

THE VICTORIAN AGE.

British History a Record From Victory to Victory.

The name of the first great British Queen, Boadicea, bore the same significance, we are told, as that of the last. British history is therefore from victory to victory. In the records of the early history of the world the ages of men are represented as growing continually less. Now they seem to be growing longer. The reign of the late Pope was the longest in the whole record, and that of the present Queen of England has just become the longest in English history, or in almost any history. Louis XIV. of France, who ascended the throne at the age of five, reigned seventy-two years. George III., the Queen's grandfather, who reigned fifty-nine years and ninety-six days, the same that Queen Victoria has now accomplished, was, for a great part of the time with which he is credited, incompetent to exercise the royal function. The Queen, on the contrary, has been eminently competent in every month of her reign, and has exercised as potent a sway as any other monarch could have done in her place. Few of her subjects except in regions more recently added to her rapidly growing realm remember any other allegiance but hers. The Victorian era has been the greatest the world ever saw, uniting always that from which we count our days, which was marked by the one supreme divine event to which the whole creation moves.

At the beginning of the Queen's reign the world was made up of people unknown to each other, despising and abhorring each other. To-day they are well-known to each other, and each finds the other to be bone of its bone and flesh of its flesh. This is the most essential characteristic of all the stupendous changes that have been going on during the past sixty years, and which have made, as it were, a new heaven and a new earth, with the happy promise of still greater and still more accelerated changes for the better in the near future. The growth of the Queen's Empire, which has few happy parallels in history, has not only kept up with the startling progress of the world, but has been the soul of that progress. In the internal enjoyment of progress and in invention the United States has kept pace with Great Britain—has, indeed, in many things outstepped her—but in the progress of the world she has through her trade system taken a minor part, excepting always in the greatest of all progress-developing activities, that of Christian missions, in which she has taken her full share. At the beginning of the Queen's reign the English language was one of the minor languages of the earth in point of number of those who spoke it. Now it is the ruling tongue of the world, and is rapidly gaining on all others. At the beginning of the Queen's reign most of the world was impenetrable to the voice of the Gospel; now the Gospel is preached in every nation under heaven. Then it took a month for the government to hear from Canada and three or four months from India; now it takes as many seconds. The telephone and the telegraph and the telephone and the other western marvels are knocking ever more imperatively at the closed doors of ancient civilizations, and piercing through the wastes of barbarism, carrying with them everywhere wonder and conviction and submission of soul; for no pride and no ignorance can stand up in their presence and declare that these do not mark a superior civilization.

Happy above all monarchs is Queen Victoria—happy in her great family gathered around her to-day at Balmoral and in her offspring sitting on many thrones. Happy is she in the great family of nations over whom she presides, and whose hearts beat proudly and lovingly at the mention of her motherly name. Not the golden prime of good Haroun Alraschid, nor the era of Augustus bore any comparison with hers. Nor is the least glory of the present age the full assurance that is in the mind of all that is not to pass away like the good days that are remembered, but inspired, only a little as yet, with a spiritual force then unknown, it is only the beginning of far better things. We no doubt see unnumbered signs of what is spoken of flippantly as "fin de siècle" decadence; but we pay no heed to the prophets of evil who see in these signs the marks of conquering forces. We know that there are all ways ebbs and flows. We know that the more vigorous the life in the physical organism the more effete matter is developed and thrown off, and we look with sure and certain hope to a day which will look on the present as but the dusk of morning. But it will not then be the kingdom of Victoria, but the kingdom of Him who is to receive the heathen for his inheritance and the uttermost parts of the earth as His possession; the forces that will bring it about will not be steam and electricity, but the divine Spirit, accorded sway in the hearts of men.—Montreal Witness.

The World's Progress.

