

A GRACIOUS LADY SHE



HER MOST GRACIOUS MAJESTY, QUEEN VICTORIA.



QUEEN VICTORIA AT THE TUILERIES, 1855.

QUEEN VICTORIA BUILDER OF EMPIRE

Stead's Tribute to Queen Victoria on Her Diamond Jubilee in 1897

"NO other British monarch has reigned so long and so well and has continued so steadily to grow in the love and affection of the lieges to the very end. The English speaking race has in the closing century made a tolerably conspicuous mark for itself in the history of the world. It opened with the battle thunder as of Trafalgar and Waterloo. It is closing with the peaceful commemoration of a reign which, although darkened by the shadow of one war and one mutiny, has nevertheless for sixty years been a reign of peace.

"Among all the garnered glories of the hundred years there are none that may be regarded with more perfect and absolute satisfaction than the production of the supreme American man in the person of Abraham Lincoln and the supreme English woman in the person of Queen Victoria.

It is easy to suggest how either might have been altered so as to make them conform more closely to the conventional type of the human ideal in person, in character and in capacity. Improvements might be suggested to bring them up to a more ideal standard. Lincoln was not a Shakespeare. The Queen is not a Raphael.

"But, notwithstanding that, the century has very little that is greater to show than the somewhat homely but familiar figures of that man and that woman—neither of them apparently of the stuff of which saints and sages and heroes are made, both modelled out of simple human clay, treading our common earth with average mortal feet, and yet both alike discharging the common round, the daily task with fidelity and capacity, passing through ordeal after ordeal unvanquished, meeting great crises with undaunted heart—who have stamped indelibly upon the mind of the race the conception of the highest duty nobler done.

"There is nothing after the Elizabethan era which compares with the Victorian age except perhaps the troubled glories of the Commonwealth. Elizabeth and Victoria will ever be the greatest names in our history, ranking side by side with Alfred, Edward the Third and Oliver Cromwell.

"Many a time and oft has the idea recurred in later years whether by some strange inversion of the Sais law our dynastic line could be made to pass only through female sovereigns.

"Queen Victoria is the central figure of the whole English speaking race, the supreme woman of our century."

By Mary Watts.

BECAUSE a little woman was sufficiently wise and true-hearted to become a builder of empire half a century ago German statesmen were greatly disconcerted when, at the beginning of the present war, England came forward as an active member of the allied forces.

If Queen Victoria had not been also the Empress of India, if she had not made fast the bond between Australia and British North America and the mother country Germany would have been different to the stand taken by England in the struggle that is now disrupting Europe.

If there were not Canada and Australia to feed England, if there were not India and British Columbia to send troops, what would it matter to the armies of Emperor William that Great Britain cared to defy them?

Queen Victoria stood with Sir John Macdonald and Lord Beaconsfield as the builder of the greatest empire that the world has ever known.

She was a strictly constitutional monarch, and throughout her long reign never deviated even by a hair's breadth from the line of conduct which lay well within her right.

Her influence, therefore, in solidifying the position of the crown and in welding together the empire is all the more remarkable. The Queen's career from the beginning to the end of her reign was a triumph of personality.

It is the influence of that personality, more than anything else, which sent the crack troops of India across two seas and a continent to fight side by side with London clerics and Scottish ploughmen. It is the tradition of "the Great White Mother" which Beaconsfield used so successfully in the Orient and Sir John

Macdonald wielded so powerfully in the great north of our own continent that enabled the empire to survive even when a group of English statesmen had come to the conclusion that it would be much better for Great Britain if her colonies were to fall away and demand their independence.

"Under Victoria England has encompassed the world with nascent commonwealths," said William T. Stead.

"The chronicle of the Queen's reign is an unbroken record of imperial expansion. Of all the jewels in her diadem of empire she has lost only one, Heligoland."

