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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 nobles 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.

documents that have been signed. Six messengers are perpetually employed in going backward and forward.

The Queen gets up at half-past seven. At eight she has prayers, and at half-past eight breakfast, after which she walks for an hour, and then works with her secretary until two o'clock. She has frequently been kept at work all day long, and is often called up in the middle of the night.

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Pleasant Hours:

A PAPER FOR OUR YOUNG FOLK.

Rev. W. H. Withrow, D.D., Editor.

TORONTO, MAY 22, 1897.

OUR GRACIOUS QUEEN.

We have pleasure in presenting herewith a special patriotic number of Pleasant Hours, commemorating Queen Victoria's Diamond Jubilee.

Methodists are everywhere characterized by their conspicuous devotion to the person and crown of their rightful ruler. Without reserve they recognize their duty to "fear God and honour the king." This they do with an added zest and a more enthusiastic devotion when all disabilities are removed, and when the sovereign is one whose private virtues and personal attributes, no less than her official dignity, are calculated to call forth the truest fealty of soul. And never was sovereign more deserving to be loved, never had ruler stronger claim upon the loyal sympathies of her people, than our revered and honoured widowed Queen.

But not the splendours of royal state, not the victories of arms, not even the conspicuous virtues of her life, are the chief claim upon our loving sympathies; but rather the sorrows through which her woman's heart hath passed. To these royalty affords no shield, the castle wall no bulwark. With the meanest of her subjects the mistress of an empire is exposed to the shafts of bereavement and sorrow. This touch of nature makes us all akin. The undying devotion to the memory of the husband of her youth has touched the nation's heart as nothing else could have done.

Her personal and womanly sympathies are another conspicuous characteristic. Her autograph letters to the bereaved widows of President Lincoln and President Garfield smote chords of feeling that vibrated in the remotest hamlets of two continents. Nor are her sympathies restricted to the great. They extend alike to the humblest of her subjects. To the stricken wives of shipwrecked mariners or fishermen, of death-doomed miners and pitmen, to the sick children in the hospitals, and in homes of want, her heart goes forth with loving sympathy, her private purse is opened in generous aid. These are truer claims to a nation's love than the material splendour of a Semiramis or a Zenobia. And that love has not been withheld. Upon no human being have ever been converged so many prayers, so many blessings and benedictions. Throughout the vast Empire, that with its forty colonies engirdles the world, wherever prayer is wont to be made, go up petitions for England's Queen. In Australian mining camps, in far Canadian lumber shanties, in the remotest hamlets, and in the fishing villages that line almost every sea, the patriotic devotion of a loyal people finds utterance in the words, "God save the Queen!"

A USE FOR A QUEEN.

Recently Queen Victoria received a petition from a little girl which was quite irresistible in its way. The letters addressed by unknown persons to the Queen do not usually meet her eye, as their number is great and their character often indicative of unsound minds; but the epistle from this child the Queen's secretary deemed worthy to be brought to her attention.

It began thus: "Dear Queen.—I let my doll fall into a hole in the mountain; and as I know that the other side of the world belongs to you, I wish you would send some one there to find my doll."

The little girl believed the hole went clear through the earth, and that the Queen could easily have the doll hunted up on the other side.

The Queen was much amused at this petition; and though she was unable to grant it, she could send a new doll to the little girl, and this she proceeded to do.

STORY OF THE QUEEN'S LIFE.

CHILD VICTORIA AND CHILD ALBERT.

Queen Victoria was born in 1819. Her father was the Duke of Kent. He used to like to hold his baby Princess in his arms and say, "Look at her well! She will yet be the Queen of England." But she did not know that she was to be Queen of England till she was twelve years old. Then she was told; and what do you think she said first? "I will be good," she said.

Her father died while she was a baby, so her mother had to train the future Queen of England alone. The little Princess wore plain cotton and woollen gowns, and plain hats, stout shoes and water-proof garments when it rained, for she spent much time out-of-doors, so she might grow up strong and healthy.

She ate her bread and milk and fruit for breakfast, studied with her mother in the forenoon, rode out in the afternoon, dined, even when she was a big girl. She was just as fond of a romping play as any little girl, but she studied hard, too.