While Victoria was on the throne, slavery was abolished in Russia and slavery done away with in the United States and Brazil. Russia lost some territory in Europe, but gained in Asia. Turkey sank from a first rate to a second rate power. Africa was largely explored, and the dark places on its map nearly all cleared up. The age of steam, only fairly begun when she ascended the throne, reached its highest estate apparently, and the age of electricity was ushered in before she died, the telegraph, the telephone, electric lighting and electric transportation all coming into being. The advance in science generally was marvelous. Literature and the useful arts flourished as never before. Education was more widely diffused, and the newspaper press became a factor in affairs. The cause of constitutional government progress everywhere in the civilized world save perhaps in Russia. Even in faraway Japan the old forms of government were superseded. In short, the progress of the world in nearly every direction during Victoria's reign was greater than ever before.

The authorities of the Dominion of Canada have presented the Hawaiian Government with 80,000 young salmon, to be placed in the rivers of the Hawaiian Islands.

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BRITAIN'S ESTATES.

Sketch of the Great Extent of Her Territories.

It is safe to say that never has a monarch been called upon to reign over a realm of greater extent or wider influence than that which acknowledges Victoria as Queen and Empress. The British Isles alone consist of not far short of a thousand distinct islands or islets, excluding isolated pinnacles or rocks. Their area is 121,115 square miles, forming the boundaries within which some eighteen and a half millions of males and nearly nineteen and a half million females live, move, and have their being. They are fearfully in debt as a nation, to the amount of something like 680 millions, with an income of ninety-one millions.

The British Empire is a political creation without parallel in the world's history. It is scattered here, there, and everywhere, with an area approaching ten



LORD LEICESTER.

million square miles. Its 400 millions of inhabitants represent all degrees and phases of civilization. The Queen's Christian subjects are in the minority, there being two hundred million Hindus, some seventy million Mohammedans, and eight million Buddhists. Something like 130 languages and dialects are spoken in this vast realm, in each of which the Bible is printed. The Union Jack now floats triumphantly over a continent, a hundred peninsulas, five hundred promontories, a thousand lakes, double that number of rivers, and no less than ten thousand islands! This stupendous estate enables the Britisher to perform a feat which the native of no other nation can imitate—to circumnavigate the globe and touch a portion of the national possessions the whole journey. Sailing from England he makes for Halifax, N.S., dashes across Canada to Vancouver, thence by the Pacific to Hong Kong. Resuming his way he halts at Singapore, Penang, Mauritius, Cape Town, St. Helena, the latter place being the last stoppage ere Britain's white cliffs are reached. There is, however, an alternate route after arriving at Penang; thence he can go to Ceylon, Bombay, Aden, Perim, Malta, Gibraltar, and home again.

All zones are embraced in the British Empire, from the icy wilderness of Hudson Bay to the tropical jungles of India. There is scarcely a product of commercial value which a British province does not bring forth in its highest perfection. Notwithstanding the diversified elements comprised in this tremendous organization, the Government, with every exception, maintains order, and there is no apparent signs of dissolution. Without a doubt the most splendid jewel in the Queen's crown is the Indian Empire, which is equal in size. If we exclude Russia, to the Continent of Europe. Its population, bordering on three hundred millions, is composed of a variety of distinct nationalities, professing a multitude of religions, practicing diverse rites, and speaking different tongues. Official reports states there are over a hundred distinct languages, as apart from dialects, spoken in India. Many of the races are further divided by discordant prejudices, conflicting social usages, and antagonistic material interests.

The diversified elements constituting the Indian possessions represent, according to a late Governor-General, as complicated a social and political organization as has ever taxed human ingenuity to govern and administer.

After India comes Canada, and the Australian colonies, which are about to form a new southern Dominion.

Canada Under Queen Victoria.

The sixtieth anniversary of our Queen's coronation furnishes a few excellent opportunities for measuring our national progress. When the Queen ascended the throne in 1837 Canada was the seat of a good deal of political disaffection, which resulted in serious outbreaks of rebellion. British North America was a group of separate and, in large degree, unsympathetic provinces, each with its independent legislature, having little intercourse or trade with each other. Our cities were few and small, ill-lighted, with few buildings of any architectural pretensions. Roads were few and poor, and interprovincial communication was difficult and, at the breaking up of the winter, almost impossible. Canada was a giant without bones.

