

THE SCEPTRE WITH THE DOVE.

The Regalia.

Some description of the Coronation regalia, the value of which is placed at something over £3,000,000, will not be out of place.

The Abbot and Monks of Westminster were, by authority of the foundation charter of Edward the Confessor, the original custodians of the Regalia, and their first home was the ancient Treasury of England, a small vaulted chamber in the eastern cloister of the Abbey.

In early times the Kings of England usually carried their Regalia about with them, and wore their crowns in battle on their helmets, but the losses and damage done in consequence of this custom became so great that, in the reign of Henry VIII., the Regalia were finally deposited in the Tower.

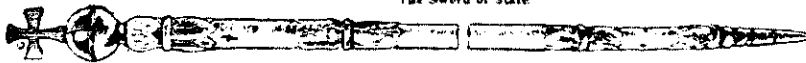
The same Crowns, Orbs, and Sceptres have been used again and again for successive Sovereigns, but for each new ruler fresh Coronation robes have been made, the general design and adornment, however, remaining approximately the same. The robes have of late been kept in the Robes Office in St. James's Palace.

The crowns now in the Tower consist of St. Edward's Crown, the Imperial Crown of Queen Victoria, the Crown of Mary of Modena, and the circlets or coronets of Mary of Modena, and the Prince of Wales. All of these are shown with the crimson velvet caps turned up with miniver, which are usually worn with them.

St. Edward's Crown was made by



The Cap of Maintenance.



The Sword of State.

STAFF OF ST. EDWARD.

Sir Robert Vyner, Royal Goldsmith to Charles II., after the pattern of an earlier crown, which was destroyed under the Commonwealth, in 1649. This is the official Crown of England; always appears at the Coronation, and will do so at the coming ceremony. It is a circlet of gold, bordered with pearls and studded with oval jewelled clusters, from the upper edge of which rise four crosses-patees and four fleurs-de-lis alternately, all thickly jewelled. From the tops of the four crosses-patees spring two flat arches of gold, edged with pearls and set with rectangular clusters of gems; these arches dip deeply at the point of intersection, and in the depression thus formed there is a sphere of gold with jewelled band and arch, having at the top a jewelled Maltese cross, pointed at each of its upper extremities with a large pearl.

Even the fact of the King and Queen having special Crowns made for the Coronation—as Queen Victoria did—would not prevent the use of St. Edward's Crown.

Queen Victoria's Imperial Crown, with which she was crowned according to precedent—such ornamental crowns having been so used for several previous Coronations—was made for Her Majesty in 1838 by Messrs. Rundell and Bridge. The jewels in it are mostly old ones, taken from earlier crowns, but some of them are newly supplied. There are three historic jewels in this crown: the large pierced spinel ruby that belonged to Edward the Black Prince, and was worn by Henry V. at Agincourt; the sapphire taken from the ring of Edward the Confessor; and the pierced Stuart sapphire from the crown of Charles II.

A sphere and a Maltese cross both thickly encrusted with diamonds surmounts the whole; the cross bearing in its centre the beautiful sapphire of Edward the Confessor.

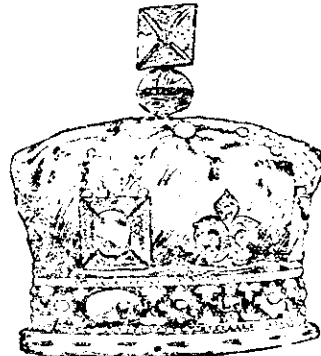
The Orb or Mound surmounted by a cross is the emblem of the domination of the Christian religion over

the world. It is carried in the right hand of the monarch at a particular stage of the Coronation ceremony, and it may be seen on the great seals of all our sovereigns since Edward the Confessor. It is only carried by a King or Queen regnant

resembling a crown, with arches and scrolls of gold richly enamelled and jewelled. On this super-structure rests a large faceted spherical amethyst with jewelled band and arch, carrying a Maltese cross covered with diamonds. It was made for Charles II., but has since been much altered and enriched. This is used by the King at the Coronation.

The Sceptre with the Dove was also made for Charles II., and is of gold with jewelled and enamelled knobs of delicate and beautiful workmanship. It measures 3 feet 7 inches in length. At the top is a sphere with jewelled band and arch supporting a small cross on which rests a white enamelled dove with outspread wings. It is carried by the Sovereign at the Coronation.

