VICTORIA DEAD.

Sad Scenes at the Deathbed of England's Monarch.

GREAT BRITAIN'S NEW RULER

He Will Assume the Title of King Edward VII.

QUEEN TO REST AT FROGMORE.

Her Majesty Will Be Interred by the Side of the Prince Consort, the Loved Husband and Father-The Body to Be Removed to Windsor Castle on Saturday-All Places of Amusement in London Closed and Business Generally Suspended. President McKinley's Message of Sympathy.

Cowes, 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 imagined, has taken place quietly, almost gently, upon the anniversary of the death of Queen Victoria's father, the Duke of Kent.

The end of this career, never equalled by any woman in the world's history, came in a simply furnished room in Osborne house. This most respected of all 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 ceaseless 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 6:30 Sir James Reid held up his hand, and the people in the room 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 mourners 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



KING EDWARD VII.

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 happened.

The body of Queen Victoria was embalmed and will probable be taken to Windsor Castle on Saturday. The coffin arrived last evening from Lon-

It was feared that the queen was dying about 9 o'clock yesterday 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 princess 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 Willtam, 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.

The record of the last days of the reign of Victoria is not easy to tell, there being but one newspaper correspondent admitted to Osborne house,



GREAT BRITAIN'S NEW QUEEN. and his interview with Sir Arthur John Rigge, private secretary to the late queen, was the only official statement that had been given out. For several weeks the queen had been failing. On Monday of last 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 81 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 few days, described in the bulletins, are too fresh to need repetition.

BODY TO REST AT FROGMORE. Dead Monarch Will Be Interred by

the Prince Consort's Side. London, Jan. 23 .- Absolute silence reigned last night in the vicinity of Buckingham Palace and Marlborough House. A small bill, signed "Balfour" was posted outside, announcing the demise of the monarch.

All places of amusement were closed, and those who were turned away from theaters or music halls wandered along the streets of the West End without special object. No large crowds gathered anywhere.

Not until Queen Victoria has been laid to rest beside the prince consort at Frogmore will the theaters and



THE NEW PRINCE OF WALES. music halls reopen. Moreover, business has come to a practical standstill. The music in all the hotels and public places has ceased. Fashionable resorts are empty, and very few of the regular habitues are in evidence. The St. James, Prince's and other prominent restaurants yesterday afternoon discarded alluring colors for sombre black.

The shops closed as soon as the bells began to toll, and the blinds of Mansion House were drawn down as soon as the message from the Prince of Wales was received by the lord mayor. The bell tolled at St. Paul's cathedral was the gift of William III, and is used only on occasions of the death of royal personages, archbishops of Canterbury, ord mayors of London and bishops of London. The tolling continued for two hours yesterday at intervals of a minute and could be heard for miles in the direction of the wind.

"The news of her mother's death was tenderly broken to Dowager Empress Frederick late last evening," says a dispatch from Frankfurt. "It was a terrible shock, but the empress is bearing up bravely. The trials of the last few days, however, have exercised a most painful effect upon her health, which causes serious anxiety.'

Shortly before midnight an official announcement was issued calling parliament to assemble at 4 o'clock this afternoon to enable members of the house of lords and house of commons to take the oath of allegiance to King Edward VII.

The privy council will meet in London today and the proclamation of the king will occur thereafter at all places required by custom. The king will come to London to preside over the

OUR NATION'S SYMPATHY.

President McKinley's Message of Condolence to King Edward VII Washington, Jan. 23 .- Four days of anxiety had in a large measure pre-pared official Washington for the news of the death of the queen of England. So it happened that all things that could be decently done in anticipation of the sad end had been disposed of and all was in readiness for the execution of the formalities which are indispensable to such events. When the

end came it found appropriate messages or condolence framed-and even orders ready for execution looking to the half masting of the flags over the executive departments and the carrying out of the usual formalities. The half masting of the national ensign was an unusual tribute to the memory of the deceased sovereign. It is said this has been done rarely on the occasion of the funeral of some great world's ruler, but never before in the case of the death of a monarch.

President McKinley's message of condolence, addressed to King Edward VII. was as follows:

"I have received with profound sorrow the lamentable tidings of the death of her majesty the queen. Allow me, sir, to offer my sincere sympathy and that of the American people in your personal bereavement and in the loss Great Britain has suffered in the death of its venerable and illustrious sovereign, whose noble life and beneficent influence have promoted the peace and won the affection of the world."

