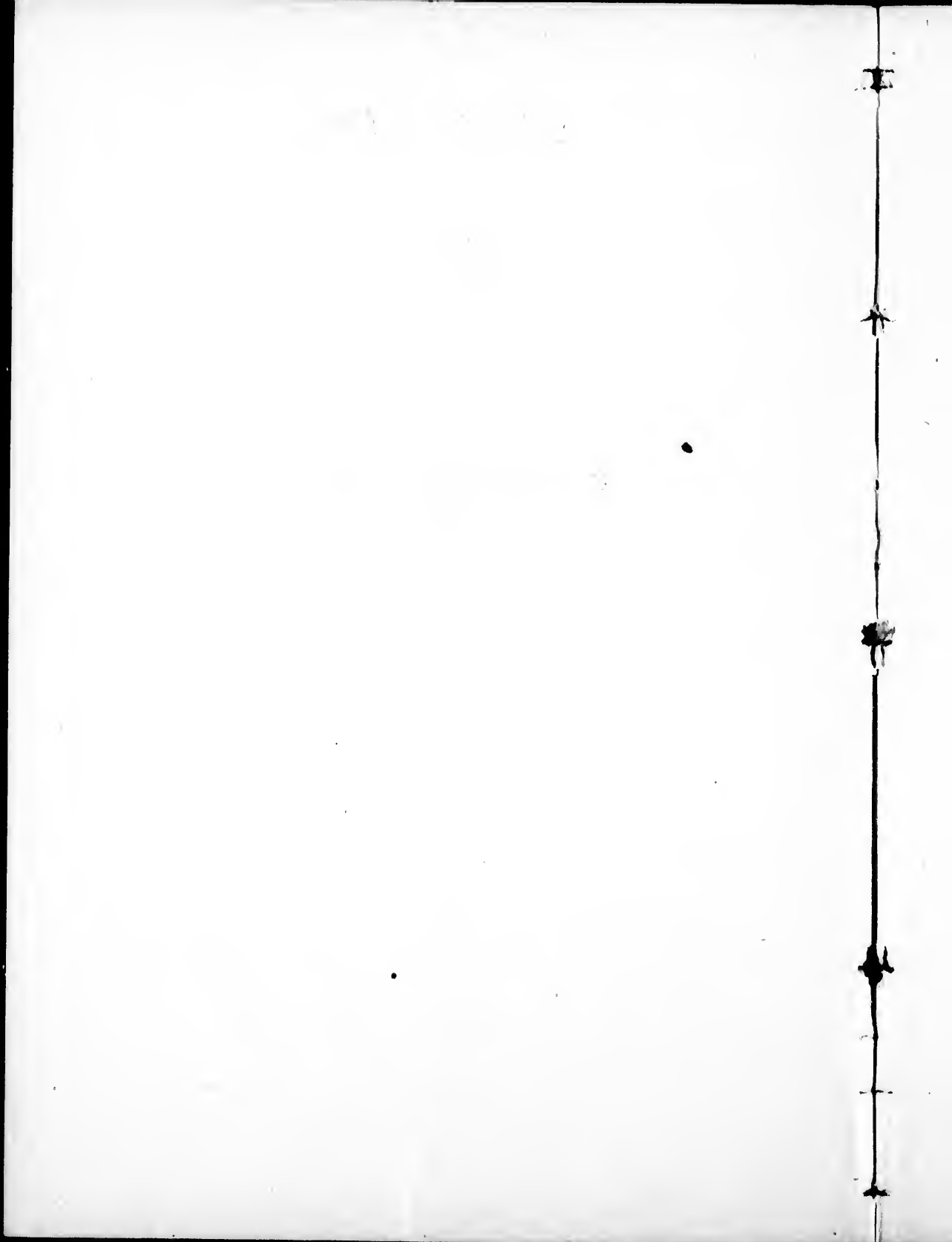
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2 SAMUEL, XXIII, 1, 3, 4.

"Now these be the last words of David. The God of Israel said, The Rock of Israel spake to me ;

He that ruleth over men must be just, ruling in the fear of God.

And he shall be as the light of the morning when the Sun riseth, even a morning without clouds ; as the tender grass springing out of the earth by clear shining after rain."

This is David's inspired description of what a righteous King ought to be. From what words could I better begin this address, in which I am requested to give some brief expression to your loyal love and thankfulness to-day ; for what words could more truthfully describe the reign and life of good Queen Victoria ?

We are assembled to render our public thanks as a Church and as a Community to Almighty God for His blessings bestowed upon our beloved Queen during the fifty years of her reign which have now closed, and for the many and signal benefits we have received from Him through her ministry.

