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SARAH B. HARRIS.

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**OBSERVATIONS.****Queen Victoria.**

The end of the longest and most notable of all English reigns has arrived. Not alone the English people, but men and women of all nations are recognizing and paying tribute to the spotless record of self control exhibited by the Queen of Great Britain and Ireland and Empress of India. Queen Victoria was not a brilliant woman. If she had been, she might not have so carefully studied every duty and every bit of advice she gave her ministers. She did not depend upon inspiration. She kept the extent of her country in mind. She has not been a jingo. She has not been a quaker. But her influence in softening war like messages has averted several wars. It is difficult for an American to appreciate just the feeling the English have for the Queen, a feeling which with royal tact, she has never strained. Her influence on English policy and history for the last sixty years has not been extensively discussed, but from the letters and biographies of her prime ministers, it is evident that it has been much weightier than her non-exercise of the veto power indicates. She possessed that rare, undesigned, unreverenced quality of good judgment,—a power to see a complex subject, with ramifying and complex adjuncts and see it whole. She could see it thus and present it with simplicity to her ministers. This is an extraordinary gift. Only a very few human beings possess it. There are geniuses scattered about much more thickly than these eminently sane, always long-lived people, who are capable of guiding a family, a city, or a nation, without making costly mistakes. It is a fortunate coincidence that its possessor should be born a

queen. The English government has made mistakes in Victoria's reign, and she has made them too. But in all English history where is there another king or queen who had such a prolonged and such infinite opportunity to make mistakes, who made so few? Queen Victoria was great in emergencies, in trying times when her ministers were worried, her royal courage was steady and her mind and judgment were illumined by that steady light which is the distinguishing characteristic of the Victorian administration.

About 1876 having accomplished much more notable feats, she published a book, which is very poorly composed and filled with trivialities. She wrote as the Queen, of the people, not as the wise woman, but as the people looked upon her. She took advantage of their interest in her rides and walks and guests and the commonplace incidents of even a queen's days to compile a book of trivialities. She had not the literary sense, no picturesqueness of phrasing, no power of treatment which can transform uninteresting men, women and doings into something worth while reading about. But as the head of a nation, as the first executive officer of an incredibly spacious and populous nation, the Queen is without a rival in history. Our amateur, temporary modern presidents, though they have larger constitutional powers are not more actually influential, and the brevity of their reigns, each president beginning tentatively and in dread of the vote which will curtail his administration to four years or extend it to eight, inevitably weakens them.

Queen Elizabeth, is the only other English sovereign who can be compared with Queen Victoria. Elizabeth was a more brilliant, more virile genius. Margaret Deland, in speaking of Elizabeth, says "It was a strenuous time, and a lighter or feebler nature must either have been whirled like a ship on the evil current, or gone under and be forgotten. Instead the clear-headed girl grew into a powerful woman, cruel, arrogant, conceited; but with a man's intellect and impersonal farsightedness, and with a man's magnificent physical courage; with also a sort of elemental integrity and sense of fairness in large matters, that is really a masculine quality and is generally the ethical accompaniment of a sense of humour." "She was ineradicably masculine, but she tried hard and laboriously to be feminine and silly." When she died she had 3,000 magnificent dresses, "yet she was never really successful with her wardrobe, as a more feminine woman might have been. Her dresses were never beautiful, only ludicrously and most inappropriately magnificent, laden with jewels, weighted down with cloth of gold, stiff with silver embroidery, and so heavy that even her big, powerful frame must (without support of vanity) have felt the fatigue of carrying

them about." "While making love to Lord Leicester," she could fling love-making aside as she might drop her mantle from her shoulders, and enter her Council Chamber with her man's stride and her loud voice and her big oaths, to call her Commons as she did once, a parcel of ignorant beasts! Or to curse her frightened ministers, huddling together like frightened bleating sheep. Yet straight from such a scene, back she would go to her sighing and ogling and lovemaking." In her old age Elizabeth was miserably tormented by remorse. She saw things at night and hated to go to bed. After staying out of her couch for ten days she replied to Cecil's entreaties that if he were in the habit of seeing such things in his bed, as she saw in hers, he would not persuade her to go there.

