

ed round the King, and these, save the Lord Chamberlain, will then retire to their respective places, leaving His Majesty alone. The Litany will now be sung by two Bishops, and the sermon preached.

Once more the solemnities of the Coronation proper will recommence. At the conclusion of the sermon "the Oath" will be administered to the King by the Archbishop of Canterbury. This Coronation oath has grown, very much like the British Constitution, from the oath taken by William the Conqueror, the main point of which was the undertaking to maintain the laws of Edward the Confessor. It begins with the promise "to govern the people of this United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland, and the Dominions thereunto belonging, according to the statutes in Parliament agreed on and the respective laws and customs of the same," and the latest addition to its capitulations is that for which William and Mary came to the throne, to maintain "the true profession of the Gospel and the Protestant reformed religion as it is established by law."

The Sovereign then approaches the altar, and, laying his hand upon the Gospels, takes the following oath:—

"The things which I have heretofore promised I will perform and keep, so help me God." He then kisses the Book, and signs the oath.

"The Anointing" will be the next part of the ceremony. After the King has knelt in private prayer, while the choir sings "Veni, creator spiritus," His Majesty will take his seat in King Edward's chair, four Knights of the Garter holding a rich cloth of gold over his head. The Dean of Westminster will take the ampulla, or Golden Eagle, in which the holy oil for anointing the King is preserved, and will pour a little of the oil into a spoon. The Archbishop then anoints the Sovereign in the form of a cross:

1. On the crown of the Head, saying, "Be thy Head anointed with Holy Oil, as Kings, priests and prophets were anointed."
2. On the Breast, saying, "Be thy Breast anointed with Holy Oil."
3. On the Palms of both hands, saying, "Be thou anointed with Holy Oil, as Kings, priests, and prophets were anointed. And as Solomon was anointed King by Zadok the priest,

and Nathan the prophet, so be you anointed, blessed and consecrated King over this people, whom the Lord your God hath given you to rule and govern, in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Ghost. Amen."

The Spurs are then presented to the King by the Lord Chamberlain, and the Sword of State by Lord Salisbury, who, however, according to custom, redeems "it with a hundred shillings," and carries it during the rest of the ceremony. Then follows the investing with the "Royal Robe and the delivery of the Orb," and the "Investiture per annulum et baculum"—Ring and Sceptre. The actual Coronation follows. The Archbishop of Canterbury first offers a prayer to God to bless His Majesty, "and crown him with all princely virtues." The Dean of Westminster takes the Crown from the altar, and the Archbishop of Canterbury, accompanied by the other prelates, advances towards the King, and the Archbishop, taking the Crown from the Dean, reverently places it on the King's head. This will be the signal for a loud and enthusiastic cry of "God save the King!" from every part of the sacred building, the trumpets sound, and by a signal the guns at the Tower are fired. At that moment, too, the Peers will put on their coronets, the Bishops their caps, and the Kings-at-Arms their crowns. The presentation of the Holy Bible follows. The Benediction will then be delivered by the Archbishop, and the Te Deum sung by the choir. At the commencement of the Te Deum the King will return to the chair which he first occupied, and on its conclusion is "lifted" into the chair of homage by Archbishops, Bishops, and Peers surrounding His Majesty, who will then at once receive the tender of fealty from the Archbishop and Bishops and the homage and fealty from such Princes of the Blood as are also Peers, and from the premier Peer of each rank for the Peer of the same order, each in succession taking off his coronet, ascending his throne, kissing, or seeming to kiss, the Sovereign on the left cheek, and touching the crown to signify that he is one of its supporters. While homage is being performed the Coronation medals are thrown among the people from the three sides of the

theatre by the Treasurer of the Household, attended by Garter King-at-Arms, and the Usher of the Black Rod.

After the homage an anthem will be sung by the choir, and then Queen Alexandra will rise from her chair, and, supported by two Bishops, will advance to the altar attended by her ladies. After a prayer, the Queen kneeling at the altar, Her Majesty goes to kneel upon a fold-stool near St. Edward's chair. Her coronet is taken off by the groom of the stole. The Archbishop of York then anoints her head and breast, saying:—

"In the name of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Ghost, let the anointing of this oil increase thine honour and establish thee for ever and ever." The oil being dried with cotton wool, and a linen coif placed upon the Queen's head, the Archbishop proceeds to invest her with the ring, which he receives from the master of the jewel-house; and after that he places the Queen Consort's crown reverently upon Queen Alexandra's head, a crowning which is the signal for all the peeresses in the Abbey to put on their coronets. The Queen, now holding sceptre and rod, will then be led back to her chair by two Bishops, and will make humble reverence to the King as she passes the throne. She takes her seat on a lower throne at the left hand of the King, where she will remain while an anthem is sung by the choir.

Then once again the King and Queen will proceed to the altar, and, giving their crowns to the Lord Chamberlain to hold, will kneel down. The Gospel and Epistle of the Communion Service having been read by two Bishops, the King makes his offering of the Chalice and Patina, and an ingot of gold, which are laid on the altar. The Queen also at the same time maketh her oblation of a pall or altar cloth and a mark weight of gold in like manner as the King. The Exhortation and General Confession, Absolution, Prayer of Humble Access, and Prayer of Consecration follow, and then the King and Queen receive the Sacrament. Afterwards they put on their crowns and with their Sceptres in their hands, take their seats again upon the thrones. The Archbishop proceeds with the Communion Service, and pronounces the

final blessing, and the choir sings the anthem "Hallelujah!" for the Lord God Omnipotent Reigneth." There are eight communicants—the Sovereign, the Archbishop, and the Dean of Westminster, the Epistoller, the Gospeller, the preacher, and the two Bishops who sing the Litany.

Both King and Queen Consort then leave their thrones, and, attended by Bishops and noblemen bearing the Regalia and swords of State, pass into King Edward's Chapel, the organ playing. The swords and Regalia will be delivered up to gentlemen attending to receive them from the jewel-office. And the King, wearing his crown, the Sceptre with the Cross being in the right, and Orb in the left hand, will move amid the re-formed procession down to the west door of the Abbey, accompanied by his Queen Consort. Thus, so far as the actual solemnity is concerned, will end the Great Day.

The above brief sketch of the ancient and striking service will convey some idea of the grandeur of the ritual performed in the historic Abbey of Westminster, crowded by the highest and most illustrious of the King's subjects, and by Sovereigns and their representatives from every land.

An elaborate system of signalling has been arranged by which the departure of the King and Queen from Buckingham Palace will be announced to the clergy at the Abbey and to the gunners in Hyde Park and the Tower, who will fire salvoes of welcome. Special wires will connect the Abbey with Buckingham Palace, the police station at Hyde Park, and the Tower, and the moment the crown has been placed on the King's head the guns will proclaim the joyful news, and the crowd in the streets hail the event with enthusiastic cheers. The wires will be carried across the trees of St. James' and Hyde Parks, and to make doubly sure signallers on the roof of Buckingham Palace, Apsley House, Queen Anne's Mansions, the Abbey, the Shot Tower, the Tower of London, and the Tower Wharf, will send hand messages by 3ft square flags of the auspicious events. Lambeth Palace and Fulham Palace may also be joined up to the Abbey for the convenience of the Archbishop and the Bishop of London. The military authorities also propose to link up the camps, which will be established for the colonial and Indian detachments. Also no delay will occur in sending the joyful



THE CORONATION OF QUEEN VICTORIA.