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H.M. QUEEN VICTORIA.

I feel it my duty, as President of the Folk-Lore Society, to offer some expression, however inadequate, of the deep sorrow felt by the members of the Society in all parts of the Empire on the mournful occasion of the death of Her Majesty Queen Victoria, and of the loyal and loving remembrance with which they regard Her long and glorious rule; and I cannot do so more suitably than in the pages of the Society's official organ.

It is in the British Empire, which has to so large an extent grown and been consolidated during Her Majesty's reign, and which includes within its bounds countless races of every degree of civilisation and mental development, from the lowest to the highest, that the student of folklore has to seek many of the most precious materials of his study.

Under Her Majesty's rule every religious belief of these races has been respected, their customs have been regarded with consideration, and their prejudices conciliated; and the study of folklore, a science the very existence of which is bounded by Her Majesty's reign, has thus been rendered possible.

All these races are now united in one common sorrow. The loss of the "Great White Queen" is to us and to them the same, and this is a point of sympathy between us and them not to be lost sight of by those who are brought into contact with the subject races. Mutual sympathy ought to help forward mutual understanding.

Upon all these grounds, the members of the Folk-Lore Society claim a special share in the universal grief which has fallen upon the subjects of the Queen; and on their behalf I desire to offer an expression of respectful condolence to Her illustrious Son, whose declaration when entering upon His great heritage has touched all hearts.

Long may King Edward VII. and Queen Alexandra live to carry down to remote posterity the traditions of Victoria and of Albert the Good!

E. W. BRABROOK,
President 1901.