

# THE CORONATION

## Her Majesty Crowned in Westminster Abbey

### AMIDST POMP AND PAGENTRY

#### Received With Tremendous Enthusiasm by the People

#### CANNON BOOM AND TRUMPETS SOUND

#### Route of Procession a Living Bouquet—The Scene Within the Abbey One of Dazzling Splendor—The Queen Visibly Affected at the Demonstrations of Loyalty and Affection.

A grand pomp and ceremony the coronation of her Majesty took place in Westminster Abbey on Thursday, the 26th of June, 1897. London was awake very early on that day, and by six o'clock strings of vehicles poured into the West End. Crowds of foot passengers also were on the move, all converging towards one point. From Hyde Park Corner to the Abbey there was scarcely a house without a re-erecting, soon to be filled with sightseers. Seats were sold at a very high rate, while tickets for the interior of the Abbey were bought on the eve of the ceremony at more than twenty guineas each, and the Earl Marshal had to apologise the public that forged tickets were in circulation, the holders of which would not only be stopped but given into custody.

At ten o'clock a salute of twenty-one guns, and the hoisting of the imperial standard in front of the palace, intimated that her Majesty had entered the State carriage. The procession then set forth, preceded by trumpeters and a detachment of Life Guards. Then came the foreign ministers and ambassadors, followed by the carriages of the Royal Family, containing the Duchess of Kent, the Duchess of Gloucester, the Duke and Duchess of Cambridge, and the Duke of Sussex; next her Majesty's carriages, containing the members of the household and others; and thereafter officers and guards of various kinds, came the State coach, drawn by eight cream-colored horses, conveying the Queen and the Mistress of the Robes and Master of the Horse. All the royal personages were loudly cheered, but when the State carriage bearing the young Sovereign came in view the enthusiasm was something tremendous. Her Majesty appeared in excellent spirits, and highly delighted with the imposing scene. The troops saluted in succession as she passed, and remained with presented arms until the royal carriage had passed the front of each battalion, the hands continuing to play the National Anthem. To the credit of the crowd, a hearty cheer was raised for Marshal Soubise, the French veteran acknowledged with a great satisfaction, not unmingled with surprise. It is said that every window along the route was a bouquet, every balcony a parterre of living loveliness and beauty; and as the Queen passed, scarfs, handkerchiefs, and flowers were waved with the most boisterous enthusiasm. Her Majesty was more than once visibly affected by these exhilarating demonstrations, and occasionally turned to the Duchess of Sutherland to conceal or express her emotion.

Westminster Abbey was reached at half-past eleven. On each side of the nave, galleries were erected for the spectators, with accommodation for a thousand persons. Under the central tower of the Abbey, in the interior of the choir, a platform was raised, covered with a carpet of cloth of gold, and upon it the chair of homage, superbly gilt, was placed, facing the altar. Further on, within the chancel, and near the altar, was Edward the Confessor's chair. The altar was covered with massive gold plate. Galleries were provided for members of the House of Commons, foreign ambassadors, and other persons of distinction, the Judges, Masters in Chancery, Knights of the Bath, the Lord Mayor, and the members of the Corporation, etc. Shortly before noon the grand procession began to enter the choir. It was headed by the prebendaries and Dean of Westminster, followed by the great officers of her Majesty's household. Then came the Lord Privy Seal, the Lord President of the Council, the Lord Chancellor of Ireland, the Archbishop of Armagh, the Archbishop of York, and the Lord Chancellor of England, and the Archbishop of Canterbury. The Princesses of the blood royal succeeded; the Duchess of Cambridge, in a robe of estate of purple velvet and wearing a circlet of gold, her train borne by Lady Caroline Campbell, and her coronet by Viscount Villiers; the Duchess of Kent, in a robe of estate of purple velvet and wearing a circlet of gold, her train borne by the hapless Lady Flora Hastings, and her coronet by Viscount Enghien. Next came one of the most interesting parts of the procession—the Regalia. St. Edward's staff was borne by the Duke of Roxburgh; the golden spurs by Lord Byron; the sceptre with the cross by the Duke of Cleveland; the curtain, or sword of mercy, by the Duke of Devonshire; the second sword by the Duke of Sutherland, and the third sword by the Marquis of Westminster. Black Rod and Deputy Garter were succeeded by Lord Willoughby d'Eresby, Lord Great Chamberlain of England. The Princes of the blood royal now appeared; the Duke of Cambridge, in his robes and carrying his baton as Field Marshal; and the Duke of Sussex, also in his robes of estate; the Lord High Constable of England, the Duke of Wellington; the Bishop of Bangor, bearing the patina; the Bishop of Winchester, bearing the Bible; and the Bishop of London, bearing the chalice. After these came the Queen, in her royal robe of crimson velvet, furred with ermine and bordered with gold lace, wearing the collars of her Orders, with a circlet of gold upon her head. On one side of her was the Bishop of Bath and Wells, with