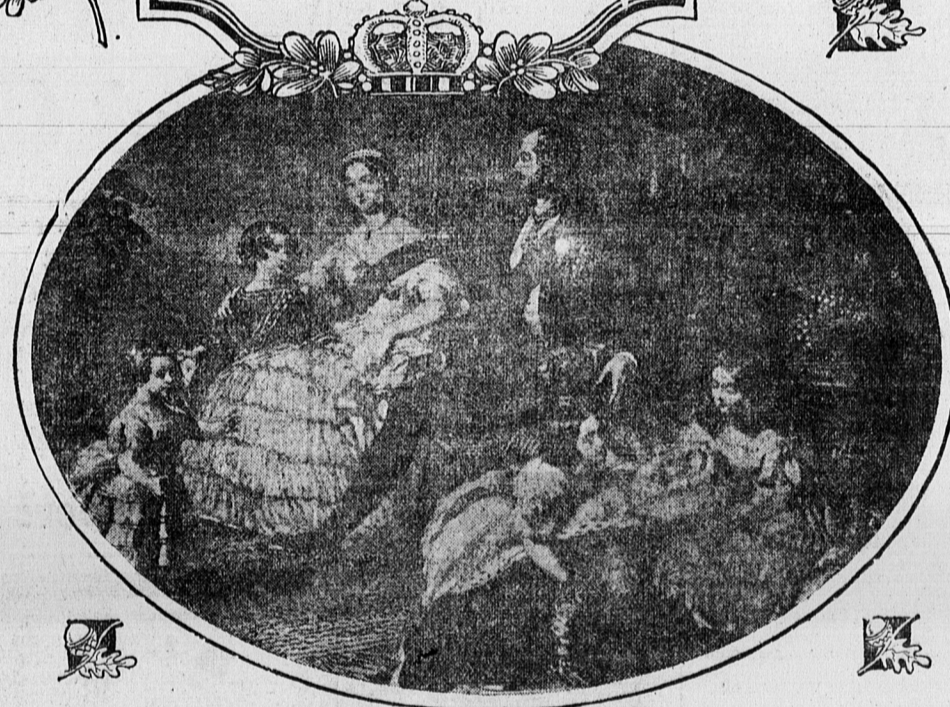
When the young Queen came to the throne monarchy had ceased to be greatly admired in England.

It had come to be associated more or less with despotism, lax morals and undignified behavior.

Little that was good or kingly, much that was weak and ugly, was connected in the minds of the people with the preceding reigns.

In order that Queen Victoria should be able to exercise any influence whatever, therefore, it was necessary that she should first gain the respect of her lieges and that she should win from them a personal regard which would prove a much needed bulwark for the crown.

The Queen was eminently fitted by nature to achieve this task merely by living out her life according to natural inclination. Pure hearted, honorable, industrious and devoted to her duty both as a sovereign and a woman, she was able as the years went by to nullify to a certain extent the effect of the unhappy records of the previous reigns. She came soon to embody the national ideal of what a good woman and a good wife and mother should be. The personal equation has never counted more heavily in the history of the world. In the contemplation of the career of the



ROYAL FAMILY OF ENGLAND WHEN VICTORIA REIGNED.

good Queen the English people forgot the bad kings who had gone before her. The respect and love for the Queen personally came to constitute an asset for monarchy that in England provided an insuperable barrier to the democratic and liberal principles which in the comparatively early part of her reign flooded Europe and might have found England a very easy conquest if the head of the State had been an object of scorn or of derision.

Thus while the year 1848 shook so many Continental thrones, that of Great Britain scarcely felt the shock of the Continent wide upheaval of discontent with monarchical government. Paris, Vienna, Berlin, Madrid, Rome, Naples, Venice, Munich, Dresden and Budapest were all shaken by revolutions that year. But royalty was again in stanch favor with the people of Great Britain, and England became an asylum for the royal personages who were forced to flee from their own countries by the misfortunes of their governments.

The Queen was not beautiful, but she had much personal charm, a sweet and self-sacrificing nature and that womanliness which appeals more widely to men of all classes than even more brilliant qualities. From her earliest coming to the throne she had been an inspiration to her subjects. Men of the army and the navy, government officials of all classes and the public at large cherished a sentiment of tenderness for the young sovereign, who represented to them all that was sweetest and best in life. Kipling in one of his stories speaks of this feeling which existed among the officers of the Indian regiments, in which it was the custom for the officers to break the glasses from which a toast to the Queen had been drunk, since no one else was worthy to be toasted from the same glass.

William IV., Queen Victoria's uncle, and her predecessor on the throne, had some vague conception of the relation in which his sweet and charming niece in his own eyes and in the eyes of Great Britain when she came to reign over them. He was fond of the girl and very often asserted that she would become a good woman and a good Queen. That she should ever rise to such heights of

fame and occupy so exalted a place in the affections of her people as came later to be hers he probably never imagined. But in a slighter sense he realized how a pure hearted and devoted Queen might appeal to the hearts of her subjects.

"It will touch every sailor's heart to have a girl Queen to fight for," said the King when he realized that he was fast coming to his last hours. "They will tattoo her face on their arms, and I'll be bound they'll all think she was christened after Nelson's ship."