Queen Victoria is a fine musician, and she learned to play, as every girl has to, by constant practice.

THE BONNY ENGLISH ROSE.

That is what the English called the Princess Victoria as she grew up into girlhood. The Bonny English Rose was eighteen when, at the death of William IV., she became Queen.

Immediately after the death of her uncle, William IV., the Archbishop of Canterbury and the Lord Chamberlain hastened to Kensington Palace, where the Princess and her mother lived. They knocked a long time at the gate before they could wake the porter, for it was yet early dawn.

The Princess, too, had to be wakened out of a sound sleep to be told that she was now Queen of England. She came to meet these two messengers, with a shawl thrown over her nightdress, her feet in slippers, and her fair hair tumbling over her shoulders.

The first words she spoke as they hailed her Queen, were to the Archbishop,

"I beg your Grace to pray for me," she said; and the good Archbishop did pray for the young ruler of England.

A few hours after came the great officers of State and Church to kneel and kiss her hand, and to swear allegiance.

Very shortly after, Victoria went to live at Buckingham Palace, the London home of the kings and queens of England. But she was not crowned till more than a year after—June 28, 1838.

On the morning of that day, the great guns of the Tower and of the battery in St. James' Park were fired early. About ten o'clock, the procession left Buckingham Palace for Westminster Abbey, where the sovereigns of England are always crowned. The Queen rode in the state chariot, drawn by eight magnificent cream-coloured horses.

Everywhere, everywhere the people crowded—in the streets, looking down from windows and balconies, the women waving handkerchiefs, the children dropping flowers.

In the nave of the Abbey, galleries had been raised for the spectators. These were covered with crimson cloth, fringed with gold. On a platform, covered with cloth of gold, stood the "Chair of Homage." Near the altar stood the quaint old chair, called the "Coronation Chair," in which all the sovereigns since Edward I. have been crowned. This chair is of oak, and under the seat is the famous "Stone of Scone," which Edward I. brought from Scotland. On this stone, the kings of Scotland used to be crowned.

The noble lords and ladies were all there, and were gorgeously dressed.

Says Grace Greenwood, "Prince Esterhazy especially looked as though he had been snowed upon by pearls and rained upon by diamonds, so dazzling were his jewels."

The Queen came in near the centre of the procession. She wore a crimson velvet robe, trimmed with ermine and gold lace, and eight noble young ladies carried her immense train.

As the procession entered the Abbey, the choir and orchestra played "God Save the Queen!" and the people shouted.

The little choir boys, in their white robes, chanted Vivat Victoria Regina! (Long live Queen Victoria!)

The Archbishop of Canterbury said, in a loud voice, "I here present unto you Queen Victoria, the undoubted Queen of this realm, wherefore all you who are come this day to your homage, are you willing to do the same?"

Then all the people shouted, "God save Queen Victoria!" the drums beat, and the trumpeters away up aloft in the Abbey sounded their trumpets. This was repeated at the north, west and south sides of the theatre.

The Archbishop of Canterbury crowned the Queen. The instant the crown touched her head, all the Peers and Peeresses who had been holding their coronets in their hands, crowned themselves, and shouted, "God save the Queen!" And again the drums beat, the trumpets sounded, and a signal being given, the great guns of the Tower and of the battery in St. James' Park were fired.

After more singing and other ceremonies, the Queen was seated in the Chair of Homage. The Dukes and Peers, one by one, knelt, touched his coronet to the Queen's crown, and kissed her hand. The final ceremonies were long and tedious, and no doubt the young Queen was glad when they were all over, and she changed her crimson velvet robe for a purple one, and went home wearing her crown.

When she got home to Buckingham Palace, she heard her pet spaniel barking a joyous welcome on the staircase. "There's Dash!" she cried out, and was in a great hurry to get off her crown and her purple velvet robe, and give Dash his bath. For the Queen is very fond of animals, especially of dogs and horses.

HOW MR. BELL-SMITH SKETCHED THE QUEEN.

The distinguished honour of painting the portrait of England's Queen direct from life is one that has been accorded to very few of even the greatest European portrait painters, and until Mr. Bell-Smith, of Toronto, obtained that honour, no artist from this side of the Atlantic has ever done so. His experience in the Queen's presence is best told in his own words.

