

Of all the wars in which Britain was concerned during her Majesty's reign not one was instigated by her desire to despoil any other Sovereign of his lawful rights for the purpose of extending the boundaries of her own empire. More than this, when public opinion was inflamed, as it had been on more than one occasion, by the ill-advised encroachment of some foreign power upon her rights and dignity as a Sovereign, and when her Ministers were disposed to resent such encroachment in language calculated to kindle into a flame the basest passions of the human heart, her voice more than once calmed the tumult, and her diplomacy more than once averted the carnage and horror of war. This was notably the case during the American rebellion, when angry feelings on both sides of the Atlantic were deeply aroused, and when the smallest spark might have started the most terrible conflagration. And as a result of her oft-expressed desire for peace, to which the world has often listened as intently as the prophet to the still small voice at Horeb, her people were able to devote themselves to the arts of peace; villages grew into cities; her commerce spread from zone to zone until it compassed the whole globe; her enterprising sons and daughters went forth to conquer the world for civilization and the empire; literature took its place as one of the great moral forces of the age, and religion itself assumed a more Christ-like aspect. What a noble reign!

The Curtain Drops.

Can the imagination supply anything to intensify the reality? A girl Queen at eighteen years of age takes up the sceptre of royalty amid the doubts and fears of many of her subjects, and at the age of four-score years lays it down amid the sighs and tears of 390,000,000 people. A girl Queen ascends the throne at eighteen years of age to be the plaything of courtiers and political intriguers, at least so it was expected. At the close of her career it was found that in the presence of the ablest statesman her judgment was not easily shaken nor her sagacity often at

fault. Worthy was she to receive the reverence of her people and the homage of the world. No arch of triumph that human hands could erect would be too grand as a memorial of her life, no mausoleum, no matter how costly or how adorned, would worthily retain her ashes. With saddened hearts we drop the curtain as we exclaim: "Best of women and noblest of Sovereigns, thy reign is over, but the beauty of thy womanhood and the majesty of thy power will never pass away. The sceptre of royalty may have fallen from thy hand, but to the end of time thy spirit shall speak to the world of the transcendent splendor and glory of thy reign. British history is richer than thou hast lived, and British soil more sacred because it holds in trust, till time shall be no more, all that is mortal of the Queen her subjects loved so well, and whom all the nations revered for the many virtues which adorned her blameless life."

To the King.

To King Edward, who by hereditary right ascends the throne of his ancestors, we offer our condolence. Our loss is great, but his is greater. He bears an honored name and succeeds to a thousand years of sovereignty and freedom. Long live King Edward! God save the King! May his reign add to the lustre of the house of Hanover, and to the security of the throne which Parliament has declared he shall occupy. May his coming to the throne bring peace to the nation, prosperity to his Canadian subjects, and a larger measure of freedom and religious liberty to the whole world.

Her Influence for Good.

Mr. Whitney, in rising to second the resolution, said:—For reasons which suggest themselves to all here, it is a very difficult task that any person has to face in attempting to deal with a subject so great as the subject of this motion. While there are many other reasons for this conclusion of mine, one reason perhaps more than another will suggest itself to the minds of hon. gentlemen, namely, that the question is in itself so vast, so wide and so far-reaching that it seems beyond—at any rate at the present time—the power of human nature to deal at all with anything more than the surface or fringe of the question now under our consideration. It is difficult to realize the effect of the life, of the work and acts of Queen Victoria, both upon her subjects and upon the nations of the world at large. Her influence, as we all know, as we are glad to know, proud to be able to say, her influence was always for good. It was always for good from the time when yet a child knowledge was brought to her that at no distant day the sceptre of Great Britain and Ireland would be placed in her hands, and she then declared her intention in the future years to be good. Now, sir, she was a constitutional Sovereign, as far as her public capacity was concerned, she was a constitutional Sovereign above everything else. By force of character and by force of her qualification for the position which she held she exercised indeed a far greater power and influence than any absolute Monarch could have exercised, and by virtue of the same authority she brought the neighboring nations of people under the spell of her influence, so that unconsciously, very often, it may be, the action of other nations besides her own, the action of the world itself as a community of nations, we may easily conclude was influenced to a greater or less degree by Queen Victoria, and her wisdom was brought to bear upon the consideration of public questions.

Love and Reverence.

However, sir, besides the reasons I have given, there is another. We are too near to her reign, we are too near the Victorian era to be able to give a full and complete description or conception, indeed, of the influence and effect upon humanity of the life and work and reign of Queen Victoria, whom we all lament. Years hence, perhaps, after another generation shall have passed away, when the