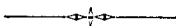


excuse their practices as the outcome of generations of Christian ill-usage, for if there be a difference, the Sephardim have been the more downtrodden in the past. But why this difference if it be not one of race, and the conscious superiority of the Sephardim, and their scarce concealed contempt of the others? Indeed, not only do the Sephardim consider themselves as belonging to a higher caste, but many of them assert that they alone are the tribe of Judah. If we admit the Galileans to have been the descendants of the northern tribes; if we remember how, in the wars between the Ptolemies and the Jews, thousands and hundreds of thousands of the inhabitants of Judah and Jerusalem were carried into Egypt; and if we then consider what would be the natural lines of further emigration and dispersion, whether in search of trade or in escape from persecution, it is not unreasonable to conclude that these two families are none other than the representatives respectively of the proud Jews of Judah and of the humble, despised—perhaps deservedly despised—Galileans.

EDWARD F. WILLOUGHBY.



ART. VI.—"FIFTY YEARS OF A GOOD QUEEN'S REIGN."

*Fifty Years of a Good Queen's Reign.* By A. H. WALL. Pp. 330. Ward and Downey.

MR. A. H. WALL has produced a book which will be read with pleasure at this remarkable juncture in our national history. The author occupies the vantage-ground of one who has lived through the entire period of which he writes. In a sense, therefore, the work may be said to consist of the reminiscences of one who is sufficiently patriotic to be in hearty sympathy with the changes for the better which have been brought about in the country during the last half-century, a period more remarkable for general progress than any other taken notice of in history. The celebration of a royal jubilee at all is one of the rarest things in our national annals; and those of Henry III., Edward III., and George III. had little or nothing associated with them to inspire that joy and gratitude which animate us in this jubilee year of Queen Victoria. In the older days, especially in mediæval times, the country was,

letter to the *Times*, that his countrymen would gladly admit the Spanish Jews, who numbered amongst them many of their most eminent professional men, to full citizenship, if it were possible to make the distinction in law and practice.

as it were, stationary; the fashions of one generation were those of another, and even the population very slowly increased, if it advanced at all. If prompted to do so by illuminations, by banners, music, and conduits flowing with wine, it was always easy for the populace to be made hilarious without there being much cause for merriment; but our present surroundings are very different from those of yore. Monarch and people have now in reality good reason for congratulation. The achievements of the last fifty years are something more substantial than the barren victories, however brilliant, from which our more warlike ancestors tried to derive satisfaction. Though occasional errors may have been made in regard to war, the Victorian era is a great epoch, because its most notable gains have been those of peace. Who save those who have lived through the eventful years can properly realize the difference between the older England and "our youthful Queen," as our Sovereign was wont to be called, and the great Empire of to-day with its teeming industrial hives? "I remember hamlets and villages that are now great towns and cities," says Mr. Wall; "the coaches that carried tourists and travellers, both stage and mail; and I have in my memory a patch of dim light from an aged watchman's lantern, travelling ghost-like along the ceiling of my little bedroom as I heard his quavering voice crying the hour." Thus, while the population has enormously increased, our mode of travelling has been revolutionized; and while the comforts and conveniences of life have been wonderfully multiplied, the security in which we dwell, and the liberties which we have guaranteed, are such as our fathers never knew. But though we have gone forward, we are still far from the goal we desire to reach. Much has been accomplished, but there remains still more to be done.

The very treatment of Prince Edward, the Queen's father, by George III. and the Government of the day, is in itself sufficient to show the difference between those times and our own. The fourth son of his parents, and born in 1767, Prince Edward in the earlier part of his life enjoyed no enviable heritage. Though a man of some piety, the King was not a model father, and none of his children appear to have been happy in their education. Nor was the Prince more fortunate when he became a soldier; for Baron Wangenheim, under whom, at Lüneberg, in Hanover, he was placed, was "a mercenary tyrant." When no longer a neophyte in the profession of arms, the Prince saw plenty of hard service in Canada and elsewhere, where he sufficiently proved his bravery and nobleness of nature; but such was the niggardly disposition of the Court, that his allowance far from sufficed for his very moderate requirements. The straits and embarrassments from which the Prince suffered

after he became Duke of Kent excite genuine wonder; and even during her years of widowhood, when the Duchess had to discharge her duty as a mother, and as guardian of the nation's hope, she had necessarily to be indebted to the bounty of her kinsman, Leopold of Belgium. Then, in addition to other crosses, the Duke was too much ahead of his times, both as a politician and a philanthropist, to be popular either at Court or among the coteries of that day, when, as we are reminded, "party politics raged most fiercely, and partisan prejudices were blindly prevalent." What his principles were may be inferred from the words he used when speaking at a banquet early in the century: "I am a friend of civil and religious liberty all the world over. I am an enemy to all religious tests. I am a supporter of a general system of education. All men are my brethren, and I hold that power is only delegated for the benefit of the people." These principles were shared by the Duke of Sussex, and both brothers held them tenaciously until they passed away.