"The first intimation I received of the approach of her Majesty was the announcement by the Court Usher: 'The Queen is coming,' which message having been given he immediately left the room. A moment or two later I heard a voice some distance away down a long corridor. It was loud and clear, with a ringing, far-reaching tone; not an old voice, but one that might have belonged to a young woman. At first I did not realize whose voice it was, but it soon dawned upon me that no one but the Queen would presume to speak in such a loud voice so near to the royal private apartments. Her first act on entering was to say: 'I am sorry to have kept you waiting.' An act of graciousness that was not lost upon me; and in justice to the Queen, who is noted for her punctuality, it may be well to state that the few minutes delay was caused by the unexpected arrival of the Duchess of Cobourg. The Queen was supported by an Indian (Hindu) attendant, and also held a stick, but her step was so quick and apparently elastic that the support she received seemed hardly necessary. As soon as she was seated, the Queen asked me to place her in exactly the pose I wanted, and that being done, she kept it like a Parisian model, only once or twice turning to look at or speak to me during the whole of the sitting.

"While we were thus engaged, the Princess Beatrice chatted with her mother, relating the pranks and antics of the royal grandchildren in the palace, and helping in this manner very materially to while away the hour. To me the interest which the Queen took in these stories of childish mirth and innocence was a revelation, and I could scarcely believe that a woman in such an exalted position and burdened to such an extent as she is with the cares and anxieties attending the government of a great and world-wide empire, embracing, as it does, all sorts and conditions of people, whose individual interests have to be studied, could become so absorbed in matters re-



THE QUEEN.

lating to a child's enjoyment. The incident afforded me an insight into the home-life of the Queen, of which we have always heard so much but seen so little.

"At the end of the sitting the Princess Louise conveyed my sketch to her Majesty, who critically inspected it, and complimented me upon the result. She alluded to the warm place which her Canadian subjects held in her heart and affections, and expressed her gratitude that she had been of some service to them in their effort to perpetuate one of the most tragic events in their history.

"She then withdrew as quietly and unobtrusively as she had entered, and shortly afterwards I left the castle for my hotel. Other sittings had been arranged for, but, owing to a sudden and dangerous illness which overtook me, they had to be cancelled. During my illness the Queen personally wrote to me and inquired concerning my condition."

JUNIOR EPWORTH LEAGUE.

PRAYER-MEETING TOPIC.

MAY 30, 1897.

David's flight from Jerusalem.—2 Sam. 15. 13-18.

THE TROUBLE.

Verse 13. Absalom was a wicked young man. His conduct in this instance had not a single redeeming feature. His professed sympathy for the people was a delusion. His object was to gain ascendancy, and he could only do so by lifting up his hand against his father. Those who took his part and joined in the conspiracy were like him in their disloyalty to the king. As Absalom was the chief person who led the rebellion, he was most to blame. Think of his conduct. A son trying to overturn his father's throne. He thus set the law of God at defiance. How could he expect to succeed when he was acting such a flagrantly wicked part towards his father. Remember that to honour father and mother is the first commandment with promise.

THE PARENT'S BROW.

Verse 14. Self-preservation constrained David to seek a place of security. He knew that those who had taken up arms would be utterly reckless if a conflict took place. How must his heart have felt as he made his escape from the presence of his own son? None know the sorrows of a parent but those who have been parents. Alas! while we trust there are only few who would act to their parents as Absalom did, there are very many who "despise their parents' counsel, and will not hearken to their reproof." They are bringing down the gray hairs of their parents with sorrow to the grave. Are any of our readers guilty of such a crime? Remember you can never do for your parents what they have done for you, and the least return you can make them for all their kindness is to manifest gratitude. Obey them. Do your utmost to make them happy.

SOME FAITHFUL AMONG THE FAITHLESS.

Verse 15. These servants of the king understood their duty, and were resolved to perform it. They were willing to risk their lives for the sake of their lord. In thus acting they were doing that which was right. The command is, "Servants, obey your masters." There are certain duties peculiar to every station, and whatever station we fill, our duty is to do that which is lawful and right. We are not to be men-pleasers, or eye-servants, but in all things we are to do right.

