

Hawaiian Gazette.

VOL. XXXII. NO. 50.

HONOLULU, H. I. TUESDAY, JUNE 22, 1897.—SEMI-WEEKLY.

WHOLE NO. 1874.

QUEEN VICTORIA

For Sixty Years She Has Ruled Over the British Empire.

CIVILIZATION HAS ADVANCED

Beneficial Effect of Her Influence Upon England.

Progress a Distinguishing Feature—Development of the Nation.

For 60 years Queen Victoria has reigned over the British Empire. At 20 minutes after 2 o'clock on the morning of June 20, 1837, William IV. died at Windsor Castle. At 11 o'clock the same morning the young Queen met the members of the Privy Council at Kensington Palace, and, after subscribing to the customary oaths, received from them their oaths of allegiance. The death of the King was not wholly unexpected. His short illness developed dangerous phases, and it was soon thought that he could not survive, yet it was almost without warning that the Princess Alexandra Victoria, from being an unexperienced girl, whose 18 years of life had been passed in almost obscurity, came to occupy the throne of England, and to assume at once the responsibilities of the head of a nation, with simplicity and dignity.

The manner in which she received the news of the death of her uncle, William IV., and in which, a few hours later, she conducted the first meeting of her Council won for her instant respect and admiration. She was almost unknown personally to the members of the Cabinet and Privy Council. She had rarely been seen by the populace. The unsettled condition of the society of the court had, perhaps, justified her mother, the Duchess of Kent, in allowing her to pass her life hitherto in seclusion. Certainly, England has never had occasion to regret that her life had been so passed.

The coronation of the Queen took place a year later. It is graphically described in a published life of Dean Stanley as follows:

"At 10:30 o'clock a gun announced that she was at the abbey door, and in about a quarter of an hour the procession appeared from under the organ, advancing up the purple approach to the chancel—every one leaning over—and in they came. First, the great Dukes, struggling with their enormous trains; then — etc., and the Queen, with her vast crimson train, outspread by eight ladies, all in white, followed by the great ladies of the court in enormous crimson trains, and the smaller ladies with delicate sky-blue trains trailing along the dark floor. When she came within the full view of the gorgeous abbey she paused, as if for breath, and clasped her hands. The orchestra broke out into the most tremendous crash of music I ever heard. 'I was glad when they said unto me: "Let us go into the house of the Lord."'

"Every one literally gasped for breath from the intense interest and the rills of the gallery visibly trembled in one's hand from the trembling of the spectators. I never saw anything like it. Tears would have been a relief. One felt that the Queen must sink into the earth under the trembling awe. But at last she moved on to her place by the altar, and (as I heard from my cousins, who had a place close by) threw herself on her knees, buried her face in her hands and evidently prayed fervently. For the first part the silence was so great that at my extreme point I could hear quite distinctly the tremulous but articulate voice of the Archbishop; afterward it was quite inaudible. The great drawbacks were the feeble responses to the service and the feebleness of the acclamations—hardly any at all at the recognition and only tolerable at the coronation. That was the crisis of the ceremony and the most striking part. The very moment the crown touched her head the guns went off, the trumpets began and the shouts. She was perfectly immovable—like a statue. The Duchess of Kent burst into tears and her lady had to put on her coronet for her. The anointing was very beautiful from the cloth of gold; the homage, also, from the magnificent cluster in the very center."

Already she had endeared herself in the hearts of her subjects. Constitutional England was not slow to perceive that their ruler was not a whimpered Queen, that she sought only the aggrandizement of her Kingdom. She had been confronted with serious problems upon her ascension to the throne. There had been political and social unrest. Educational and religious factions had been at variance with each other. Many of her subjects were almost without representation, the condition of the laboring classes was wretched. England was just recovering from



PRINCESS HELENA, Schleswig-Holstein. Born May 25, 1846.



PRINCE ARTHUR, Duke of Connaught. Born May 1, 1850.



PRINCESS VICTORIA (Royal), Dowager Empress of Germany. Born Nov. 21, 1840.



PRINCE ALFRED, Duke of Edinburgh. Born Aug. 6, 1844.



1837



ALBERT EDWARD, Prince of Wales. Born Nov. 9, 1841.

1897

QUEEN VICTORIA AND HER CHILDREN



PRINCESS LOUISE, Marchioness of Lorne. Born March 18, 1848.



PRINCESS BEATRICE, Battenburg. Born April 14, 1857.



PRINCE LEOPOLD, Duke of Albany. Born April 7, 1853.



PRINCESS ALICE, Hesse-Darmstadt. Born April 25, 1843.

the effect of "personal" ruling, and some of the statesmen of the time were fearful of the result of having an "almost infant Queen" deal with these great problems.