It was the personal popularity of the Queen which was the strongest bulwark of the crown in the Chartist movement which in 1840 was supposed to have found a tool in Edward Oxford, a tavern potboy, who sought to take the Queen's life while she and Prince Albert were driving up Constitution Hill in an open carriage. Oxford fired two pistols, but the bullets went wide of the mark. He was tried and acquitted on the ground of insanity, but his rooms were found to be filled with the literature of a society called "Young England." So impassioned did the demonstrations of loyalty for the Queen become after this episode that Sydney Smith, the English wit, declared that even the London street dogs barked "God save the Queen."

Having invested the crown in the minds of the people with the integrity of her own character so that it had come to be again regarded with reverence, the Queen then came to the second phase of her building of empire.

The statesmen of her day, many of them at least, had brought the home government into disregard with the colonies and federated states owed allegiance to England as a sovereign state.

The colonies universally rejected this theory of government and insisted that they owed allegiance to the crown only, and not to England as a sovereign state. Modern historians are of the opinion that the insistence on the former theory of the bond which united the colonies to the mother country would be a disaster to the empire.

The Queen and her favorite advisers set about mending the crown the social of empire. It was tacitly admitted that the colonies owed allegiance only to the

sovereign, and since the person of the sovereign was so much beloved the bonds which united the various parts of the empire soon became strong beyond possibility of severance. While the Queen played her part in the strengthening of the empire by standing as its embodied expression, Lord Beaconsfield, her favorite minister, made imperialism a rallying cry for the nation through a political party and also advanced the interests of the empire in the Orient. Sir John Macdonald held the great North American territories to the crown as his part of the compact. It is interesting to note that British historians have set down the conviction that it was the combined power of the Queen and Macdonald at this point that kept Canada from seceding, with the probability of later joining the United States.

It was well for the empire that the Queen had been able to make for herself so strong a position in the hearts of the people of the colonies, for between 1890 and 1895 a number of the leading British statesmen arrived at the conclusion that it would be wisest to dismember the empire by pursuing a course of action which would lead the colonies into demanding their independence. These statesmen had come to believe that in the matter of markets for English goods and in all other ways it would be best for Great Britain to be free of her colonies. Conditions of trade were largely responsible for this point of view, as in certain instances special arrangements in regard to trade existed between the mother country and the colonies which seemed to some economists of the times to be a drag upon the home market.

The colonies by this time, however, had learned to disregard the Ministers and to consider the sovereign as of sole importance. What has since been called the fallacy of dismemberment was therefore entirely ineffective.

The name of Queen Victoria was everywhere throughout the world. The men who built up the empire in Australia, South Africa and British North America, worshipped the Queen, whom many of them had never even seen, as they might some fair divinity who furnished them with an ideal for which to

fight. In India the natives called Queen Victoria "The Great White Mother," and even in the most remote portions of the empire, where the name of the greatest British Minister or the Viceroy would have been received without recognition, that of the Queen was respected and loved.

The Queen became the Empress of India in 1876 by the passage of a bill introduced into Parliament by Disraeli. The bill was strongly opposed by those who conceived the title to be merely an empty bauble, designed solely for the pleasure of the sovereign. But there was a much bigger reason for the acquisition of the title. It was intended to impress the Indian princes and people with the suzerainty of the British crown. It was also a recognition of the sovereign's responsibility toward her great dependency. The effect of the adoption of the title upon the Indian subjects was immediately felt in their greater devotion and in greater unity. Some years later the influence of the Empress of India was still further to be noted in the voluntary raising and equipment of a native force to be maintained at the expense of the tributary States.

The newly created Empress left no stone unturned to impress upon her Indian subjects her interest in their welfare. That the "Kaiser-i-hind" loved them and took a personal interest in their well-being they were never left to doubt. The Queen endeavored herself to her Indian subjects by studying the literature of the East, in which she was instructed by learned Indians. She

learned Hindustani when she was seventy years old and she kept a diary in the Urdu tongue. She kept many Indian servants about her and at all times continued until the end of her life to show a warm and never waning interest in her dark subjects.

In June, 1897, on the occasion of the Diamond Jubilee, the Queen had the opportunity of reviewing a procession which represented in magnificent fashion the imperial solidarity for the furtherance of which she had expended her influence for sixty years.

The Ministers of Great Britain seized the opportunity to make the occasion a festival for the British Empire.

In the Jubilee procession there were, in addition to the regiments of Englishmen, Irishmen, Scotchmen and Welshmen, Mounted Rifles from Victoria and New South Wales, from the Cape, from Natal and from Canada; Hansas from the Niger and the Gold Coast, colored men from the West India regiments, Zaptiehs from Cyprus, Chinese from Hong Kong, Dyaks from British North Borneo, Imperial Service troops sent by the native princes of India and detachments of Sikhs who, next to the brilliant Indian troops, received the most admiring applause from the spectators.