In what sense this brave man could act out his principles despite the opposition of the vulgar, and the ridicule of others from whom better things might have been expected, is especially seen in what he attempted to do at Gibraltar while acting as Governor of the fortress in 1802. The place was probably not worse than other garrisons; but finding his spirit vexed by the licentious dissipation of the wine-houses, the royal Governor made a determined attempt to put some limit to their license, and the good effects which immediately followed would now cause the name of such a reformer to be mentioned with honour throughout the country. "The wine-licenses were withdrawn," remarks one of his earliest biographers; "and for a time the peaceful inhabitants of Gibraltar could carry on their business, and walk the streets, and repose within their dwellings, at less risk of insult or outrage than before; drunkenness disappeared from among the soldiers; cleanliness and discipline were restored, while military punishments were reduced in frequency, the hospitals emptied of their numerous inmates, and the sexton disappointed of his daily work." This must have been naturally very gratifying to such moralists and lovers of order as were content to judge a tree by its fruits, but the reforms did not render the Duke less obnoxious to those whose pecuniary interests were touched. "The liquor merchants were driven from the enjoyment of their enormous profit," it is added, "and instigated the unreflecting soldiery to vengeance for the loss of those indulgences which devoured their pay and destroyed their health. Insubordination broke out on all sides; the Governor was not supported by the local authorities; and after receiving the grateful and unanimous

acknowledgments of the civil population of Gibraltar, he returned from a post in which his efforts for public good were more zealous than fortunate."<sup>1</sup> No stronger proof could be adduced than this, that the Duke was a reformer in advance of his time. He was, in point of fact, a large-hearted philanthropist, ever ready to advance the cause of religion and morality, to plead the cause of the poor, and, so far as his slender means allowed, to help the needy out of his own resources.

When, in 1818, the Duke married Victoria Marie, the sister of his brother-in-law Leopold, and widow of Prince Leiningen, the match was one of genuine love on both sides; but at first it seemed as though this scion of the royal House of Brunswick was literally too poor to think of lightly taking unto himself a wife. As we are told:

Obstacles deferred the proposed union. As her children's guardian, the Princess could not marry without sacrificing five thousand a year; and he, involved in debt and serious difficulties, did not dare to urge the completion of their loving contract—they were to love, live, and hope. When the Princess Charlotte heard of this love-affair, she exerted herself in every way to bring about the match. Queen Adelaide, too, was secretly in favour of it. But it was not until the death of the Princess Charlotte brought more closely home a much-dreaded failure in the royal succession, that the prospects of the royal lovers suddenly brightened. The Duke of Kent's position and income were now a matter of national interest. It was the business of the Government to promote the match.

The match prospered, indeed; but even after their marriage the happy couple found that they were still objects of jealousy. At all events, while living in the west, soon after the birth of his only child, and very shortly before his own death, the Duke wrote: "My little girl thrives under the influence of a Devonshire climate, and is, I am delighted to say, strong and healthy; too healthy, I fear, in the opinion of some members of my family, by whom she is regarded as an intruder." Unpopular himself, the Prince Regent is thought to have been "childishly jealous" of his relatives, who had the heir to the Throne in their keeping, and who with their infant were always cordially greeted by the populace. When the Duke soon after died, the public appear to have still further realized his worth. He seems to have been a lover of Evangelical preaching; and from a resolution moved by Lord Teignmouth at a meeting of the British and Foreign Bible Society, we learn how ardently he desired the diffusion of the Scriptures among the people of all lands.

How well the Duchess of Kent discharged her duty during

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<sup>1</sup> "Annual Register," vol. lxii.

her widowhood as a stranger in a strange land is known to all, and so are the circumstances attending the death of the old King, and the accession of the youthful maiden Queen. When the mourning on the one hand, and the rejoicing on the other, had subsided, the people very naturally next concerned themselves with the question of their Sovereign’s marriage. It was a topic of conversation at Brussels; the London newspapers discussed the matter, although when one journal cautiously mentioned the rumours which were current concerning “A Prince of the ancient royal family of Saxe-Coburg,” the more knowing *quidnuncs* scouted such a nonsensical idea. The Queen’s mother, her uncle Leopold, as well as Queen Adelaide, held the youthful German Prince in favour, however, although at first the shrewd and cautious Baron Stockmar harboured some doubts in regard to the expediency of the match.