The Queen's Birthday.

The following song has been written and set to music by Mr. F. H. Torrington, Toronto :

Old England calls upon her sons
To honour England's Queen ;
Her sons respond, and daughters, too,
To keep her mem'ry green.
With loyal hearts and ready hands
The Empire's children stand
Prepared to do, prepared to die,
For Queen and native land.

For fifty years our country's flag,
Hath borne o'er earth and main,
The name of Empress, Queen beloved,
With neither spot nor stain.
Long may it bear Victoria's name,
Long o'er us may she reign,
And for our Empire, broad and grand,
May she new honour gain.

Upon our Queen—our country—flag,
God's blessing ever rest,
With peace and plenty everywhere
Her people's homes be blest.
God save the Queen, her people pray
From hearts sincere and free,
God save our loved Victoria,
And crown her Jubilee.

Chorus—
Victoria! our Queen beloved
With loyal heart and hand,
Thy Colonies and Fatherland
United by thee stand.

SCENES IN THE LIFE OF QUEEN VICTORIA.

THE EARLY TRAINING OF OUR QUEEN.

From the days when the infant daughter of Ernest, Duke of Kent, was dandled in her father's arms, with the proud parental cry : "Look at her well ; she will yet be Queen of England !" her noble German mother seems to have cherished the idea of forming in her child, by careful training and restraining, under the Divine blessing, such a character as might pass unrebuked before her people, even in the "fierce light that beats upon a throne."

She was kept with jealous care from the evil influences of a corrupt court, and brought up, as only too small a proportion of her subjects have been, in habits of simplicity, obedience, frugality, and piety.

The following story shows that she was early made to bear the "discipline of consequences" : "The Princess had her allowance, and was expected to make it suffice and never to overrun it. Once, at the bazaar at Tunbridge Wells, she had expended all her pocket-money in a number of presents for various relations and friends, when she remembered another cousin, and saw a box marked half-a-crown, which would be just the thing for him. The bazaar people wished to enclose it with the other articles purchased. But the governess said : "No! You see the Princess has not the money, and so, of course, she cannot buy the box." The offer was then made to lay it aside till purchased, and the Princess thankfully assented. As soon as quarter-day came, down she came to the bazaar on her donkey, before seven o'clock in the morning, and carried the box away with her."

The young Princess was kept—notwithstanding her child-like wonderment at the little attentions paid to her and not to her sister—in ignorance of her nearness to the throne until she had reached the age of twelve. Her comment, when the matter was explained to her, shows that her reflective powers were quite beyond her years : "Now, many a child," said the young Princess, "would boast; but they don't know the difficulty. There is much splendour, but there is much responsibility."

We pass over the six happy years of free, open-air life, spent, for the most part, in seclusion, until the death of her royal uncle placed Victoria on the throne.

THE MAIDEN QUEEN.

Most of us have read Miss Wynn's pleasant story of the manner in which, after much ringing and knocking at the gates of Kensington Palace, and many remonstrances on the part of the maid, who was reluctant to disturb the sweet sleep of her mistress, the Archbishop of Canterbury and the Lord Chamberlain obtained access to her Majesty in the early dawn of morning; and how, "standing in a loose, white night-gown and shawl, her night-cap thrown off and her hair flowing upon her shoulders, her feet in slippers, tears in her eyes, but perfectly collected and dignified," the young Queen opened her lips for the first time in her new character, saying simply to the Archbishop, "I beg your Grace to pray for me." Then all three knelt down together. And thus the reign of

Queen Victoria was inaugurated by a prayer-meeting! Surely a fitting beginning for fifty years of blessing!

The delicacy of feeling in which she had been trained is strikingly illustrated by her gentle refusal to observe the propriety of addressing her letter of condolence to the late Queen—to her Majesty the Queen Dowager, instead of to her Majesty the Queen. "I will not be the first," said Victoria, "to remind her of her altered position."

