

article on "The Political Influence of Queen Victoria," by Justin McCarthy, author of "A Short History of Our Own Times"—an article written, of course, some time before the Queen's death. At an early date we shall also print an article by Lord Aberdeen containing his boyhood recollections of Queen Victoria.



The Accession of the New King

With all its mediæval ceremonial and quaint setting, the proclamation of the accession of Prince Albert Edward to the throne of England, under the style of Edward VII., took place on Thursday of last week. On the previous day he had reached London from the Isle of Wight, had held his first Privy Council at St. James's Palace, receiving there the homage and oaths of allegiance of the great dignitaries of Church and State, and had delivered the following brief address—an address universally regarded as being admirable both in spirit and in form, and indicative of a conservative and patriotic reign:

Your Royal Highnesses, My Lords and Gentlemen: This is the most painful occasion on which I shall ever be called upon to address you. My first and melancholy duty is to announce to you the death of my beloved mother, the Queen; and I know how deeply you and the whole nation, and, I think I may say, the whole world, sympathize with me in the irreparable loss we have all sustained.

I need hardly say that my constant endeavor will be always to walk in her footsteps.

In undertaking the heavy load which now devolves upon me, I am fully determined to be a constitutional sovereign in the strictest sense of the word, and, so long as there is breath in my body, to work for the good and amelioration of my people.

I have resolved to be known by the name of Edward, which has been borne by six of my ancestors. In doing so I do not undervalue the name of Albert, which I inherit from my ever-to-be-lamented great and wise father, who by universal consent is, I think deservedly, known by the name of Albert the Good, and I desire that his name should stand alone.

In conclusion, I trust to Parliament and the nation to support me in the arduous duties which now devolve upon me by inheritance, and to which I am determined to devote my whole strength during the remainder of my life.

The ceremony of proclamation was one of rare interest to the lover of the archaic. The Garter King-at-Arms, the Norroy King-at-Arms, Rouge Dragon, Rouge Croix, Blue Mantle, heralds, pursuivants, and mace-bearers, all gorgeously appar-

eled and some resembling in their tabards the grotesque royal figures in a pack of cards, led the little procession of trumpeters, grenadiers, and officers, conspicuous among whom was Earl Marshal Roberts. The proclamation was read at St. James's Palace, Marlborough House, Temple Bar, and the Royal Exchange. At the spot where once stood Temple Bar a red cord marked the line of the boundary of the city, and here the heralds were challenged in due form to maintain the city's traditional rights. They were presently admitted, and the proclamation was read in due form to the officials assembled under the great stone griffin that now marks the boundary. These were Lord Mayor, Sheriff, Aldermen, Remembrancer, and mace-bearers, in scarlet, fur-trimmed robes, cocked hats, ruffled shirts, silk knee-breeches, and low buckled shoes. The city magnates responded in unison: "We, with one voice, consent, tongue, and heart, pledge allegiance to King Edward VII.;" the trumpets sounded their fanfares; and the crowds shouted and sang "God Save the King," with some hesitation, for "God Save the Queen" was still in men's memories and hearts. In other cities of the Kingdom and of the colonies the proclamation was read with elaborate ceremony.



Edward VII. Those who know the new King best are of the opinion

that he will be a wise and prudent ruler. He is not a man of unusual intellect, but he is a man of very considerable cultivation, with a great knowledge of affairs and of public men in all parts of Europe, with an unusual gift of tact, and of marked courtesy and kindness of manner. For many years he has shown rare discretion, without, as far as we can recall, a single failure, except possibly in his rather ardent welcome of Mr. Cecil Rhodes a few years ago. There has never been any "Prince of Wales party," no court clique has formed about him, no intrigues have been carried on in his behalf. He has kept himself sedulously out of view, so far as public affairs are concerned, and his opinions on political questions have rarely been known. In this he has differed very widely from many of his predecessors in the same position. It is known that he understands thoroughly the essen-



EDWARD THE SEVENTH

King of Great Britain and Ireland and Emperor of India.

tially democratic spirit of the English people; that he comprehends clearly the rigid limitations of his position in the English Government; and he has pledged himself in specific words to be a strictly constitutional King. That there were irregularities in his earlier life is beyond question; that his associations have not always been of the best is equally certain; probably the only danger which he faces is that which may arise from too great intimacy with people of indifferent moral character. The fierce light that beats upon a throne was never fiercer than in modern England. The Queen brought back the ebbing tide of loyalty by the extraordinary dignity of her character and the extraordinary purity of her court; it will be easy to lose, or sensibly diminish, the personal affection of the English

people for their sovereign. So tactful a man as the new King probably understands this. His court, when it is organized, will be a much gayer one than that which surrounded the Queen; but it is very much to be hoped that it will hold to the same standards of social purity. The new King enters into the inheritance of a priceless possession of affection and loyalty; if he has the good sense with which he is accredited, he will not forfeit it. It must be remembered also that he has been conspicuous for many years in his attentions to Americans and in his expressions of good will towards this country. There is every reason to believe that in this respect he will continue to carry on unbroken the tradition of friendliness and even of intimacy which Queen Victoria established.