ten gentlemen-at-arms; and on the other the Bishop of Durham, also with ten gentlemen-at-arms. Her Majesty's train was borne by the following eight young ladies, the daughters of well-known noblemen of high rank in the peerage: Lady Adelaide Paget, Lady Frances Elizabeth Cooper, Lady Ann Wentworth Fitzwilliam, Lady Mary Augusta Frederica Grimston, Lady Caroline Amelia Gordon Lennox, Lady Mary Althea Beatrix Talbot, Lady Catherine Lucy Wilhelmina Stanhope, and Lady Louis Harriet Jenkinson. The last distinguished personages in the procession were the Lord Chamberlain of the Household; the Duchess of Sutherland, Mistress of the Robes; the Marchioness of Lansdowne, First Lady of the Bedchamber; six other ladies of the Bedchamber; eight maids of honor; eight women of the bedchamber; Gold Stick of the Life Guards; the Master of the Horse; the Captain of the Guard, and other high officials.

The Queen was received with hearty plaudits as she advanced slowly towards the center of the choir, the anthem, "I was glad when they said unto me, Let us go into the house of the Lord," being meanwhile sung by the musicians. Then, with thrilling effect and full trumpet accompaniment, "God save the Queen" was rendered. The booming of the guns outside was denuded by the tumultuous exclamations of those within the Abbey, which did not close till the beloved object of this enthusiastic homage reached the recognition-chair, on the southeast of the altar. Here the Queen knelt at the faldstool, engaging in silent prayer.

When she rose from her devotions the pealing notes of the anthem rang through the arches of the Abbey. Scarcely had the music ceased when, in pursuance of their prescriptive right, the Westminster scholars rose up with one accord and acclaimed their Sovereign. They shouted in almost deafening chorus, "Victoria, Victoria! Vivat Victoria Regina!" This was the first actual incident in the proceedings of the coronation.

The Archbishop of Canterbury now advanced from his station at the great southeast pillar to the east side of the theater or platform, accompanied by the Lord Chancellor, Lord Great Chamberlain, the High Constable, and the Earl Marshal, preceded by Garter King-at-Arms; and presenting the youthful monarch to her people, made the recognition in these words:—

"Sirs, I here present unto you Queen Victoria, the undoubted Queen of this realm; wherefore, all you who are come this day to do your homage, are you willing to do the same?"

In response there was a rapturous and general shout of "God save Queen Victoria!" The Archbishop and the great officers of State made the same recognition to the people on the other three sides of the Abbey, south, west, and north; the Queen remaining standing, and turning herself about to face her loyal lieges on each side as the recognition was made, which was answered with long and repeated acclamations. The last recognition over, the drums beat, the trumpets sounded, and the band struck up the National Anthem. This part of the ceremonial has been described as one of the most striking and picturesque. The bishops who bore the patina, Bible, and chalice in the procession, now placed the same on the altar. The Queen, attended by the Bishops of Durham and Bath and Wells and the Dean of Westminster, with the great officers of State and noblemen bearing the regalia, advanced to the altar, and kneeling upon the crimson-velvet cushion, made her first offering, being a pall or altar-cloth of gold, which she delivered to the Archbishop of Canterbury, by whom it was placed on the altar. Her Majesty next placed an ingot of gold, of one pound weight, in the hands of the Archbishop, by whom it was put into the oblation basin. The bearers of the regalia, except those who carried the swords, then proceeded in order to the altar, where they delivered St. Edward's crown, the sceptre, dove, orb, spurs, and all the other insignia of royalty, to the Archbishop, who delivered them to the Dean of Westminster, by whom they were placed on the altar. The religious ceremony now began with the reading of the Litany by the Bishops of Worcester and St. David's. Then followed the Communion Service, read by the Archbishop of Canterbury and the Bishops of Rochester and Carlisle. The Bishop of London preached the sermon from the following text, in the Second Book of Chronicles, chap. xxxiv. verse 31st:—