Since then our magnificent railway system, from Cape Breton to Vancouver, connects the tide waters of the Atlantic with those of the Pacific, and forms one of the strongest links of the Queen's Highway from Great Britain to her possessions in the remotest East. The scattered provinces have become a great Dominion, controlling half a continent, with the largest and best wheat-producing area, and offering the best opportunities for civilized settlement in the world. Its internal navigation by means of its splendid canal system, lakes and rivers, present possibilities for the vast enlargement of its commerce. Its resources of the mine, the forest, and the field, its deep sea and inshore fisheries, have been greatly developed and give promise of still greater expansion in the future. Its educational institutions, magnificently housed and equipped, have won name and fame in distant lands. Canada forms about two-fifths of the far-extended British Empire, and is thoroughly devoted to its sovereign and to British connection. The outlook of its future is not surpassed by that of any other portion of the Queen's dominions.

Victoria has been contemporary to twenty-eight kings, six emperors, four czars, three queens, thirteen presidents, ten princes, five sultans and many petty rulers of smaller states of Europe and Asia.

PERSONAL TRAITS.

Victoria Completely Reformed the Moral Atmosphere of the Court.

Coming to a throne tarnished by the immorality of her predecessors, Queen Victoria completely reformed the moral atmosphere of the court, and to a certain extent also of the entire British people, for notwithstanding all the epithets that are hurled against it British society is to-day infinitely superior in morals as well as in honor to what it was previous to 1837. Vice there is and always will be in a metropolis so large as London, in a society so elastic and accessible as that of England, but vice is no longer so rampant, so unblushing and so public as in days of yore.

That Queen Victoria fosters the fine arts is best shown by the fact that a large proportion of the former enormous imports of art objects from France into England have now ceased. Britain has learned to supply her own demand for art objects. Her Majesty's interest in such matters as these is only natural, for she is one of the most accomplished women of her dominions, being a painter of considerable merit, a musician of rare talent, a clever writer, as shown by her "Highland Leaves," and a remarkable linguist. Not content with knowing German, French and Italian, she set herself down when past the age of 60 to study Hindoo, and is able to converse freely with her two or three Indian body servants.

Moreover, her long experience as a ruler and the profound knowledge which she possesses of international politics are almost without parallel among the European sovereigns and statesmen, and endow her with great prestige and influence. The latter, exercised with much caution and foresight, proved sufficient on several occasions to avert continental wars, and it is no secret that Emperor William of Germany and Alexander III of Russia were restrained from fighting for years by nothing but the wise intervention of Queen Victoria.

Early Event in the Queen's Reign.

The trouble which has been labelled by history, "The Bed-Chamber Plot," was due partly to the young Queen's inexperience, and partly to that unfortunate quality which the Iron Duke hit off when, in referring to their relations with a female sovereign, said: "I have no small talk and Peel has no manners." Like most epigrams this is only half true; but there is no doubt that had Peel possessed half the tact of Melbourne, the difficulty would never have occurred. To the Queen it was hard enough to part with her old advisers, without asking her to dismiss all her companions and the friends whose sympathy she had felt, and with whose characters and faces she was now so familiar. To have strange advisers was a constitutional necessity; but why should she have her court and household filled also with strangers?

To Peel it was equally clear that government would be impossible with ladies in close and constant attendance upon her Majesty, who were allied in rashness and opinion with his strongest political opponents. Both in a sense were right; and the misfortune of the situation seems to have been that the Queen thought all her ladies were to be re-



EARL NELSON.

warded, while Peel would, in reality, have been satisfied with the dismissal of the chief ones.

