

CROWN AND COMMONWEALTH.

I like this
Main points. Simple but interesting from
an African

Our foreigner is puzzled about the question of the Monarch and the Dominions — His ignorance is found — The Monarch not a politician — The Crown as a link — The Crown as a receiver of common allegiance from some members of the Independent countries (Dominions) — their mind in a certain limit — their belief — The Monarch sharing happiness with the Dominions — The Monarch sharing dangers and sympathizing with the people. The Monarch as one taking every step towards the Independence of Dominions — The Monarch sharing a close common interest with the people in progress and prosperity — some functions performed through the Monarch's name in Dominions — what the foreigner understands now — what our foreigner concludes.

"I do not understand the ^{relationship} difference between the Crown and the Dominions," said a foreigner one day. "This is the thing which puzzled me from my childhood. The Dominions are independent and yet the Crown of England is the head of the British Commonwealth. It is very foolish to be independent and still be ruled by the monarch of another country. The wise people have been made blind; they have been told that they are independent and yet they are ruled by the Queen of Britain. How foolish they are!"

Our foreigner has talked much, he

trusts his head so much that he regards the people in the Dominions as blind. He is ofcourse mistaken, his foolishness and ignorance about the Monarch have made him remain as he is. It is at once noticed that our foreigner does not understand what connection is there between the Crown and the Dominions. He regards the Monarch as a politician who takes part in the matters of different governments of the Dominions. He is still puzzled because he regards the Commonwealth of Nations as a group of foreign countries inhabited by black, yellow, white or brown. He is a poor creature who knows nothing of the British Commonwealth of Nations.

Our foreigner should understand that the Queen or King does not interfere in the governments of the Dominions. He should understand that the Queen even in England today is powerless in the affairs of the government. The affairs of government are carried out by the people themselves. The same case applies to the Dominions.

He should now understand that the Crown is a link or a symbol of the free associations of members of Commonwealth. The Crown is there as their link, or a centre where their living force of unity is united. All the Commonwealth countries accept the Crown as their symbol, so that you will find the picture of the Monarch on stamps or on coins.

The Monarch is a receiver of a common allegiance from all members of the British Commonwealth of Nations with the exception of India and Pakistan. Great Britain

and the five other Dominions recognize the Monarch as their Queen or King. This means that the Monarch is the Monarch six times over separately. The Monarch is not the Monarch of Australia because he or she is the Monarch of England. He or she is the monarch of Britain, Canada, Australia, New Zealand, Union of South Africa and Ceylon together with their respective dependencies. Since all the Dominions have got one Monarch, they are not foreign countries, but they are one with one Head uniting them. They know that their living force is united there. Their minds and beliefs are one. They have got a common mind, and that is, they believe in one person in the whole world. In other words, their mind which unites them has got a certain limit which is equal in all respects. The limit is that there is one link between them, and nothing else in the world which can unite them in unity with the exception of the Monarch.

The Monarch shares happiness with the people in Dominions. He or she enjoys with them the happiness of the world. During Christmas she broadcasts to the Dominions, wishing them long life, wisdom and happiness in their families. They answer her through the Governor Generals who represent the Queen in ^{the} Dominions.

During the Great World Wars the Dominions have been in troubles and the Monarch has sympathized with his or her people. The Monarch shared the dangers of airbombardment with the Dominions. The Monarch wished the war to end at once so that his people might

live happily. It is true that the monarch wished the war to end at once so that all peoples in the world might live happily, but he wished that mostly for his people whom he knew best; the people in Dominions. It goes without saying that blood is thicker than water.

Again, the monarch is related to the Dominions in the way that he or she has been the head of the Parliament in ~~the~~ English history, and even during the time when the independent countries were still dependent on the British Parliament. Therefore the monarch has been there taking every step in the acts passed by the Parliament towards the independence of these Dominions. The monarch has experienced the wishes of his or her people by reading or signing the acts passed by in Parliament towards the independence of Dominions.

On the other side the monarch has got one mind with the people towards the progress of ^{the} Dominions. The people in ^{the} Dominions want to be prosperous in their countries. They wish their standard of living to be raised. They want more schools, hospitals, easy means of communication and more trade in their countries. The monarch wishes for the people in ^{the} Dominions to have all these things. In other words, the monarch shares a close personal interest in the welfare and progress of her people.

The monarch is related with the Dominions in the functions carried in her name. The foreign affairs, the declaration of peace and war, the appointment of ^aassadors, the administration of the navy, army and air forces all are

carried out in the King's or Queen's name in the Dominions (including Britain)

Our foreigner can now understand the relationship between the Crown and the Independent countries. He ^{has} understood that though the Crown is the Head of the British Commonwealth, she does not interfere with the governments of the Dominions. He has seen how the monarch is a symbol, how she shares a close personal interest in the welfare and prosperity of the Dominions; he has seen how the interest of the Queen is the same as that of the Dominions because the Queen and the peoples step together in the progress of their unity.

Our foreigner now asks himself a question, "If there was no Crown what would have happened?" He answers it without being helped by anybody. If there was no monarch there would have been no British Commonwealth. The Dominions would have no link to unite them. There would have been no means of binding the Dominions together. Their minds therefore would not have been one. The monarch has made the Dominions to have one belief in the Democratic monarch. This belief (monarchism) has placed them on the same line. They act as if saying that they were different from other countries. They say, "We are united, we have got one Head and we are the same. Through our link we are connected so that if our brother goes to fight with someone, we are ready to join with him and fight the enemy. Well, we thank God that we have got our centre which has made us to act

in the same angle."

The foreigner has understood the relationship between the crown and the Dominions, and he knows now the importance of having the Crown. The idea comes in his mind and he says to himself that he would go and try to explain to his fellow countrymen the relationship between the Dominions and the Crown, for he wishes his country to have a monarch like the monarch in the British Commonwealth.

Books consulted:-

- (i) Simmons — from Empire to Commonwealth.
- (ii) Oxford Junior Encyclopedia.
- (iii) Batten — Tropical Africa in world History Book IV.
- (iv) Various pamphlets and periodicals.