The touching incident of her proclamation, when the young Queen, overcome by the enthusiasm of her subjects and the novelty of her situation, fell weeping on her mother's neck, has been exquisitely immortalized by Mrs. Browning :

"God bless thee, weeping Queen,
With blessings more divine,
And fill with better love than earth
That tender heart of thine;
That when the thrones of earth shall be
As low as graves brought down,
A pierced Hand may give to thee
The crown which angels shout to see,
Thou wilt not weep
To wear that heavenly crown."

Victoria was soon to find a helpmeet in the cares of State; but, during the brief period of her life as Maiden Queen, she gave evidence of great decision of character and firmness of principle, coupled with a most earnest desire to understand the duties of her high position.

"It is clear," says Dr. Arnold, "that those matters in which it is our duty to act, it is also our duty to study." Acting on this principle, the young Queen was each morning in consultation with her ministers, and was soon initiated into the details of State affairs.

THE ROYAL WIFE AND MOTHER.

The Queen's marriage with her cousin, Prince Albert of Saxe-Coburg, took place on February 10th, 1840. It is well known that love dictated and ruled the union of the royal pair. "Father, brother, friends, country," writes her Majesty, with that simplicity and absence of assumption which charms the hearts of her people; "all has he left, and all for me. What is in my power to make him happy I will do."

"Her Majesty's tender regard for her husband made her very sensitive to the unjust aspersions to which he was occasionally subject, and correspondingly delighted when his merits were duly appreciated. Every true wife will appreciate the Queen's letter to Lord John Russell, when he had expressed himself very warmly concerning the Prince Consort's speech on the Jubilee of the Society for the Propagation of the Gospel, in 1851 :

"The Queen felt sure that the Prince would say the right thing, from her entire confidence in his great tact and judgment. The Queen, at the risk of not appearing sufficiently modest—and yet, why should a wife ever be modest about her husband's merits?—must say that she thinks Lord John Russell will admit now that the Prince is possessed of very extraordinary powers of mind and heart. She feels so proud of being his wife, that she cannot refrain from herself paying a tribute to his noble character."

Her Majesty's sacrifice of personal feelings in laying before her people so many of the sacred details of her family life, renders it superfluous for us to do more than refer to the pages of her published journals in proof of the fact that her own mother's lessons were thoroughly carried out in the royal nursery. As they grew older, her Majesty's children learned—by unconscious imitation of their mother—to take the warmest and most sympathetic interest in the lives of the poor.

One specimen must suffice. "I walked out with the two girls," writes her Majesty, in her Highland Journal; "stopped at the shop, and made some purchases for poor people and others. Really the affection of these poor people, who are so hearty and happy to see you taking an interest in everything, is very touching and gratifying."

THE WIDOWED QUEEN.

Many of our readers remember that terrible December night, when the light of the royal home was quenched. Even in that "first lone hour of widowhood," the Queen writes : "I can see the mercy and love which are mingled with my trial." She was much affected by the present of a richly-bound Bible—an offering from "many widows of England." In that graceful, sympathetic style which is peculiarly her own, the Queen wrote her thanks to her kind sister-widows, gratefully acknowledging "the consolations of God," adding, "that our heavenly Father may impart to many widows

those sources of consolation and support, is their broken-hearted Queen's earnest prayer."

In the many sorrows which have fallen upon the Queen since the sunshine of her life was shadowed by that first terrible storm-cloud, her Majesty has always responded sensitively to the touch of sympathy, though since that sad event her public appearances have been comparatively rare. She has never been careless of her people's love. When the nation watched with her in trembling hope round the sick-bed of her first-born, and rejoiced with her on his marvellous restoration in answer to prayer, her Majesty was deeply touched; not less so when that fated December day deprived her of the daughter who had been her husband's chosen companion, and hence specially dear to herself—the lamented Princess Alice; nor yet again, when the son, who, more than his brothers, seemed to inherit his father's literary tastes, was stricken down.

In all her sorrows—and in all their sorrows—ever the first to send a sympathetic message in any national calamity, our widowed Queen has "dwelt among her people."

No empty acclamations greet her jubilee, but heartfelt gratitude to God rises from the nation, as with one voice, that he has so long spared to it a Queen whom it can love and reverence without stint. Her name is worthily linked with that of her noble husband, who did so much for his adopted country.

THE PRINCE OF WALES AND SUNDAY.