The eye of the old physician had then detected in the Prince sufficient signs of latent constitutional weakness to make him uneasy on that account, and one of these signs which he regarded most seriously was a tendency towards indolence—a disinclination for making long-sustained efforts. Still, he thought, with proper dietetic management, the amiable Saxon Prince might secure both strength and stability, and with them greater powers of vigour and endurance.

How the marriage was eventually arranged is an oft-told story.

Although she had hardly finished her school-lessons when she ascended the throne of this great Empire, the youthful Queen settled down to her work with a self-possessed determination which augured well for the future. A new political era was opening upon the country, and it was in consequence a time of profound interest to competent observers. The number of conflicting interests which were battling for the mastery were in part the outcome of the Reform Bill of 1832, and the leaders who represented them bore names that are still well remembered.

To ourselves, the most interesting of these are not the older men who had already made their mark, but those who, being then young, afterwards rose to eminence. Messrs. W. E. Gladstone and B. Disraeli both sat in the Queen’s first Parliament, the one “almost exclusively a novelist and writer of sparkling political and social satires,” while the other was a concocter of “laboriously wrought out essays.” Are any of our readers old enough to recognise the following portraiture of our ex-Premier as he was in the year of the Queen’s accession?

Like his father, he was a Tory of almost antique pattern: opposed the liberty of the press, quoted Scripture in defence of slavery, defended the Established Church in Ireland, found excuses for wholesale bribery at elections, and when the Universities Admission Bill proposed to do away with the necessity of students, on entering the University of Oxford, subscribing to the Thirty-nine Articles, denounced it as an act of the

grossest tyranny. When, in 1834, the Reform Party, already displaying signs of mutual weakness, was summarily dismissed by the King, Sir Robert Peel, becoming Premier, made young Mr. Gladstone Junior Lord of the Treasury. In re-appealing to his constituents, Mr. Gladstone denounced reform as "leading, through the medium of the ballot, short Parliaments, and other questions called popular, into Republicanism or anarchy, and upheld Conservatism as transmitting in safety those old and valuable institutions under which our country has greatly flourished."

The politics of the old man of to-day have thus little in common with the political creed of the young aspirant of half a century ago. In respect to his sacerdotal proclivities alone is he the same. Mr. Gladstone's apparently growing regard for "his great friend and adviser Cardinal Manning"<sup>1</sup> would almost warrant the inference that he has even made some advances towards so-called Catholicism. Mr. Disraeli, on the contrary, appears on the scenes as a "perfumed boy-exquisite;" but there may be something of exaggeration in the picture.

Turning from politics to lighter matters, we find that the accession of the youthful maiden Queen inaugurated a new and happier era for literature and art, which had not found very liberal patrons in the preceding monarchs of the House of Brunswick. As Mr. Wall says :

The social position of artists was little better than it had been in the preceding century. Consequently they had a tendency to isolate themselves, shunning alike their social superiors and their vulgar inferiors, each for the same reason, for neither understood them. They were poor and proud, very jolly and happy among their shabby selves, in their Bohemian studios or garret-homes; but very shy, awkward, and reserved if by any strange chance they found themselves out of their element, in what we call Society. The lowest looked down upon the artist.

This was, of course, characteristic of a coarser age; but old things were passing away, the new days of progress were coming on; and not only poor artists, but others who by their callings could confer any benefits on society, were encouraged to come forth from their seclusion and to work in the open day. In the literary world a spirit of enterprise was manifest such as had never been known before, and publishers were only waiting for the removal of the taxes on knowledge to make new experiments in diffusing useful knowledge. What is said about Charles Knight's unfortunately named *Penny Cyclopædia* vividly shows in what sense publishers were handicapped by the State half a century ago. "Its literature and engravings alone cost forty thousand pounds, and the paper duty—then so strongly upheld by Mr. Gladstone, who appears to have regarded the tax on no higher ground than

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<sup>1</sup> The words quoted are those of Lord R. Montagu in "Recent Events, and a Clue to their Solution."

that of partisan expediency—absorbed, directly and indirectly, another twenty-five thousand." The perfect freedom of the press, to which statesmen under the Georges had been bitterly opposed, was not yet thoroughly understood; although a healthy public opinion was being rapidly developed, encouraged as it was by the admirable cheap issues of many firms which now successfully competed with the pernicious wares of the chapmen or flying stationers.