At the same time she wrote Melbourne in terms which Elizabeth or Anne might have used. "Do not fear," she said, "that I was not calm or composed. They wanted to deprive me of my ladies; and I suppose they would deprive me next of my dresses and housemaids; they wished to treat me like a girl, but I will show them that I am Queen of England." This indicates a personal feeling which could only be the outcome of distinct misunderstanding, as had, in fact, been shown in her previous statement to Peel "that you must not expect me to give up the society of Lord Melbourne." The fact of the matter is that the young Queen had come to regard her Premier almost as a father, and that everything done by his opponents assumed to her a suspicious and unpleasant appearance. In after days, when Wellington became her greatest friend, and Peel one of those whom she could regard with personal confidence as well as respect, this passing difficulty no doubt seemed absurdly small.

After the Accession.

The accession of the young Queen worked a revolution in the popular British ideas of royalty, as well as in the duties of statesmen and the procedure of the court. Month by month public interest grew in connection with her appearance, her actions, her words, and everything she did, until it culminated during the wildly enthusiastic days of the Coronation. Old people wondered at her vast responsibilities and opportunities for good; the young dreamed of her reputed beauty and goodness and fairy-like surroundings of greatness. She stirred the hearts of statesmen and poets and the most practical of men into a feeling of almost romantic loyalty. Veteran soldiers, like Wellington, and brave men of the world like Lord Melbourne, were alike moved to sympathy and unselfish action. O'Connell declared that if the Duke of Cumberland should cause trouble, as was rumored, "I can get 500,000 brave Irishmen to defend the life, the honor and the person of the beloved young lady, by whom England's throne is now filled." Charles Dickens thought so much of the fanciful and romantic nature of her position and dignity as to become almost monomaniac, and everywhere, in politics and at court, a sentiment of courtesy and chivalry developed to an extent hitherto unknown.—From Mr. Castelt Hopkins' "Life and Reign of Queen Victoria."

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On and after FRIDAY, 4th June, 1897, the trains of this Railway will run daily, (Sundays excepted), as under.

Table with columns: Trains Outward, Read down, STATIONS, Trains Inward, Read up. Lists stations like Charlottetown, Royalty Junction, North Wiltshire, etc.

Trains run by Eastern Standard Time. A. McDONALD, Superintendent, Charlottetown. D. POTTINGER, Gen. Mgr. Govt. Ry., Moncton, N.B. Railway Office, June 1, 1897

Time Table Rocky Point Ferry, 1897.

The Steamer "Elfin" will leave Prince St. Wharf daily, Sundays excepted, as follows:—

At 6.30 a.m., 8 a.m., 9.30 a.m., 11 a.m., 1 p.m., 2 p.m., 4 p.m., 6.30 p.m. Will leave Rocky Point as follows: At 7 a.m., 8.30 a.m., 10 a.m., 11.30 a.m., 1.30 p.m., 3 p.m., 5 p.m., 7 p.m.

SUNDAYS. From Charlottetown: At 9 a.m., 12.45 p.m., 2 p.m., 4 p.m. From Rocky Point: At 10 a.m., 1.30 p.m., 3 p.m., 5.30 p.m.

SOUTHPORT FERRY. Hillsborough will ply on the Southport Ferry till further notice as follows:—

Sundays excepted, leaving Ch'town daily at 6.30 a.m. and every half hour up to 10 p.m. Leaving Southport at 6.45 a.m., making half hourly trips up to 10.05 p.m. Sunday trips: Boat leaves Ch'town at 7 a.m., making half hourly trips up to 8.35 p.m. Steamer said off from 11.05 to 12 o'clock noon. On Tuesday and Friday of each week steamer will run off time to accommodate the travelling public.

Victoria's Diamond Jubilee

Will be held this year, and those who visit Ch'town this year will not do themselves justice if they fail to get their Lunches at Victoria Cafe, and drink the health of Her Majesty the Queen in a glass of Joy's famous Buttermilk. JOHN P. JOY VICTORIA CAFE Gt George St....

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SPECTACLES.

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