Queen Victoria's passing is serene and unmenaced by wronged ghosts. The Queen was a mother and has been disciplined by love and suffering into a much more exalted being than that other queen whose reign Shakspeare, Raleigh and Bacon have helped to make immortal. In Elizabeth's time the monarchy was an undebatable institution. The monarch could still order heads off right and left, and continue to reign. That there has been no serious discussion of abolishing royalty in the reign of Victoria, is an overwhelming tribute to her ability and comprehension of the spirit of the times. What if a man with the temperament, obstinacy, and pig-headedness of Charles the I. had attempted to reign over the English people for the last sixty years? He would not now be dead and mourned for by the heartfelt, bitter grief of United England.

The war in Africa has undoubtedly hastened the death of the Queen. She was surprised at Kruger's ultimatum and has regretted the war that was forced upon England more than any one of her subjects. She was too old to bear the hourly anxiety and the alternating strain of defeat with slaughter and victory unaccompanied by glory.

**King Edward VII.**

One of the most admirable qualities of the new king is his reverence and affection for his mother. A smaller mind might have been betrayed into an expression of impatience for being so long kept out of his inheritance. But the Prince of Wales has not even desired that the Queen should abdicate in his favor. He has been fully cognizant of the perfect understanding and great affection existing between the people of Great Britain and the Queen. And her Majesty has been strengthened to her long task by the loyalty, love and generosity of the heir to the throne. Not a man in the empire has rendered the Queen more steady, unselfish service than Albert Edward now King of England. Now that his mother is dead and he lifts up the burden the gentle old lady

carried so long, there is no one who knows him or who has cared to study his treatment of his mother, that can doubt the genuineness of his grief. Emperor William was so anxious to rule and make speeches that he almost snatched the government from his father the Emperor Frederick. But the Prince of Wales in his most unguarded moment never betrayed a desire to take his mother's place or to hurry her.

King Edward has inherited from his mother some of her most distinguishing traits—such as discretion, modesty, love and respect for peace. In the days of his apparent heirship he has not betrayed his political preferences, either for men or parties. Nobody can say whether the King is liberal or conservative, so strictly has he interpreted and obeyed the spirit of the English constitution. He is not a meddler, but has kept with contentment his own place. He has never been betrayed into a diatribe on free speech and the absolute necessity of its practice by the heir to the throne. He has never "posed" (and for this the world can not be too grateful, compare William) as a martyr, as an example, as a great warrior, as a statesman. He has never advertised himself. In all public functions he has performed the duty of the Prince of Wales satisfactorily to the English people. Some times a man is as distinguished for what he does not do as for what he does. The Prince of Wales has succeeded in the midst of temptations that might have appealed to a weaker man, in being the most loyal subject of her Majesty the Queen and in holding his tongue. The latter is an attainment of rarest value. It was an element of strength in General Grant and the King of England has proved it his. Most of us chatter away our secrets, our inheritance, and embarrass our friends our employers and all our future opportunities.

Like Prince Harry for very ennui of courts and courtiers the prince has been gayer, at times, and in the capacity of a private citizen, than the sober-minded can approve. But for those things which he has not done and for the kind of a man which he is not, England and the world can be profoundly grateful. How Englishmen would tremble and in what danger the throne would be now, if King Edward possessed the unquiet love of notoriety and the exercise of power for its own sake which distinguishes his nephew, the Emperor of Germany, whose own mother prayed that he be not informed of her fatal illness knowing that he would pay no attention to her prayer to keep the news private.

**The Candidates and the Legislature.**

Newspapers and groups of politicians talk about the members of the legislature as though they were so many checkers or chessmen to be