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Editorial.

Long to Reign Over Us.

THESE WORDS CAME unbidden to my mind as I gazed on Signor Annigoni's portrait of Queen Elizabeth II. Here we have a portrait painted by the wakened hand of Genius and incorporating the technique of the old Masters.

The delicate features, the freshness of youth, that remarkable dignity, so poignantly evident at the time of Her Majesty's Coronation, is all here expressed and enhanced by the elegance and grace of the Garter robes.

In my early childhood I was taught to recognise that a great and noble Royal Lady sat upon the Throne of England. She was Her Majesty Queen Victoria. Now many years later I have the happy conviction that once again England enjoys this distinction in the Royal Lady who is our beloved Queen Elizabeth II.

As Sovereign, Wife and Mother she has proved herself to be a living model of self-discipline, integrity and personal charm. Each of these shining facets in her character do so well become the great-great-granddaughter of Queen Victoria.

The Fishmongers' Company have already many portraits of former Kings and Queens of England and one of their greatest treasures is a handsome Pall of superb workmanship.

The antiquity of this Company dates back to a time prior to the reign of Henry II. In the Charter granted to the Company by Edward III in 1364, it is stated that "the mystery of Fishmongers had grants from the King's progenitors in ancient times."

In its original form it resembled the other ancient Companies, being an association of persons combined together and contributing to a common fund for the purpose of providing mutual protection, especially in their trade of fishmongers, the enjoyment of social intercourse, and the making provision for indigent members, their widows and children.

The Company elected four persons to oversee the buying

and selling of fish "for the common commodity of our people." The Company received their Charter of Incorporation from Richard II which has been confirmed by subsequent sovereigns. The large number of Charters granted to the Company, the great importance of their trade and the great privileges assigned to them, has caused them to occupy a very high position among the Livery Companies of London.

They endeavour faithfully to discharge the various trusts committed to their care and duly provide for necessitous persons, their widows and children who are fortunate enough to be members of the fraternity and make liberal grants for the support of objects of general utility and national benefit.

The Fishmongers have a noble record and honourable history which time has not dimmed, nor has it checked the flow of their generous

sympathy and charity.

To all this we add very sincere appreciation and thanks to this Honourable Company on this gracious gesture in commissioning so great an artist as Signor Petro Annigoni to paint the portrait of our beloved Queen.

Long May She Reign.

A. R. B.

Note.—Her Majesty's Portrait will be included in the Summer Exhibition at the Royal Academy, after which



Portrait of Her Majesty The Queen to hang in Fishmongers' Hall, London.

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