The Queen, greatly affected by the magnificent loyalty of the display, sent to her subjects throughout the world the message:—

"From my heart I think my beloved people; may God bless them."
The Queen died January 22, 1901, having reigned sixty-four years.

GREAT BATTLE OF TSU-SHIMA.

IN the armaments engaged and the fierceness of the fighting Tsu-shima has not been equaled in the authentic annals of the sea before the present war. According to Sir George Sydneyham Clarke in his preface to Captain Lindsay's translation of "Tsu-shima," a book by Captain Semenov, commander of the Russian ship Suvaroff, the Russians had eight first class battle ships, the Japanese four; the Russians three coast defence armor clads, the Japanese none; the Japanese eight armored cruisers, the Russians three.

It was May 25 when the stately Russian vessels, wrapped in fog, approached the straits. While the Queen played her part in the strengthening of the empire by standing as its embodied expression, Lord Beaconsfield, her favorite minister, made imperialism a rallying cry for the nation through a political party and also advanced the interests of the empire in the Orient. Sir John Macdonald held the great North American territories to the crown as his part of the compact. It is interesting to note that British historians have set down the conviction that it was the combined power of the Queen and Macdonald at this point that kept Canada from seceding, with the probability of later joining the United States.

The Russian order four Russian battle ships turned to starboard, as though to attack the enemy, and then wheeling, formed in line ahead, parallel to the rest of the fleet and somewhat ahead of it. The Japanese withdrew from range, and at about half-past one in the afternoon four more Russian ships joined the advance line to starboard.

The fleets were now in the wide eastern strait of Tsu-shima. At about a range of 9,500 yards the heavy Japanese vessels, with Togo in the Mikasa leading, steamed obliquely across the Russian bows and began a circling movement, which would enable the line to recross the Russian bows, the ships being so spaced that the Russians would be under a converging fire.

The light cruisers, meanwhile, unknown to the Russians, were manoeuvring to attack from the rear.

To oppose the Japanese circling movement, Rojdestvensky swung to starboard and opened fire at 8,500 yards. With batteries silent, the grim vessels of Togo swept onward to 4,500 yards. There was a series of flashes from the sides and turrets of the Mikasa and the vessels near her and shells began to explode on the Suvaroff and the Ossiabya.

The Japanese gunnery was unswerving. A heavy shell exploded against the conning tower of the Suvaroff, and Rojdestvensky staggered back, his skull so injured that he could not speak.

By now the Emperor Alexander III, and the Ossiabya were in flames. A few minutes later three other ships of this division sheered off, wrapped in flames and black smoke.

Her steering gear carried away, the Suvaroff floundered about in the swells. While Japanese quick fire swept her decks, gallant squads fought the fire with

buckets, practically all her steam pipes having been severed.

The Emperor Alexander III, had become the flagship and she led the Russians in a circle in an attempt to fool the Japanese and break through eventually to the north, but Togo followed in a parallel line until, as the Russians were pointing due south, he wheeled his ships in short half circles and was ready to cross the Russians' bows as they finally bore away to the north.

The Alexander was the next to come out of line ablaze. The Borodino was now ahead, but she tried to reform the Russian line one of the light cruiser squadrons appeared from the rear, commanded by Rear Admiral Deva, who is now said to be attacking Kiaochow. This threw the Russians into a huddled mass and doubt as to the outcome of the battle was at an end.

Away to the west lay the Suvaroff, a fire, the Admiral speechless with a fractured skull and Captain Ignatius blown to atoms. From her mast a tattered Russian naval flag still floated and as a group of Japanese destroyers darted out to finish her she fought them off with six quick fires which were still in commission.

Under the guns of enough Japanese vessels to blow her out of the water the Russian destroyer Buiuy ran alongside and took off Rojdestvensky and a handful of survivors.

When night fell the Japanese battle ships withdrew and eighty torpedo boats and destroyers which had remained under cover all day were unleashed. The night roared with the explosions of the hunted Russian vessels. With no light showing they sped through the heavy seas, but the enemy were relentless in their pursuit.

The war ships then renewed their attack. A squadron of Japanese vessels asked the Svetlana to surrender, but Captain Schein and his officers decided to fight, though they had but 100 cartridges in the hold.

As the last shot was fired Captain Schein opened the sea cocks and the great vessel floated beneath the wild tossed waters. The fighting was fraught with similar acts of heroism on both sides and Togo showed his appreciation of Rojdestvensky's gallant conduct by refusing to receive his sword when the Russian Admiral was finally captured May 28.

Only two Russian destroyers, the Brawny and Grosny, and the cruiser Almaz reached Vladivostok after the battle of Tsu-shima, the greatest naval battle of all time, previous to the present war.