LIFE OF QUEEN VICTORIA.

Womanly Simplicity Combined With Queenly Dignity.

Although it is impossible to say that Queen Victoria outlived her usefulness, yet she may be said to have outlived her happiness. During her long and eventful reign-the longest on record, and extending considerably over half a century-she had seen all her oldest friends and acquaintances as well as numerous members of her immediate family disappear into the grave, until at last she felt herself quite alone in the world. Not a single one of her former associates to whom she could unburden her mind, discuss the earlier events of her reign, or with whom she could enjoy congenial intercourse was left.

"Mamma is so entirely alone," exclaimed her daughter, the Princess Christian, one day. "You can't imagine how sad I am for her. We all belong to a younger generation and have different thoughts and sentiments, many of which she can neither understand nor appreciate. Every one of her contempories and friends has passed away, and with them have vanished all her old time associations. There is no one remaining to whom she can really talk about matters.'

This remark of Princess Christian goes far toward explaining the unhappy and even morose expression that pervaded the queen's features during



WINDSOR CASTLE.

the last 40 years of her reign, save when something extraordinary occurred to excite her keen sense of the ludicrous. On such occasions as these she would laugh with a degree of heartiness and even violence that would have completely staggered those who had never seen her without that half sad, half sour droop of the corners of her mouth.

The Queen's Merry Disposition. Even in her childhood and girlhood previous to her accession to the throne, in 1837, Queen Victoria seems to have given evidence of this underlying current of merriment and fun in the constitution of her character. True, | me everything was done that could be done to check it by her mother, the Duchess Me of Kent, whose severity and even pa harshness toward the young princess called forth on one memorable occa- Me sion, at a state banquet at Windsor, a violent and public rebuke from King

William IV. It was on his death, on June 20, 1837, that the scene occurred which has furnished the theme of so many a brush and pen, namely, the notification to the young girl in the middle of the night of the fact that she had become queen of Great Britain and sovereign of an empire so vast that on it the sun never sets. The messengers who conveyed to her the news of her accession to the throne were the archbishop of Canterbury, the lord chamberlain and Sir Henry Halford. The youthful queen was aroused from her sleep, and on being informed of her new dignity burst into tears and asked the archbishop to pray for her. The whole

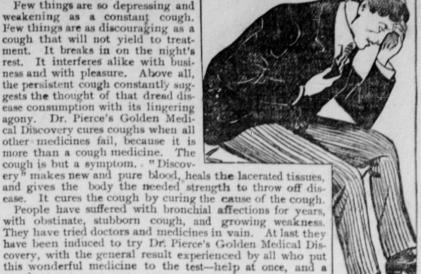
party then knelt in prayer. Queens enjoy a privilege which is withheld, save in leap year, from women occupying a less august position in the social scale, namely, that of themselves making the offer of marriage instead of waiting to receive the proposal from their suitors. And it was therefore Queen Victoria who, a year after her coronation at Westminster abbey on June 28, 1838, invited her cousin, Prince Albert of Saxe-Coburg-Gotha, to share his life with her. The nuptials took place on the 10th of February, 1840, at the Chapel Royal, St. James' palace. The wedding breakfast was given at Buckingham palace and the honeymoon, which only lasted three days, was spent at Windsor castle.

Her Majesty's Happy Marriage. The marriage proved an exceptionally happy one. Prince Albert turned out to be an ideal husband, being a man of singularly stainless and irreproachable character. Queen Victoria's domestic bliss was absolutely unclouded as long as her husband lived, and she was guilty of no exaggeration when she declared that the only sorrow which he had ever caused her was when he died. His death occurred Dec.

On June 20, 1887, the queen made a state progress through her great capital to attend a special service at Westminster abbey in honor of the semicentennial anniversary of her accession to the throne. Every reigning house in the world sent either members of their families or great dignitaries to represent them at the ceremony, and while kings and queens chatted gayly together in the chancel of the abbey while awaiting the coming of Queen Victoria, her majesty-no longer the bonnie, fresh and healthy cheeked English girl of 1837, but a venerable looking, white haired old lady-was driving up Piccadilly, her carriage escorted by the most brilliant troops of princes, archdukes and grand dukes that have

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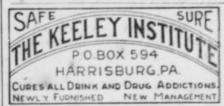
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