It may be of interest to know how the Prince of Wales, the heir to the British throne, observes the Sabbath day. The London Quiver, in a recent issue, has an article upon this matter which shows how strictly he and his household observe the sacred day. We make some quotations :

When in their country home they are seven miles from a town; and although there is a station some two miles away, it is closed on Sunday, and no train whatever runs on that day. The result is that the church which he and his household attend is kept clear of visitors prompted by curiosity. The men employed on the estate have the entire day's rest secured to them. In fact no unnecessary work, in any shape or way, is performed in any part of the Prince's domain. Sunday at Marlborough House (his town house) is also spent in comparative quietude. Divine service is attended in the morning by their Royal Highnesses, and after luncheon the Princess and her daughters often attend one of the West End churches to hear some popular preacher, or to be present at a children's service, such services being much enjoyed by her Royal Highness. Beyond this, however, the royal family are, of necessity, compelled to pass the majority of their London Sundays either in the house or in the very beautiful grounds about it. When the Prince goes to Paris he always makes it a rule on Sundays to attend the English church near the Embassy.

THE QUEEN'S WALKING-STICK.

The walking-stick which Queen Victoria has found it necessary to use during the last few years is a staff of stout British oak, originally made for and presented to Charles II. by a loyal citizen of Worcester. When the Queen first used it, it only had a plain gold top, but in after years she required something to give her a firmer "grip" and to support her better, so there was added a queer little Indian idol which formed part of the booty of Seringapatam.

In the lobby of the British House of Commons, when jeered because he had been a poor boy who cleaned boots, the noble Joseph Bretherton replied : "It is true; and, my lords and gentlemen, it is also true that I cleaned them well!" In revealing the disposition of God, did not Christ learn to make doors and build walls? Every needful earthly trade is as glorious as the service rendered by angels in heaven. To sweep a chimney and to guide an empire are equally beautiful to God if beautifully done. Ignobility arises only when the black-coated professional takes a mean advantage of a fellow-creature or the shirt-sleeved workman puts in rotten wood and hides it with deceptive paint.

Reason Enough. "Mike, what makes you talk so much?" "Shure, an' I coom by it natural, sor." "How's that?" "Faith, an' wasn't me fayer an Oirishman, and me mother a woman?"

1837-1897.

It was five o'clock on the morning of June 20, 1837, ten days after her eighteenth birthday, that the Princess Victoria was roused from her slumbers to receive the announcement that the burden of the great responsibilities for which she had been so carefully trained had at length fallen upon her young shoulders. The manner of her reception of that news and the impression the scene made upon the minds of the little gathering at Kensington Palace on that early June morning have been often told in stirring words by men who were spared to realize the strength of character, the quiet earnestness and the capacity for administration which underlay the artless innocence and modest manner of the young Queen.

By the time of her formal coronation, on 28th June, 1838, she had mastered the cumbrous details of court etiquette and, despite her slight stature, acquired that dignity of deportment and royal bearing which has been the admiration of Indian potentates and the envy of European courts, and has rendered itself especially remarkable at those numerous official functions and ceremonies which it is one of the penalties of her position to hold.

How fortunate the young Queen was in her choice of a partner who was not only a good man and a loving husband, but a cultured scholar and wise councillor, the nation at large only knew, alas, too late; but it must have been one of the most solid consolations on that sad 14th of December, 1861, for the young widow of forty-two to realize that the man whom she had delighted to honour had made his mark and was held in increasingly high esteem by the men of his time who were most celebrated for nobility of character, fertility of genius and breadth of statesmanship.

Her loss was indeed a double loss, dooming her in truthful phrase to a position of "splendid isolation" for consolations and friendly counsels which could be enjoyed by the subject, custom and etiquette denied to the sovereign, and that personal likes and dislikes must not be indulged in by the head of a constitutional government, the Queen had had early proof by the intrigues of Whig and Tory ministers and ex-ministers in connection with what has passed down to history, as the great Bedchamber plot.

It is interesting to recall the striking features of the long Georgian reign—1760-1820—and contrast the large part the pomp and circumstance of war played in that period as compared with the Victorian age, in which the achievements of science will most occupy the pages of history.