As we look back and review the history of the British Empire during those fifty years, our hearts may well swell and overflow with gratitude. We cannot forget that we stand here to-day as members of the greatest Empire of the world—yes, the mightiest Empire the world has ever seen; an Empire which includes in its dominion more than one sixth of the earth's surface and rules over more than one sixth of the Human Race; an Empire under the shadow of whose benignant protection we dwell in securest peace.

As we contemplate the unparalleled strides the British Empire has taken during the fifty years we are now reviewing ; her immense advance in numbers, in wealth, in power ; the enormous development of her trade and commerce, of her arts and manufactures ; her wonderful progress in science, in education, in intellectual developement, and her still greater and more important advance in political freedom, in the enactment of just laws, in the relief of all down-trodden and oppressed classes of her own subjects—and the material and moral aid she has extended to the suffering and the oppressed of all lands ;—when we contemplate her moral and religious condition, and see her as a nation still believing firmly in God ; and the great body of her intelligent and educated men—amid the tremendous

upheaval and shaking of the faith of Christendom in our day,—still holding fast to the revelation of Jesus Christ; especially when we consider the wonderful revival of true religion which has taken place throughout the British Empire, and has gone on steadily increasing during those 50 years—a revival shared in by all Christian bodies of whatever name,—a revival unparalleled in the entire history of Christianity for its depth, its sober reality, its intensely practical nature and results; when we survey the splendid missionary work which British Christians of every name have carried on during those fifty years and are carrying on with a zeal, never surpassed in the best days of Christianity, to extend the blessings of the Gospel of Christ to the heathen nations of the world;—when we cast our eyes over the face of the world and see our country,—see the name of Great Britain, everywhere feared and held in honor, and the name of Britain's Sons synonymous everywhere for integrity, truth, justice, manliness;—it is hard to keep down the swellings of pride at the thought that in all this glory and greatness we share;—it is right that our hearts should overflow in love and thankfulness to that good and gracious Father to whose merciful Providence we know that we owe it all.

These are the splendid results of the Victorian era of England's history; and for it all, we thank our God to-day.

And what share in the achievement of all these splendid triumphs is justly to be ascribed to our Gracious Sovereign Lady Queen Victoria? For this is what we are especially to recall to-day. What benefits have we,—has our country,—has the world received directly through that noble Lady, for which we have to be personally grateful to herself?

These let us briefly review.

I. And first among these benefits must be placed her good and pure life, and her noble and widely influential example. If the British Empire is the greatest in the world, the Queen of England must be the most conspicuous person in the world, and her example the most influential. That we have had at the head of our Empire a Sovereign in whose life no flaw has ever been found is a benefit for which not only her subjects but the whole human race has reason to be grateful.

II. And next, assembled as we are here in the House of God—we must gratefully remember that our Queen has been all her life-long a distinctly religious woman—a true believer in God, a devout worshipper of Him, and that she has let her subjects see that in all her trials and sorrows she has sought and found comfort and strength in her Heavenly Father's love and care. The influence of this for good can scarcely be exaggerated.

III. Our Gracious Queen's life has been distinguished by a faithful devotion to the high trusts committed to her care as a constitutional ruler.

From the fact that the British Empire enjoys the highest possible amount of freedom in self-government, our Sovereigns have not the same opportunities of exhibiting great gifts of personal power, of rule and governance, such as despotic monarchs possess. But the duties which fall to the lot of a constitutional Sovereign are of equal importance, and probably of equal difficulty; and in the discharge of these Queen Victoria has been signally successful. Her ability and faithfulness have been fully tested.

The country has passed through times of the greatest peril during her reign—times when political and party feeling ran high; but never has a doubt or suspicion been raised as to the even-handed impartiality with which she held the scales of justice between all parties. And the result is that while the political liberty and share in political power of the great mass of her subjects has been ~~universally~~ extended under her reign, these important political changes have been brought about in a lawful and constitutional manner, without the rights and prerogatives of the Sovereign being even in the smallest degree called in question, and that this has been achieved in an age of revolutions, which have threatened and shaken nearly every other throne in Europe, is largely due to the sound wisdom, and true sense of her position as a constitutional ruler, which are distinguished characteristics of our Queen.

IV. But most of all have we—has the world—cause to be grateful to Queen Victoria for the influence for good she has exercised on English home-life, on the home-life of the world, by the splendid example she has shown in her own Court and family of a pure sweet true English home. The home is the source of all national life. Where the

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home-life is morally tainted, the moral life of the nation is sapped at its foundation, and in time moral ruin must ensue. Where the home-life is pure and sound, the people's national life is secure,—nothing very seriously calamitous can happen to it.

