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EDITORIAL

OUR GRACIOUS QUEEN

To-day, Our Gracious Queen, together with other members of the Royal Family, sails the high seas on another mission of good will and friendship towards our brethren of the Commonwealth of Nations. Undeterred by personal considerations, she is always ready to sacrifice her own convenience and leisure for the benefit of others.

As she sails away from the snowladen clouds and earth of Britain, through the tumultuous waters of the Bay of Biscay, and into the sunny skies of the Azores, she knows that the love and respect of every woman in the land goes with her, accompanied by their gratitude for the wonderful example she has always shown and the courageous lead she has given.

Our Queen, since the earliest days of her reign, has been an inspiration to all. Truly womanly, she embodies in her person the ideals of a happy Wife and Mother, and she sets family life above all else. The Royal Family is truly a model Christian Family, from which all social evils are rigidly excluded, and where the happiness of each individual member is of paramount importance. It would be to the everlasting glory of our beloved country if all families modelled themselves on this truly blessed one.

As a Queen, Her Majesty is matchless. Regal, lovely, gracious and sweet, she has ever been a constant inspiration and true helpmeet and confidante of His Majesty the King. During the darkest days of Dunkirk and since, she was to be found in the bomb-shattered capital, regardless of her own safety, visiting the wounded in the hospitals, cheering those who were bombed out; encouraging all to be steadfast, and maintaining their faith in ultimate victory.

She shared to the full the miseries of her people; if their homes were shattered, so was hers; their children evacuated, so were hers; there can be no doubt that hers was the common lot, and she would have it no other way.

As the First Lady in the land, our Queen has been our greatest pride. We women, and particularly we—the Nurses—can never pay our tremendous debt of gratitude to her. When the bombs fell thick and fast on our

great hospitals, the Queen immediately sent out the thanks of the nation to the Nurses, thus increasing their efforts towards their injured fellow men, and greatly contributing to the National weal. She made countless tiring visits to the depots of the W.V.S., she inspected the women of the three Forces, she visited the workers in the factories, she visited the homes of the ordinary people, and in every way her calmness, her steadfastness and her un-failing charity and concern for all won for her the undying love of the nation.

Never once did she desert us, and we shall never forget how her presence in the capital steadied the misgivings and occasional doubts. The Queen was the greatest single asset in the Nation's will to Victory, and we humbly acknowledge our debt.

And now she is no longer with us, except in spirit. We could wish that she

were going on a less strenuous holiday. She has greatly deserved a long and restful period; but a Queen may never lay down her burden of State, and our Queen would never wish to do so.

We regretfully spare her for a space to the great peoples of South Africa and the Rhodesias. May the rest of her journey be through calm, untroubled waters; may the skies don their most majestic blue; and may the sweetest zephyr winds blow gently upon her way. South Africa will greet her with choicest flowers, and



Photo :]

[Dorothy Wilding

HER MAJESTY THE QUEEN

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