The reign of George IV opened almost with the Peace of Paris, which, on the 10th of February, 1763, secured Canada to British rule. But from 1776 to 1815 a struggle for very existence went on and stirring scenes were witnessed and daring deeds done by land and sea which will ever be glorious memories, with the sad exception of the blundering and impotent statesmanship which brought about the separation of the American colonies from the Mother Country, under circumstances which left so many seeds of bitterness behind—bitterness, however, which in the Mother Country itself has now wholly passed away. The days when Pitt, Chatham, Fox and Burke were the shining lights of the political world seem far more remote than they really are, and the effect which the victories of Howe, Rodney, Nelson and Wellington had towards establishing the commercial supremacy of the empire is seldom appreciated by this later generation, and it is only the very few who think of the political problems which began to be solved during the reign of the greatest of the Georges.

We can scarcely credit that the stage coach was the ordinary mode of inland communication when our Queen was only of her teens, that the only communication between the old world and the new was carried on at irregular intervals and under most uncomfortable conditions with a degree of legitimate apprehension which we now as justly ridicule, but that is not the place to review the vast changes in social and political life which have followed and are still seething as a result of the working of mighty intellects during the Victorian reign.

Had the Queen taken life less seriously and been content to act as the mere figure-head of the democratic movement which has succeeded the monarchical oligarchy of her long-lived uncle, the history of England and the Empire would have afforded no pleasant reading. Probably not till this generation has passed away will the evidence see the light of day which can incontrovertibly prove and that her influence has effected for the cause of peace during the last forty years.

Canadian National Anthem.

Canada, Canada, pride of the North!
Thrice honoured Canada, gem of the Earth!

Freemen and Brothers, we
Pledge heart and hand to thee,
Canada, Canada, land of our birth!

God of all power and grace, smile on our land;
Pour thou upon her the gifts of thy hand;

Long may her people be
Loyal and brave and free,
And for the right and thee valiantly stand.

Be our defence in each threatening hour,
Shield us from pestilence, famine, and war;

Treason confound, and when
Justly we strive with men,
God of our fathers, then for us declare!

Give to each tolling hand constant increase;
Rich be our land with the fruitage of peace;

Send us good laws, and bless
Pulpit and school and press,
That truth and righteousness may never cease.

Long may thy glory on Britain be seen,
Long live Victoria, Britain's great Queen.
"Send her victorious,
Happy and glorious
Long to reign over us, God save the Queen!"

HOMAGE TO THE QUEEN.

In The Forum for February, Sir Edwin Arnold writes an excellent article on "Victoria, Queen and Empress," in which he rapidly sketches some of the marvelous results which have been achieved under the reign of our great Queen. He says:

"The heart of gold, the will of iron, the royal temper of steel, the pride, the patriotism, and the deep piety of Victoria have been enshrined in a small but vigorous frame, the mignonette aspect of which especially strikes those who behold her for the first time in these her 'chair-days.' It was reported how, when Prince Albert was dying, he roused himself from a period of wandering to turn with ineffable love to his spouse and sovereign, saying to her, with a kiss, 'Good little wife!' And when the Prince Consort was actually passing away, after those twenty-one years of wedded happiness, it was told how the Queen bent over him and whispered, 'It is your little wife,' at which last words the Angel of Death stayed his hand while once again the dear eyes opened and the dying lips smiled. But though this be so, no one who has been honoured by near approach to her Majesty, or has ever tarried in her presence, will fail to testify to the extreme majesty of her bearing, mingled always with the most perfect grace and gentleness. Her voice has, moreover, always been pleasant and musical to hear, and is so now. The hand which holds the sceptre of the seas is the softest that can be touched; the eyes which have grown dim with labours of state for England, and with too frequent tears, are the kindest that can be seen."

BUCKINGHAM PALACE.

Buckingham Palace, the London residence of Queen Victoria, faces the west end of St. James' Park. It was built by George IV. and consists of a quadrangular range of buildings. The eastern front, shown in the engraving, is loftier than the rest, and gives to the whole a very palatial appearance. This palace contains an immense picture gallery, in which are some famous paintings. The Queen resides there several months every year, though her favourite residence is Osborne House in the Isle of Wight.

