

matter and his personal distaste for the duty which Parliament had stupidly and perversely thrust upon him.

Nor was this by any means the only occasion on which he manifested sympathy and consideration for his Catholic subjects. Throughout his whole career, both as Prince of Wales and as King, he always showed the utmost regard and respect for Catholic faith, Catholic practices, and Catholic ecclesiastics. In his earlier life Manning was his intimate friend, as was Father Bernard Vaughan in his later days. Away back in the sixties, in the most uncompromising manner, he publicly declined—despite urgent pressure—to allow himself to be either trapped or cajoled or bullied at Kingston (Canada) into association with or countenance of the dark-lantern fanatics of the Orange lodge. When the occasion seemed to call for it, he did not hesitate to assist at Mass—to the undisguised chagrin of ultra-Protestant zealots. Only the other day he visited Lourdes, and the cables specially mentioned his conspicuously reverent attitude towards the manifestations of Catholic faith and devotion of which he was an interested witness. His warm admiration for Gladstone, and his personal approval of the great statesman's Home Rule policy are well known. He was the first English Sovereign since the Reformation who personally visited and greeted our Holy Father the Pope; and he was the first head of the British Empire who ever visited that centre of Irish Catholic life—Maynooth College. The occasion was made memorable by a striking display of that quick sympathy and delicacy of feeling for which the late monarch was so remarkable. The visit to Maynooth took place at the very time that the late Pope Leo XIII. lay dead in St. Peter's—a day, therefore, of gloom and sorrow for the Irish people. With that courtesy and tact which so distinguished him, his Majesty sought to manifest unmistakably his respect for the creed which has supported Ireland through many a struggle by ordaining that his suite should invest themselves in mourning apparel for the occasion, and that part of the Royal State in which he usually travelled should be dispensed with. Her Majesty the Queen also, in kindly consideration for the grief of the Irish people at the loss of their beloved Pope, was attired in black. In reply to the welcome accorded to him by the hierarchy, after paying tribute to the renown of Maynooth as the Alma Mater of 'so many devoted men,' his Majesty testified his gratification at the true appreciation which not alone the hierarchy, but the Irish race in general, entertained of his feeling towards them. He uttered words of thanks for the services which had been rendered to his Empire by many sons of the Irish soil, and declared the high esteem in which he held the 'admirable gifts of mind and heart' of which he considered his Irish subjects were possessed. To such multiplied instances and expressions of kindness and affection for the Irish people the great heart of the Celt could not fail to respond with feelings of ardent gratitude and devotion.

The great achievements and splendid promise of Edward VII.'s career as a King—all too short as it has been—deserve all the eulogies which they have received at the hands of our secular contemporaries. It is true that under the present régime of constitutional monarchy the King no longer possesses such powers of producing rapidly tremendous results for good or evil as attached to the Sovereign in the old days, when the monarch was absolute and supreme. Still, there are a great variety of matters, none of which in themselves are perhaps of very great significance, on which it is very important that the King should steadily and consistently arrive at sound judgments; and in the multitude of these small but not unimportant routine duties of kingship, throughout his nine years' reign, Edward VII. made no false step. In the larger sphere of kingly activity he exhibited qualities of statesmanship which easily place him in the forefront as beyond all question the greatest ruler of his day. By the magnetism of his personality he has restored the charm of Monarchy in a way which the statesmen of seventy years ago—who thought the British Crown was slipping to the ground—would have deemed impossible. His visits to foreign potentates were invariably followed by a kindlier feeling and better understanding between the nations; and his unique gift of conciliation was not only a great national

asset, but was recognised also as one of the dominant factors in promoting and maintaining universal peace. At the termination of the South African war Home newspapers were agreed that the result was due to the fact that the King had used his personal influence to secure peace, and they predicted that he would be known in history as 'The Peacemaker.' It is an honorable and glorious title, and the King that earns it—as Edward VII. has earned it—has deserved well of the world.

Our new King and Queen, who are called on to take up the burden of government at such a critical period of the Empire's history, are as yet little past the portals of their public life. They have to make their own mark in their own way. In one respect they have an advantage over our late beloved monarch, in that their visit to the overseas dominions has given them a personal insight into the circumstances and conditions of life of the most distant parts of the Empire, and has furnished them also with what ought to be a convincing object-lesson in the benefits which self-government has conferred upon these young and flourishing southern lands. All the traditions surrounding them are in their favor. We can only pray, 'God save the King,' and grant that he may be large-hearted, broad-minded, tolerant, and just, following faithfully in the footsteps of the honored dead.

## Notes

### The Popularity of Edward VII.

In a character sketch of Edward VII., entitled 'Our Sovereign Lord the King,' in the May number of the *Review of Reviews*, Mr. Stead recalls a curious incident which affords striking evidence of the very widespread popularity of the late monarch. 'The supreme authority of the King at a crisis like the present is inherent in his office, but it has been greatly enhanced by his personal popularity. There was a curious paragraph in the papers some time ago reporting the proceedings of a small revolutionary meeting in London. One of the speakers promised his cronies that the Social Republic would soon be proclaimed in England, and when that day comes, he added, we shall elect Albert Edward as our first President. A monarch who commands such universal respect as to have the nomination at the hands of the Reds for the presidency of the British Social Revolutionary Republic is more than "His Most gracious." He is a man who has the confidence of his fellow-men.'

### The King as Ministerial Adviser

Apropos of one of Mr. Asquith's official visits to the King, the *Spectator* in a recent issue drew attention to an important extension of the Sovereign's political influence which has taken place in these latter days. 'For the last hundred years and more the advice tendered to the Sovereign, if Ministers have persisted in it, has been obligatory in its nature, subject to the fact that a Ministry might resign, or even be dismissed and another substituted for it. As long as Ministers are Ministers, their advice, formally tendered and persisted in, is final.'

'But with this change has come another change of great importance. The King, entirely free from responsibility for his Ministers' Acts, has taken to advising his advisers. The late Queen did this throughout the latter part of her reign, and the King has followed her example. Lord Salisbury stated this fact very plainly in his speech on the Queen's death. Ministers, of course, are not obliged to follow the King's advice, but they know if they reject it that they are rejecting advice which is certain to be sympathetic. The King is never a partisan, and is always exceedingly loyal to his Ministers, be their opinions what they may. They know also that his advice is never given light-heartedly or with any *arrière pensée*, and that it is the advice of a very shrewd man of the world, who hears all sides and judges with remarkable mental detachment.'

### The Late King and Home Rule

The late King's kindly feeling for Ireland and the Irish people was shown in many and divers ways, and the liberality of his views on questions affecting the welfare of the