"And the king stood in his place, and made a covenant before the Lord, to walk after the Lord, and to keep his commandments and his testimonies and statutes, and with all his heart and all his soul to perform the words of the covenant which are written in this book."

On the conclusion of the service the Archbishop advanced towards the Queen, addressing her thus:—

"Madam, is your Majesty willing to take the oath?"

The Queen replied, "I am willing."

"Will you solemnly promise and swear," continued the Archbishop, "to govern the people of this United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland, and the dominions thereto belonging, according to the statutes in Parliament agreed on, and the respective laws and customs of the same?"

In an audible voice the Queen answered, "I solemnly promise so to do."

"Will you, to your power, cause law and justice, in mercy, to be executed in all your judgments?"

"I will."

Then said the Archbishop: "Will you to the utmost of your power, maintain the laws of God, the true profession of the Gospel, and the Protestant reformed religion established by law? And will you maintain and preserve inviolably the settlement of the united Church of England and Ireland, and the doctrine, worship, discipline, and government thereof, as by law established within England and Ireland, and the territories thereunto belonging? And will you preserve unto the bishops and clergy of England and Ireland, and to the churches there committed to their charge, all such rights and privileges as by law do or shall appertain to them or any of them?"

Clearly and firmly the Queen replied, "All this I promise to do."

Her Majesty, with the Lord Chamberlain and other officers, the sword of State being carried before her, then went to the altar and took the coronation oath. Laying her right hand upon the Gospels in the Bible carried in the procession and now brought to her by the Archbishop, she said, kneeling:—

"The things which I have here before promised I will perform and keep. So help me, God!"

Then the Queen kissed the book, and to a transcript of the oath set her royal sign manual. The Duchess of Kent was observed to be deeply affected during the whole of this office. After signing, her

Majesty knelt upon her faldstool while the choir sang Veni, Creator, Spiritus. The next part of the ceremony, the anointing, was extremely interesting. The Queen sat in King Edward's chair; four knights of the Garter—the Dukes of Buccleuch and Rutland, and the Marquises of Anglesey and Exeter—held a rich cloth of gold over her head; the Dean of Westminster took the ampulla from the altar, and poured some of the oil it contained into the gold anointing-pan; then the Archbishop anointed the head and hands of the Queen, marking them in the form of a cross, and pronouncing these words:—

"Be thou anointed with holy oil, as kings, priests, and prophets were anointed. And as Solomon was anointed king of Judah the priest and Nathan the prophet, so be you anointed, blessed and consecrated queen over this people, whom the Lord your God hath given you to rule and govern. In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost. Amen."

The Archbishop then pronounced a prayer or blessing over the Sovereign. The spurs were presented by the Lord Chamberlain to the Queen, who returned them to the altar. The sword of State was presented by Lord Melbourne to the Archbishop, who in delivering it into the Queen's right hand said: "Receive this kingly sword, brought now from the altar of God, and delivered to you by the hands of us, the servants and bishops of God, though unworthy. With this sword do justice, stop the growth of iniquity, protect the holy Church of God, help and defend widows and orphans, maintain the things that are gone to decay, and reform what is amiss, and confirm what is in good order; that doing these things, you may be glorious in all virtues, and so faithfully serve our Lord Jesus Christ in this life that you may reign for ever with Him in the life which is to come. Amen."