From the first the Queen displayed rare judgment, and, although she accepted the advice of her ministers, was not wholly dependent upon their counsel. This trait has characterized her whole reign. Her deep interests in the welfare of her subjects, her strong religious nature had an immediate effect upon the court, and the influence of her example has been felt during her whole reign. Under the constitution, perhaps, it has been her gracious example more than an absolute dictation of policy that has influenced the change in the condition of not only the English-born inhabitants of Great Britain, but of British subjects in whatever remote colony they may reside. The change cannot be summed up in the presentation of columns of figures. Early in the Queen's reign, in 1842,

began the legislation for the amelioration of the condition of the working class. Previous to that time there were nearly a million paupers in the United Kingdom and fully 60,000 inmates of prisons. The public at large was aware of these facts, but there seemed no help for the condition. Wages were at almost starvation rates and a high protective tariff maintained the price of corn almost beyond the purchasing reach of the workingman. When his days of usefulness were over the poorhouse awaited him, or else he was supported by his children, who, like himself, were brought up with scarcely no education, were thrust at a tender age into the fields or the mines and assumed the cares which never left them. Should one of them rebel there was always the force of arms to silence the demands for lightening the burdens. The special act of Parliament, which

served to change these conditions, was an act which prohibited the employment of women and girls in mines and collieries. It was owing to the efforts of Lord Ashley, later known as the Earl of Shaftesbury, that the attention of Parliament was first called to the subject, and a commission appointed to investigate. During his whole lifetime the Earl of Shaftesbury devoted his energies to benefiting the working class. He secured the passage of an act reducing the hours of work for children in the factories and extending the number of hours during which they should be under instruction. Legislation favoring the working class has continued during the Queen's reign. Compulsory education met with opposition, because it was considered that it interfered with individual rights. The workingman possessed few rights, and he clung to the few

with stubborn persistency. The results have fully justified the interference. The nearly ten million of British subjects who have embarked from their native land during the last 60 years have been fully equipped to compete with the representatives of whatever nationalities with whom they have since been associated.

One of the most radical changes which was made in England's policy was the abolition of the corn duties. As early as 1842 the measure was overwhelmingly defeated in the House of Commons by a vote of over four to one. Yet it was scarcely four years later that the Government declared itself in favor of the abolition of the duties. The Queen opened Parliament in person in 1846, and in the speech from the throne Parliament was recommended to consider whether the principle of the repeal of prohibitive and the re-

laxation of protective duties, which had been presented from time to time, might not be more extensively applied.

This was the result of years of agitation on the part of men who, because of their benevolent dispositions and their researches into the economic condition of the country, were convinced that the social problem could never be solved until the price of food was reduced to meet the purchasing power of wages. Mr. Richard Cobden was the real leader of the movement, and his chief companion was Mr. Bright. With them were associated many of the leading orators of the day, who devoted themselves to the work of securing the repeal of the corn laws. A league was formed, and the whole country entered into the agitation. In 1845 the "potato rot" affected the chief article of food in Ireland, and, confronted by famine, even the Prime Minister urged the abolition of the corn duties.

At the time of the death of William IV. there was strife between the two factions in Canada. The million odd inhabitants threatened the disruption of the Government. Lower Canada was formed almost entirely of French, and any legislation that appeared to favor either one of the divisions was regarded with jealousy by the other. One man after another had tried to reconstruct the Canadian governmental scheme, and had failed. It was even proposed suspending the constitution of Lower Canada. Misrule had destroyed authority until Lord Durham was sent out, and assumed control. His policy in Canada subjected him to severe criticism, and he was shortly recalled. But he had thoroughly investigated the condition of affairs in Canada, and immediately upon his return to England he recommended that the colonists should themselves possess as much as possible of the government of the colony, that autonomy should be allowed the judiciary as well as in the execution of law, and that the home government should interfere only in the relations of the colony with the mother country. Lord Durham's recommendations were gradually adopted, and the Dominion of Canada of today, with its population of six millions, and its loyalty to the home government is the result. The same policy of autonomy has been pursued in Australia as well. The population of Canada and Australia combined in 1837 was scarcely a million and a quarter. Today it is nearly eleven millions. Since Queen Victoria ascended the throne 60,000 square miles of territory have been added to the possessions of the British Empire in India, and in Africa 1,000,000 square miles.

During the reign science has made wonderful advances. The industrial arts and literature have developed. Steam navigation had already been successfully tried. Many lines of railway were opened during the year 1838. It was also in this year that the act of transmitting the mails by rail was passed, a locomotive attained a speed of 37 miles an hour during this year, and transatlantic voyages were made by steamboats. In the same year Professor Morse went to England to obtain a patent for his invention of conveying messages a short distance by telegraph. Today there is not a quarter of the globe that cannot be reached by steam navigation, by railway or by telegraph. England is in easy communication with all her colonies, and because of the telegraph, Australia can be more easily reached from London today than Liverpool could be reached in 1837.

With the establishment of steam and electrical communication came the rapid development of the manufacturing and seaport towns, and of London itself. Birmingham and Liverpool and other large towns, had widely diverging interests. They were all governed by the same cumbersome municipal system of control, and in this sense their interests were common. The greater part of their inhabitants were subjected to some low-wage scheme, with no voice in local government, and in a second way their interests were common. The same spirit of progress that forced local government for the colonies upon Parliament characterized the efforts for municipal reform. Within the last few years efforts have been made in London itself to substitute a system of central municipal control and government for the varied parish governing bodies whose territory has been absorbed by the growth of the metropolis.

A distinctive feature of the reign has been progress. The way was paved for it by the necessity for changes in the old systems, and to a certain degree by the legislative acts previous to 1837. These enactments do not lessen the influence of the reign in any degree. Sixty years of devotion to principle, 60 years of beneficence cannot be lived by the head of a nation without an influence upon every subject. Exerted by a woman, there was all the more reason why the condition of every woman should be advanced. From the time when the Earl of Shaftesbury pressed the claims of the cause which he defended upon Parliament, to the time when, a few months since, Lady Aberdeen was the principal orator at the commencement exercises of a great university, and made a plea for the higher education of women, there has been a constant development of that higher education.

In 1837 the indifferent attitude which was exhibited toward social conditions

(Continued on Fourth Page.)