The new era of iron and steam, and consequently of rapid travelling, was also setting in, although in 1837 Edinburgh and London were still forty-two hours apart, measured by time. Coaching reached its most perfect development in its last days; and so careful were the drivers in keeping time, that persons on the road confidently set their watches by the coaches. Some hundreds of miles of railway had been completed in the preceding reign; but at the date of the young Queen's accession the great main lines had yet to be constructed. It was a golden age for engineers; and yet, while their earnings were great, their complete ignorance of the general characteristics of railways was sometimes quite ludicrous. Thus one "very eminent" engineer, when instructing a Parliamentary Committee, "was unable to say whether the wheels of the locomotive turned *with* their axles or *upon* them." The railways gave force to the arguments in favour of the penny post; and this measure of Post Office reform was one of the most beneficent concessions which came with the first years of the Queen's reign.

Speaking of the coronation ceremony, Carlyle remarked: "Poor little Queen! she is at an age when a girl can hardly be trusted to choose a bonnet for herself, and yet a task is laid upon her from which an archangel might shrink." Probably the coronation itself excited a popular interest such as had never been known before—*e.g.*:

Commissioners to secure apartments poured into London from every part of the Continent, and all parts of the kingdom; even noblemen of the highest rank were induced to let parts of their houses by the high rents obtainable. . . . Every hotel was full weeks before the event, and lodging-house keepers were all either mournfully regretful that they had not asked enough, or greedily striving to get more by not letting too soon. . . . "From morning to night," says one of my authorities, verified by all I afterwards heard, "the streets were crowded by such masses of people of all ranks, among whom the provincials were easily distinguishable, that it might have been imagined the whole population of the kingdom had been concentrated in one focus." . . . Cabmen had a riotous high time of it, charging in some instances as much as a sovereign for conveying a passenger from Islington to Charing Cross; and a common fare for hiring a hackney-coach for the day was ten guineas. Omnibuses running from the suburbs into the City and West End raised their fares on the coronation morning to four and seven shillings, and most of them commenced running at four in the morning.

All this would seem to testify to the great popularity of the young Sovereign; but although she was in some respects so exceptionally favoured, the Queen realized that her exalted position entailed many penalties; and especially was this the case just before her marriage. The Trades Unions, which Lord Brougham had held in supreme contempt, probably helped to foment the Chartist agitation, which was destined to occasion the Government some trouble. The times were hard, trade was depressed; and when they wanted work and bread, the working-classes were willing to listen to any cries got up for interested party purposes. Hence there were those who grew intensely jealous of the secretary, Baron Stockmar, just as in after years they were jealous of Prince Albert; and the rumours which got abroad, that the Queen "was scheming with her foreign advisers to upset the Protestant religion," made the Orangemen of Ireland frantic, while some in England may have believed in the libels. These things were eventually lived down, however, and many journalists who misjudged the Prince Consort in his lifetime lived to see how grievously they had been mistaken. It is manifestly impossible for a constitutional sovereign to act in such a manner as will yield satisfaction to all classes of subjects, eccentric and otherwise. On the one hand, the fashionable world, accustomed to its full round of pleasures, was quite unable to appreciate the simpler tastes of the royal couple, whose enjoyments were of a domestic rather than of a frivolous kind, and who loved the country better than the town; and, on the other hand, court festivities could not be given without their wanton extravagance being dwelt upon by such as desired to lower the Queen in the estimation of her people.

The Queen and the Prince were not only happy in their home life, they set an example to the nation at large which was not without its good and lasting effects; and when a family grew up around them the wisdom of their procedure became more than ever apparent. The discipline of the royal household was always well maintained, and from first to last the education of their children engaged a large share of the attention of the royal pair. Some years ago an American writer gave an anecdote which well shows how uncompromising the Monarch was in enforcing proper discipline on all occasions. The story is said to have come from one who actually witnessed the occurrence, and it is borrowed in order to pleasantly illustrate this part of the subject:

