

This Paper not to be taken from the Library.

# The San Francisco Call.



VOLUME LXXXIX—NO. 54.

SAN FRANCISCO, WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 23, 1901.

PRICE FIVE CENTS.

## VICTORIA'S REIGN ENDS AND EDWARD VII IS KING

### Peacefully and Without Pain the Royal Invalid at Osborne Relinquishes Her Hold Upon Life.

**C**OWES, Isle of Wight, Jan. 23.—Queen Victoria is dead, and Edward VII reigns. The greatest event in the memory of this generation, the most stupendous change in existing conditions that could possibly be imagined, took place quietly, almost gently, upon the eve of the anniversary of the death of the Queen's father, the Duke of Kent.

The end of this career, never equaled by any woman in the world's history, came in a simply furnished room in Osborne House. This most respected of women, living or dead, lay in a great four-posted bed and made a shrunken atom whose aged face and figure were a cruel mockery of the fair girl who in 1837 began to rule over England.

Around her were gathered almost every descendant of her line. Well within view of her dying eyes there hung a portrait of the Prince Consort. It was he who designed the room and every part of the castle. In scarcely audible words the white-haired Bishop of Winchester prayed beside her as he had often prayed with his sovereign, for he was her chaplain at Windsor. With bowed heads the imperious ruler of the German empire and the man who is now King of England, the woman who has succeeded to the title of Queen, the Princes and Princesses and those of less than royal designation, listened to the Bishop's prayer.

Six o'clock passed. The Bishop continued his intercession. One of the younger children asked a question in shrill, childish treble and was immediately silenced. The women of this royal family sobbed faintly and the men shuffled uneasily.

At exactly half-past 6 Sir James Reid held up his head and the people then knew that England had lost her Queen. The Bishop pronounced the benediction.

The Queen passed away quite peacefully. She suffered no pain. Those who were now mourning went to their rooms. A few minutes later the inevitable element of materialism stepped into this pathetic chapter of international history, for the court ladies went busily to work ordering their mourning from London.

The wheels of the world were jarred when the announcement came, but in this palace at Osborne everything pursued the usual course. Down in the kitchen they were cooking a huge dinner for an assemblage the like of which has seldom been known in England, and the dinner preparations proceeded just as if nothing had occurred.

The body of Queen Victoria was embalmed and probably will be taken to Windsor on Saturday. The coffin arrived last evening from London.

An incident characteristic of the Queen's solicitude for others occurred two days ago, when, in one of the intervals of consciousness, she summoned strength to suggest to her dressers who had been acting as nurses to take the opportunity of getting some fresh air. Monday she asked that her little Pomeranian spaniel be brought to her bedroom.

It was thought that the Queen was dying about 9 in the morning, and carriages were sent to Osborne Cottage and the rectory to bring all the Princes and Princesses and the Bishop of Winchester to her bedside. It seemed then very near the end, but when things looked the worst the Queen had one of the rallies due to her wonderful constitution, opened her eyes and recognized the Prince of Wales, the Princesses and Emperor William. She asked to see one of her faithful servants, a member of the household. He hastened to the room, but before he got there the Queen had passed into a fitful sleep.

Four o'clock marked the beginning of the end. Again the family were summoned, and this time the relapse was not followed by recovery.

The Prince of Wales was very much affected when the doctors at last informed him that his mother had breathed her last. Emperor William, himself deeply affected, did his best to minister comfort to his sorrow-stricken uncle, whose new dignity he was the first to acknowledge.

From all parts of the world there are still pouring into Cowes messages of condolence. They come from crowned heads, millionaires, tradesmen and paupers, and are variously addressed to the Prince of Wales and the King of England.

Emperor William's arrangements are not settled. His yacht will arrive here to-day (Wednesday), but it is believed that he will not depart until after the funeral. Several other royal personages are likely to be present at the function.

The record of the last days of the reign of Victoria is not easy to tell. For several weeks the Queen had been failing. On Monday week she summoned Lord Roberts and asked him some very searching questions regarding the war in South Africa. On Tuesday she went for a drive, but was visibly affected. On Wednesday she suffered a paralytic stroke, accompanied by intense physical weakness. It was her first illness in all her eighty-one years and she would not admit it. Then her condition grew so serious that, against her wishes, the family were summoned. When they arrived her reason had practically succumbed to paralysis and weakness.

The events of the last days, described in the bulletins, are too fresh to need repetition. At the lodge gates the watchers waited nervously. Suddenly along the drive from the house came a horseman who cried "The Queen is dead" as he dashed through the crowds.

Then down the hillside rushed a myriad of messengers, passing the fateful bulletin from one to another. Soon the surrounding country knew that a King ruled over Great Britain. The local inhabitants walked as if in a dream through the streets of Cowes, but they did not hesitate to stop to drink the health of the new monarch.