The Queen's Sceptre with the Cross was made for Mary Queen of Mo-

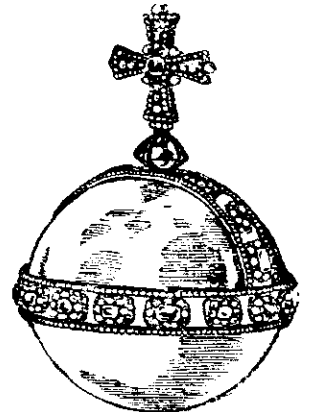


THE CORONATION CROWN.

The Larger Orb, now in the Tower, is a golden globe, 6 inches in diameter, with a jewelled band and arch, above which is a large faceted amethyst, 1 1/2 inches in height, serving as foot to a Maltese cross, 3 1/2 inches high, which is thickly encrusted in jewels. It was made for Charles II., and has only been slightly altered since his time. The Lesser Orb, of a similar design but without the amethyst, was made for Mary II., joint Sovereign with William III.

The sceptres are of two kinds—those with a cross at the top and those with a dove.

The Royal Sceptre with the Cross is a rod of gold measuring 2 feet 9 1/2 inches in length, the upper part of which is wreathed. The handle is richly ornamented with gold open-work studded with jewels and enamel work, and the head is decoratively expanded into a form somewhat

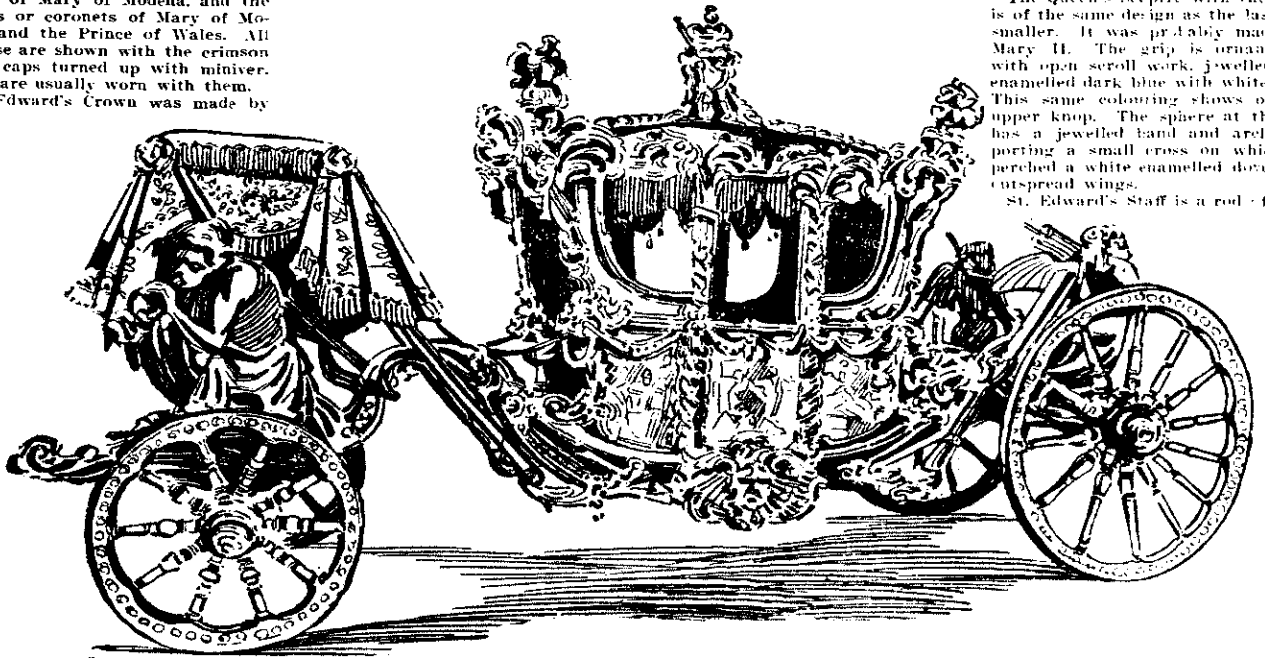


THE LARGER ORB.

deno, and is a rod of gold measuring 2 feet 10 inches in length, like the Royal Sceptre in general, but simpler and ornamented with diamonds only.

The Queen's Sceptre with the Dove is of the same design as the last, but smaller. It was probably made for Mary II. The grip is ornamented with open scroll work, jewelled, and enamelled dark blue with white dots. This same colouring shows on the upper knob. The sphere at the top has a jewelled band and arch supporting a small cross on which is perched a white enamelled dove with outspread wings.

St. Edward's Staff is a rod of gold,



THE STATE COACH: This gorgeous carriage to be used by the King and Queen in the Coronation procession, was built in the reign of George III.