England's strength has always been the purity of the English home. In the worst of times, the home of the great body of the people has remained safe. Great and serious corruption has from time to time threatened it. Indeed we know that in the nature of things corrupting influences are always at work in human society. And when this moral rottenness exhibits itself in the home-life of the great and exalted the effect upon the masses is disastrous. The Courts of English Sovereigns have unhappily not always been pure.

But that now for one unbroken half century the Court of England has afforded an illustrious example of a sweet, pure English home—a home not only brilliant in its purity, but distinguished by simple healthy tastes and true family affection never surpassed,—is something the influence of which for good cannot be estimated. It is an influence which re-acts from rank to rank, from class to class of English society throughout England's vast Empire; and from England's Court to foreign Courts, and from them to the highest ranks of foreign society, and through them upon the whole world. The world knows—and all women know—all wives and mothers know, that no woman with a tainted character has been for 50 years, or can be received at the Queen of England's Court, or welcomed to the Queen of England's table.

But more than this. It is not only that England's Court has been pure for fifty years. The curtain that shrouds the sanctity of the inner home-life of Queen Victoria and her children has been lifted by the Queen herself in those remarkable books, the Queen's Journals and the Life of the Prince Consort, and her subjects have been admitted to see and hear all the secrets of that inner home-life.

And what a beautiful picture it is. The Court of a great Empire must as a matter of necessity be surrounded with a great deal of state and formality. But in those books we see, behind all the pageantry and splendour of that greatest of earthly courts, an inner home-life specially distinguished by simple tastes and family affection. Our Queen is seen

to be a noble pure woman with an intensely affectionate heart; and while entirely devoted to her duties as Queen of the greatest Empire the world has ever seen, still able to find time as a true mother to care for and train her children in purity and truth and humility, in love for nature, and in those healthy tastes and habits which we delight to think of as distinguishing England's gentlemen and gentlewomen.

Yes, my brethren, we may, and we ought to thank God to-day that the Court of England's Queen has ever been not only intensely, brilliantly pure and free from the least shadow of moral taint, but that the home of England's Queen has always been what a true English home ought to be,—a home, the virtues of which the humblest of her subjects, as well as the most exalted, can understand, can sympathize with, can feel a holy influence from it coming home to themselves in their own lowly cottages, can feel that here is something good and true which even they can copy.

These four great features in Queen Victoria's reign,—her own good and virtuous example, her quiet, unostentatious devotion to religion, her faithfulness to her high trust as the constitutional sovereign of this great Empire, and the brilliant whiteness of the purity of her court and of the home-life of her family,—constitute a body of reasons abundantly sufficient to justify the enthusiasm manifested throughout the world-wide dominions of England to-day in the celebration of her jubilee.

And yet we must all feel, when we go back in thought over our beloved Queen's life, that the half has not been told.

In the first half of those fifty years how beautiful was the intense happiness of her married life! And when it was all blighted in a moment by her great bereavement, how beautiful again in the latter half in those long years of a heart-broken widowhood—her devotion to carrying out faithfully for her people all the lessons of true Queen-ship she had learnt from her wise and good husband! How tender and sweet the sympathy learnt from her own great sorrows which she has manifested on so many hundreds of occasions with the sorrows and bereavements of her subjects!

Yes, my friends and fellow citizens, we may well to-day, as we think of those fifty years of faithful service of our Queen,—every day, every hour of which has been given up

with fullest self-forgetfulness to promote the welfare of her country and the happiness of her people;—as we think of her simple and beautiful home-life, adorned by true affection, of the sternness with which she has frowned away all that is evil from her presence; when we think of her as ever on the side of truth, and right, and mercy,—a true, gentle, tender-hearted woman, a loving, faithful wife, a wise affectionate mother, Queenly withal and dignified as England's Queen ought to be.

And when we think of her going up to-day to our great national shrine, Westminster Abbey, to return her own devout thanks to God for all His mercies, to say to Him as David said, "The Lord liveth, and blessed be my Rock, and let the God of my Salvation be exalted,"—we may well feel compelled to cry with a truer loyalty than we ever felt before, God save the Queen! Yes, God save the Queen! May He fill her heart to-day with calm, quiet peace and rest in Himself! May He shield her from all evil designs and evil men! May He grant her, in her declining years, to see quietness and peace and goodness throughout her Empire;—old sores healed, old bitternesses put away and forgotten! And when the inevitable hour comes that she too must go away to give up her great account, "in the hour of death and in the day of judgment" "God save the Queen".