The news was received with the greatest sorrow at Balmoral, Windsor and Eton, where Queen Victoria was regarded in a specially personal manner by the inhabitants.

Princess Beatrice telegraphed the tidings to former Empress Eugenie at Farnborough.



THE LATE QUEEN VICTORIA.

LONDON, Jan. 23.—The coronation of the King, who will assume the title of Edward VII, will not take place for six months, though he will take the oath to-morrow. The following semi-official announcement has been made in the Westminster Gazette: "We understand that the privy council, at which the King will take the oath of accession, will not be held at Osborne, but at London, and that his Majesty will start at once for the capital."

### Parliament Is Summoned to Enable Members to Take the Oath of Allegiance to King Edward.

**L**ONDON, Jan. 23, 1:01 a. m.—Absolute silence reigned tonight in the vicinity of Buckingham Palace and Marlborough House. A small bill, signed "Balfour," was posted outside announcing the demise of the Queen. Everywhere to-night the topic of conversation was what would happen under the new reign. Much interest is evinced in what way the enormous fortune of the Queen will be distributed, the general notion being that Osborne House would go to Princess Beatrice and that she and Prince Christian would come into a considerable portion of Victoria's wealth. The probability that King Edward will take up a practically permanent residence in Buckingham Palace, was much canvassed. This is a question that comes very close home to Londoners. Queen Victoria's preference for Balmoral Castle and Osborne House has been a complaint of long standing in the metropolis, and it is hoped that the new reign will see a change in this respect. The presence of the court in London would give a brightness and gaiety which have long been absent. Not until Queen Victoria has been laid to rest, beside the Prince Consort at Frogmore will the theaters or music halls reopen. Moreover, business will come to a practical standstill. The music in all the halls and public places has ceased. Fashionable resorts were empty and very few of the nightly habits were in evidence. The St. James, Prince's and other prominent restaurants have already discarded alluring colors for somber black. Americans who have passed through great national calamities may remember the crape-covered building, but they can ill conceive since the death of Lincoln any such expression of gloom as has already fallen upon the United Kingdom. Marlborough House, so long the home of the new monarch, Buckingham Palace, where Queen Victoria made her last stay in London, and St. James Palace, the residence of so many former monarchs, were all black and deserted. Sentries in black overcoats kept silent vigil before the closed gates and bolted doors. The population therefore slowly dispersed as the night wore on. Shortly before midnight an official announcement was issued calling Parliament to meet at 4 o'clock this (Wednesday) afternoon to enable members of the House of Lords and House of Commons to take the oath of allegiance to King Edward VII. Telegrams pouring in from all parts of the Continent re-echoed the deep feeling of sorrow pervading all classes. These show that everywhere bells have been tolled and public performances and private functions suspended. In Dublin the expressions of regret were universal. The bells of St. Patrick's Cathedral were tolled. Earl Cadogan, the Lord Lieutenant, was absent from Dublin yesterday, but it is expected he will return to the King.

### LAST WORDS OF THE QUEEN

COWES, Jan. 23 (special cablegram to the New York Evening Journal).—Queen Victoria's last words were: "My son." It was a most dramatic scene there in the death chamber. The aged Queen, roused into momentary consciousness, realized death was at hand. She recognized the German Emperor and the Prince of Wales and several others of her weeping family. Those who were nearest her heard a whispered good-bye and a fond reference to her eldest son. As the breathing of the Queen died away and the end came—when it became certain death had taken her to himself—the officials in the bedchamber turned from the bedside to the Prince and solemnly declared the words of the immortal formula: "The Queen is dead. Long live the King."



THE CORONATION 1837



THE WEDDING 1840



QUEEN'S FIRST RAILWAY JOURNEY 1842



VISIT OF THE QUEEN TO THE CHATEAU DEU 1843



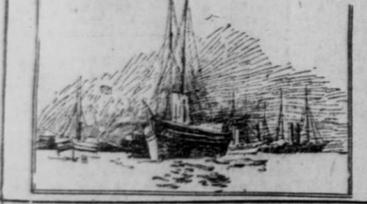
THE QUEEN'S ENTRY INTO COLOGNE



THE QUEEN AT THE TUILERIES ON THE ARM OF NAPOLEON 1855



MARRIAGE OF THE PRINCESS ROYAL 1858



THE QUEEN LEAVING GREENWICH FOR GERMANY 1860



MARRIAGE OF PRINCESS HELENA AND PRINCE CHRISTIAN 1866



MARRIAGE OF PRINCESS LOUISE AND THE MARQUIS OF LORNE 1871



THE QUEEN PRESENTING NEW COLOURS TO THE 79th CAMERON HIGHLANDERS AT PARKHURST, ISLE OF WIGHT, 1873



THE QUEEN AND GERMAN EMPRESS AT CHARLOTTENBURG 1888



THE KING OF ITALY VISITING THE QUEEN AT FLORENCE 1890