Hans had climbed to into the cherry-tree to gather cherries. Meantime a storm came on, and the father called out to the lad: "Come down, Hans; it is beginning to thunder."
"There's no need, father," shouted the boy; "I can hear it where I am."



THE QUEEN AT HER CORONATION.

A LETTER OF THE QUEEN'S.

Windsor Castle, Oct. 15, 1839.

"My Dearest Uncle,—This letter will, I am sure, give you pleasure, for you have always shown and taken so warm an interest in all that concerns me. My mind is quite made up, and I told Albert this morning of it. The warm affection he showed me gave me much pleasure. He seems perfect, and I think I have the prospect of very great happiness before me. I love him more than I can say, and shall do everything in my power to render this sacrifice (for such in my opinion it is), as small as I can. He seems to have great tact, a very necessary thing in his position. These last few days have passed like a dream to me, and I am so much bewildered by it all that I know hardly how to write; but I do feel very happy. . . . Lord Melbourne has acted in this business, as he has always done toward me, with the greatest kindness and affection. We also think it better, and Albert quite approves of it, that we should be married very

soon after Parliament meets, about the beginning of February.

"Ever, dearest uncle, your devoted niece,
"V. R."
—From Mr Castell Hopkins' "Life and Reign of Queen Victoria."

LESSON NOTES.**SECOND QUARTER.**

STUDIES IN THE ACTS AND EPISTLES.

LESSON IX.—MAY 30.

CHRISTIAN FAITH LEADS TO GOOD WORKS.

James 2. 14-23. Memory verses, 14-17.

GOLDEN TEXT.

I will show thee my faith by my works.—James 2. 18.

OUTLINE.

1. A False Faith, v. 14-20.
2. A True Faith, v. 21-23.

Time.—Written probably in A.D. 44 or 45.

Place.—Written from Jerusalem.

HOME READINGS.

- M. Christian faith and good works.—James 2. 14-23.
Tu. Hearing and doing.—James 1. 19-27.
W. Abraham's obedience.—Heb. 11. 13-19.
Th. Known by its fruits.—Matt. 7. 15-23.
F. Meet for use.—2 Tim. 2. 14-21.
S. Good and profitable.—Titus 3. 1-8.
Su. Called to virtue.—2 Peter 1. 1-11.

QUESTIONS FOR HOME STUDY.

1. A False Faith, v. 14-20.
What questions are asked in verse 14?
What is the meaning of works?
What is said of faith and works in Eph. 2. 8-10?
What illustration is given in verse 15?
When is faith dead?
Can there be true faith without works?
What does Christ say in Matt. 7. 20?
How may a true faith be shown?
To what degree may even devils believe?
Did evil spirits ever bear witness to Christ? Matt. 8. 28, 29.
Was theirs a true faith?
To what will living faith lead us?
2. A True Faith, v. 21-23.
How did Abraham show his faith?
What led Abraham to offer up his son?
Feb. 11. 17.
What promise did he receive? Gen. 22. 16, 17.
How was his faith made perfect?
What name was given to Abraham?
And why?
How may we be friends of Christ?
John 15. 14.

PRACTICAL TEACHINGS.

- Where in this lesson are we taught—
1. That faith without works is useless?
2. That works are of value only as fruits of faith?

THE QUEEN'S FAMILY NAME.

A friend the other day asked me if I knew Queen Victoria's family name. I thought a moment, and answered, "Why, Guelph, of course." "Oh, no," answered my friend, "not at all. While the members of Queen Victoria's family are of Guelph descent, her Majesty's marriage with Prince Albert would give her his surname, as is usual in such cases. And what was the family name of the Prince Consort?" I had to confess that I did not know. "Well," said my friend, "you are excusable for not knowing, I suppose, since only a short time ago the same question was asked at a dinner party in London attended by a number of personages of rank, some of whom were very near royalty, and not a soul of them could answer it, except the propounder of the question. The name in question is Wettin, and the Dominion of Saxony came to this family in 1420. Therefore, without her crown and kingdom, Queen Victoria would be simply Mrs. Wettin."

Diamond Jubilee.

THE

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1837 - - - 1897

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