

THE QUEENS JUBILEE.

In Windsor castle is a magnificent marble-lined chamber fitted up at vast expense as a memorial to Prince Albert. In the center, on a marble altar, reclines the effigy of Prince Albert clothed in mail. In the panels of the altar and around the walls of the chamber are sculptured scenes from the passion of Christ! It is typical of the degradation of Christianity. The very life and sufferings of him who came to preach the gospel of equality and fraternity have been wrested by the same powers that crucified him to the support of Caesar's tyranny and the justification of Dives' greed.

The official prayer recited before the queen by the \$75,000 per annum archbishop of Canterbury, in which the Almighty is blasphemously praised for having "set the crown upon her head," and thanked for "the abundance of dominion wherewith Thou has exalted and enlarged her empire," is the keynote of the prayers and sermons that have been delivered by ministers of all denominations. Even the pope, utterly ignoring the sufferings of his Irish co-religionists in this "Victorian era" - something that he especially might have been moved to remember, since out of their poverty the faithful Irish have sent him thousands and thousands of pounds in Peter's pence - hastened to join in laying the homage of religion at the feet of the established order, while Cardinal Manning, besides issuing a letter to his clergy, in which he tells them that Victoria has "shown the heart not only of a queen but of a mother to all who mourn," and that "her home and her court are bright and spotless examples for all who reign and a pattern for all her people."

called all the Catholic peers to a special jubilee service, by way, evidently, of showing that the Catholic church, although not by law established is just as good a supporter of "things as they are" as the established church itself can be.

And still more suggestive, and even more disgusting, is the sympathy and admiration with which a not inconsiderable section of Americans have watched these proceedings and joined in them as far as they could. So much does queen worship suit their taste that, not having a queen of their own to abase themselves before, they eagerly seize the opportunity to do homage to somebody else's queen.

It is proper enough for the president to address a congratulatory letter to the official head of a friendly nation, and for the American minister, so long as we have a minister at St. James, to make an official call, and for such loyal subjects of her majesty as Mr. Joseph J. O'Donoghue to be accorded every facility for the observance of what they regard as a national anniversary, and for American citizens, official or not, to take the opportunity to emphasize the fact that the two great nations of the English speech constitute in reality, but one people between whom nothing should be neglected that may draw closer the bonds of amity. But through most of the American contributions to the jubilee there runs a vein not merely of tolerance, but of admiration for royalty, which is unpleasantly suggestive of the decay, among certain classes at least of our people, of that robust democracy which regards every crowned head as a usurper, and looks forward to the day when nothing but the sovereignty of the people shall anywhere be acknowledged as legiti-

mate.

As for the Bishop Potter and the other Episcopal clergymen who engaged in the services at Trinity church, with their express recognitions in prayer and praise of the right divine of kings, they show themselves legitimate spiritual descendants of the Episcopal Tories of the revolution.

The truth is, not merely that old animosities are being forgotten, and that quicker and easier communication is welding more closely together the ocean-separated nations of the same speech but that the social conditions of the two countries are approximating. That equality of ^{stitu}consition under which alone true democracy can exist is with us passing into a state of things in which the line between rich and poor, between privileged and unprivileged, between those born to enjoy the fruits of other peoples toil and those born to work for others, is becoming almost as strongly marked as on the opposite side of the Atlantic. And partly from the almost unconscious swaying of interest and partly from conscious fear of the threatened extension of the democratic doctrine of equality of rights to something more substantial than political privileges, our richer classes - our "better classes," as they are beginning to call themselves - naturally turn with admiration to the political system that crowns the social pyramid with a splendidly draped figure, to which the common people can be taught to look in affectionate admiration, and by the magic of the possessive pronoun be led to consider its luxury as their glory, and its wealth as in some sort a compensation for their poverty.

There stands hard by the palace of the holy inquisition in Rome a statue which has been placed there since Rome became the

capital of a united Italy. On it is this inscription

GALILEO GALILEI

was imprisoned in the neighboring palace

for having seen

that the earth revolves around the sun.

In after years, when the true-hearted American priest shall have rested from his labors, and what is now being done is history, there will arise by the spot where he shall be excommunicated such a statue and such an inscription. And days will come when happy little children, such as now die like flies in tenement houses, shall be held up by their mothers to lay garlands upon it.

Signed: Henry George.
June 25, 1887