One day when the Queen was present in her carriage at a military review, the Princess Royal, then rather a wilful girl of about thirteen, sitting on the front seat, seemed disposed to be rather familiar and coquettish with some young officers of the escort. Her Majesty gave



several reproving looks, without avail ; "winked at her, but she wouldn't stay winked." At length, in flirting her handkerchief over the side of the carriage, she dropped it—too evidently *not* accidentally. Instantly two or three young heroes sprang from their saddles to return it to her fair hand ; but the awful voice of Royalty stayed them. "Stop, gentlemen !" exclaimed the Queen. "Leave it just where it lies. Now, my daughter, get down from the carriage and pick up your handkerchief." There was no help for it. The royal footmen let down the steps for the little royal lady, who proceeded to lift from the dust the pretty piece of cambric and lace. She blushed a good deal, though she tossed her head saucily, and she was doubtless angry enough. But the mortifying lesson may have nipped in the bud her first impulse towards coquetry. It was hard, but it was wholesome. How many mothers would be equal to such a piece of Spartan discipline ?<sup>1</sup>

The celebration of the royal jubilee ought to be a specially joyous occasion, on account of the great improvement in the condition of the people which has taken place in a single reign. In 1837 Lord Ashley had already set out on his philanthropic course, and the general outlook of town and country might have inspired a less courageous pioneer with despair. Popular education was in its infancy ; Christian work among the poor, as we understand it, was hardly known ; the condition of the disease-breeding slums of London was a disgrace to a civilized nation ; while, if possible, many of the provincial towns had reached a still lower depth of degradation than the capital. The increase of crime, and especially the growth of juvenile offenders, began seriously to alarm the authorities ; and proved to certain shrewd observers that there would have to be more schools or more prisons erected. If we contrast all this with the general condition of the country to-day—far as we may still be from the goal we desire to reach—we shall find much cause for gratitude and encouragement. Subject as we may still be to depression of trade, the sufferings of the industrial classes, from this and kindred causes, are far less than they were fifty years ago ; while, on the other hand, their advantages have greatly multiplied. No such jubilee has ever been celebrated before, because never before has the country seen such an auspicious reign.

It is a great achievement even for an English monarch to have reigned nearly fifty years, and not to have outlived her popularity ; but as she has grown older, our Sovereign has undoubtedly taken a still greater hold of the affections of the people. She has had her share of domestic afflictions ; but faith has held her own, while enlarged sympathies have gone out towards others who have suffered in like manner. Political and social troubles have at times gathered thickly to

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<sup>1</sup> James Parton, in "Eminent Women of the Age." Hartford, Conn., 1867.

bring painful perplexity to the occupant of the throne; but through the Divine blessing, and the Monarch's confidence in the people, the clouds have dispersed. It is meet, therefore, that after fifty years of mutual confidence, of trials and of triumphs, Queen and people should rejoice together during this year of jubilee.

A LAYMAN.



#### ART. VII.—PROFESSOR STOKES' "IRELAND AND THE CELTIC CHURCH."

*Ireland and the Celtic Church.* A History of Ireland from St. Patrick to the English Conquest in 1172. By Rev. GEORGE T. STOKES, D.D., Vicar of All Saints, Blackrock; Professor of Ecclesiastical History, Trinity College, Dublin. Hodder and Stoughton, Paternoster Row.

THE name of "Silent Sister," which used to be reproachfully applied to the Irish University, has happily of recent years been altogether undeserved. The classical publications of Mahaffy and Tyrrell; Provost Jellett's "Sermons on the Efficacy of Prayer;" Dr. Salmon's "Introduction to the Study of the New Testament;" Mr. Barlow's "Ultimatum of Pessimism;" and now Professor Stokes' "Lectures on Irish Ecclesiastical History," are all indications of the productive power of Dublin University men in the various spheres wherein their special studies lie.

We welcome Professor Stokes' work with great pleasure, because Irish history is comparatively little read; and the style of his lectures, learned though they are, is so lucid and readable, that it will naturally attract persons desirous of a better acquaintance with the subject to study it in his pleasant pages.

As the title shows, the work covers the period from the arrival of St. Patrick in 432 until the English Conquest in 1172. There is an opening chapter on the Ancient Celtic Church; and among its further contents are Biographical Sketches of St. Columba and Columbanus; Dissertations on Irish Eighth Century Social Life; State of Learning in Irish Monasteries; Round Towers; Danish Invasion; See of Dublin; See of Armagh, etc., etc. All these topics are treated in a way at once learned and interesting. In the brief space at our disposal, we must chiefly devote ourselves to the period of St. Patrick. But first of all, a word or two about the opening chapter. It shows very clearly that the terms Celtic and Irish are by no means co-extensive; e.g., the Galatian Church of the New Testament was a Celtic