Lord Melbourne, according to custom, redeemed the sword "with a hundred shillings," and carried it unshathed before her Majesty during the remainder of the ceremony. Then followed the investing with the royal robe and the delivery of the orb. At this point there was some little confusion, and when the orb was put into the Queen's hand she turned to Lord John Thynne and said: "What am I to do with it?" "Your Majesty is to hold it, if you please, in your hand," "Am I?" she said; "it is very heavy." As each article of the regalia was given to the Queen the Archbishop accompanied it with a suitable exordium. When the investiture per annulum et baculum—the ring and sceptre—was performed, it was found that the ruby ring had been made for her Majesty's little finger instead of the fourth, on which the rubric prescribes that it should be put. When the Archbishop was to put it on, she extended the former, but he said it must be on the latter. She replied that it was too small and that she could not get it on. The Archbishop said it was right to put it there, and as he insisted, she yielded, but had first to take off her other rings, and then this was forced on, but it hurt her very much, and as soon as the ceremony was over, she was obliged to bathe her finger in iced water in order to get it off.

The Archbishop, in delivering the sceptre with the cross into the Queen's right hand, said: "Receive the royal sceptre, the ensign of kingly power and justice." Next he delivered the rod with the dove into the Queen's left hand, this being "the rod of equity and mercy." The Archbishop then took the crown into his hands, and laying it upon the altar, offered up a prayer. Turning from the altar with the other bishops, he now received the crown from the Dean of Westminster, and placed it on her Majesty's head; whereupon the people, with loud and repeated shouts, cried "God save the Queen!" At the moment the crown was placed on the head of the Sovereign the act was made known by signal to the semaphore at the Admiralty, from whence it was transmitted to the outposts and other places. A double royal salute of forty-one guns was fired, and the Tower, Windsor, Woolwich, and other garrisons gave a similar greeting to the crowned monarch of the British realm.

On the assumption of the crown, the peers and peeresses put on their coronets, the bishops their caps, and the kings-of-arms their crowns; while the trumpets sounded, the drums beat, and the Tower and park guns fired their volleys. Then the full burst of the orchestra broke forth, and the scene was one of such grandeur as to defy description. The Queen was visibly agitated during the long-repeated acclamations. Her bosom heaved with suppressed emotion, and she turned her expressive eyes involuntarily, as if for maternal support, on her sympathizing mother, who, with infinitely less command of her feelings, was drowned in tears, and occasionally sobbed most audibly. By a strong effort her Majesty regained her composure, and the august ceremonial proceeded.

After an anthem had been sung, the Archbishop presented the Bible to the Queen, who gave it to the Dean of Westminster to be placed on the altar. The benediction was then delivered by the Archbishop, all the bishops, with the rest of the peers, responding to every part of the blessing with a loud and hearty "Amen!" The choir then began to sing the Te Deum, and the Queen proceeded to the chair which she first occupied, supported by two bishops. She was then "enthroned," or "lifted," as the formula states, into the chair of homage, by the archbishops, bishops and peers surrounding her. Then began the ceremony of homage. The Archbishop of Canterbury knelt and did homage for himself and other lords spiritual, who all kissed the Queen's hand. The royal dukes, with the temporal peers, followed according to their precedence, class by class. Ascending the steps leading to the throne, and taking off their coronets, they repeated the oath of homage in the following quaint and homely Saxon form:—

"I do become your liegeman of life and limb, and of earthly worship; and faith and truth I will bear unto you, to live and die, against all manner of folks. So help me God!"

Each peer then in his turn touched the cross on her Majesty's crown, in token of his readiness to support it against all adversaries. He then kissed the Sovereign's hand and retired.

A pretty and touching scene took place when the royal dukes, who alone kissed her Majesty's cheek, came forward to do homage. The Duke of Sussex, who was suffering from indisposition, was feebly and with great difficulty ascending the steps of the throne, when the Queen, yielding to the impulse of natural affection, flung her fair arms about his neck and tenderly embraced him. The Duke was so overcome by this genu-

ine display of feeling that he was supported from the theater by some of the peers, being unable to repress his emotion.

While the lords were doing homage, the Earl of Surrey, Treasurer of the Household, threw coronation medals in silver about the choir and lower galleries, which were scrambled for with great eagerness. A London alderman was thrown on the ground and rolled over in the struggle for one of these medals. It was feared that a battle-royal would ensue between some of the competitors. One of the sons of the Duke of Richmond secured thirteen of the medals, which he placed in his page's sash, in Oriental fashion. High-born ladies entered into the struggle as well as the sterner sex.

At the conclusion of the homage the choir sang the anthem, "This is the day which the Lord hath made." The Queen received the two sceptres from the Dukes of Norfolk and Richmond; the drums beat, the trumpets sounded, and the Abbey rang with exultant shouts of "God save Queen Victoria! Long live Queen Victoria! May the Queen live forever!" The members of the House of Commons raised the first acclamation with nine cheers. Of the House of Commons as then constituted there survive only three members who are members of the Lower House at the present time—Mr. Gladstone, Mr. Villiers, and Mr. Christopher M. Talbot.

The solemn ceremony of the coronation being now ended, the Archbishop of Canterbury went to the altar. The Queen followed him, and having divested herself of the symbols of sovereignty, she knelt down before the altar. The Gospel and Epistle of the Communion Service having been read by two bishops, her Majesty made her offering of bread and wine for the communion, in the paten and chalice. A second oblation was a purse of gold, which was placed on the altar. The Queen received the sacrament kneeling on the faldstool by the chair. Afterwards she put on her crown, and with her sceptres in her hands, took her seat again upon the throne. The Archbishop then proceeded with the Communion Service and pronounced the final blessing. The choir sang the noble anthem, "Hallelujah! for the Lord God omnipotent reigneth."

The Queen then left the throne, and attended by two bishops and nobleman bearing the regalia and swords of State, passed into King Edward's Chapel, the organ playing. The Queen delivered the sceptre with the dove to the Archbishop of Canterbury, who laid it on the altar. She was then disrobed of her imperial robe of State, and arrayed in her royal robe of purple velvet by the Lord Chamberlain. The Archbishop placed the orb in her left hand. The gold spurs and St. Edward's staff were delivered by the nobleman who bore them to the Dean of Westminster, who placed them on the altar. The Queen then went to the west door of the Abbey wearing her crown, the sceptre with the cross being in her right, and the orb in her left hand. The swords and regalia were delivered to gentlemen who attended to receive them from the Jewel Office. It was nearly four o'clock when the royal procession passed through the nave at the conclusion of the ceremony. As the Queen emerged from the western entrance of the Abbey, there came from the thousands and tens of thousands of her subjects assembled in the vicinity thunders of acclamation and applause. Similar greetings awaited her on the whole of the homeward route; and the scene was even more impressive than in the morning, as her Majesty now wore her crown, and the peers and peeresses their robes and their jewelled coronets.

To the coronation succeeded the festivities. The Queen gave a grand banquet to one hundred guests, and the Duke of Wellington a ball at Apsley House which was attended by 2,000 persons. On the next day, and for three succeeding days (omitting Sunday) a fair was held in Hyde Park, this popular festive entertainment being visited by her Majesty on the Friday. All the theaters in the metropolis, and nearly all other places of public amusement, were by the Queen's command opened gratuitously on the evening of the coronation. The peaceable and orderly behavior of hundreds of thousands of persons belonging to the middle and lower classes during the festivities extorted the admiration of foreign residents in London, and was much commented upon. The accidents and offences reported were extraordinarily few. Enthusiastic demonstrations took place throughout the country, and public dinners, feasts to the poor, processions, and illuminations were the order of the day. Every town in England had its rejoicings; while in the chief continental cities British subjects assembled to celebrate the auspicious event.

A parliamentary return showed that the entire expenses of the coronation amounted to £69,421 1s. 10d., of which sum nearly half was incurred by the fitting up of Westminster Abbey. The coronation expenses of George IV., which the Chancellor of the Exchequer estimated would not exceed £100,000, amounted to £238,000.

There was quite a shower of honors and dignities in connection with the Queen's coronation; but the peers need not detain us, and out of the twenty-nine baronets created, only two will enjoy a permanent fame—namely, Edward Bulwer Lytton, as representing literature, and John Frederick William Herschel, as representing science.

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