



Queen Victoria

London





Thousands of people come everyday to watch Changing of the Guard, one of the most popular ceremonies. It takes place at Buckingham Palace at 11.30.

Buckingham Palace





People can see not only the ceremony of Changing of the Guard and Buckingham Palace but also the Victoria Memorial in front of Buckingham Palace.



So we decided to know everything about Queen Victoria, her popularity among British people, to find out why people erected this monument.



Queen Victoria was one of the most popular British monarchs. Her 64-year reign was the longest in British history and is known as the Victorian era.



Alexandrina Victoria was born on the twenty-fourth of May 1819 in Kensington Palace in London.



Princess Victoria Maria
Louisa of Saxe-Coburg



Prince Edward, Duke of
Kent



Emperor Alexander the first of Russia

The princess
was named
Alexandrina
after Emperor
Alexander
the first of
Russia and
Victoria after
her mother.



Victoria's father died when she was eight months old. The girl belonged to the House of Hanover



She was taught only German until she was three years old. At three she learnt to speak English and French. Her mother spoke German with her. Her command of English was good but not perfect.



As well as learning languages, Victoria studied history, geography, arithmetic, drawing, music and the Bible.



She grew up in
Kensington Palace.



Victoria inherited the throne of Great Britain at the age of 18,



after the
death of
her uncle
William the
fourth who
had no
legitimate
children.



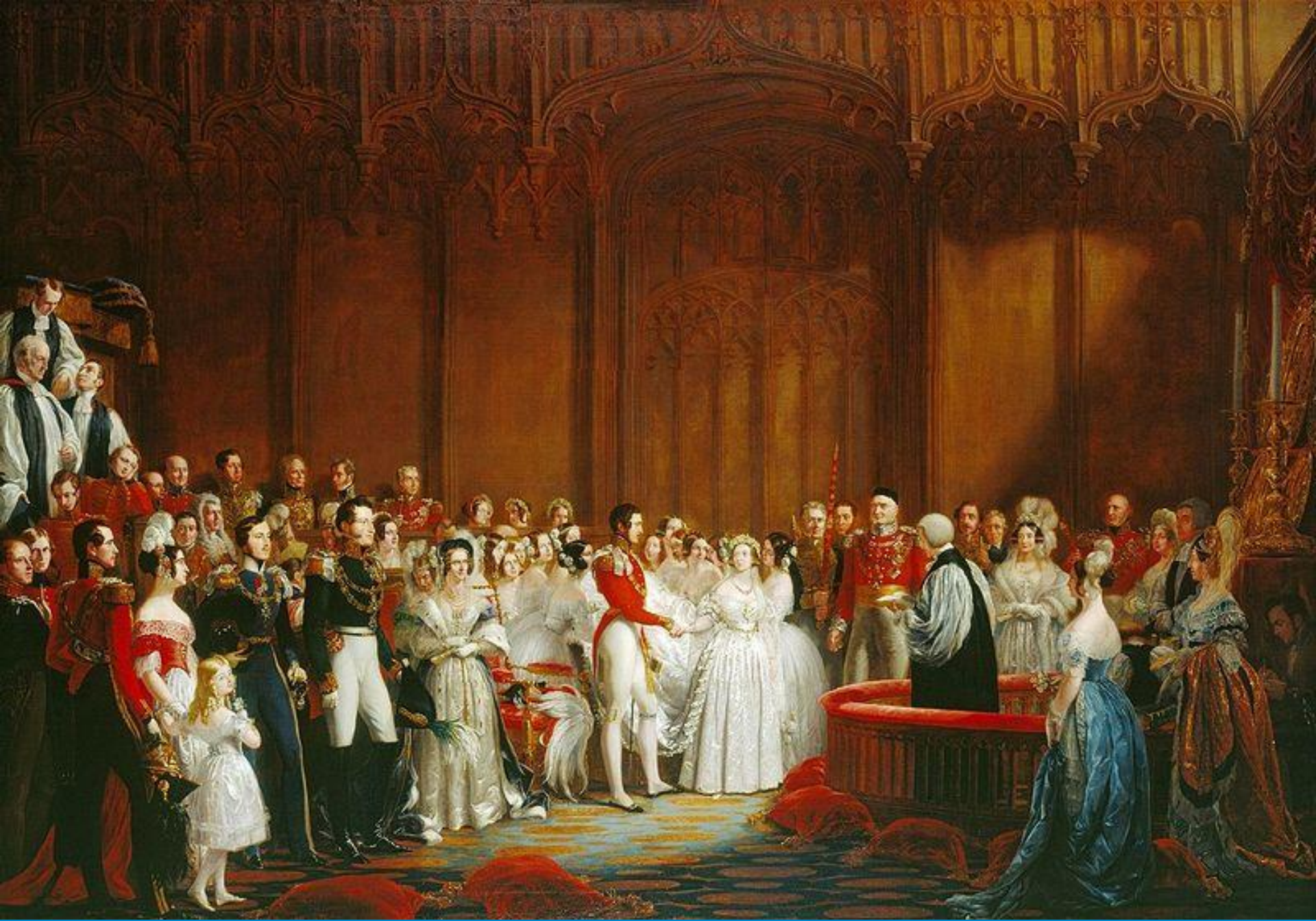
Her coronation took place in June 1838 and she became the first monarch to take up residence at Buckingham Palace.



Queen Victoria first met her future husband, who was her cousin Prince Albert of Saxe-Coburg and Gotha when she was seventeen in 1836.



Albert and Victoria felt mutual affection, fell in love with each other



and some years later in February 1840 they were married



in the
Chapel
Royal at St.
James's
Palace,
London.



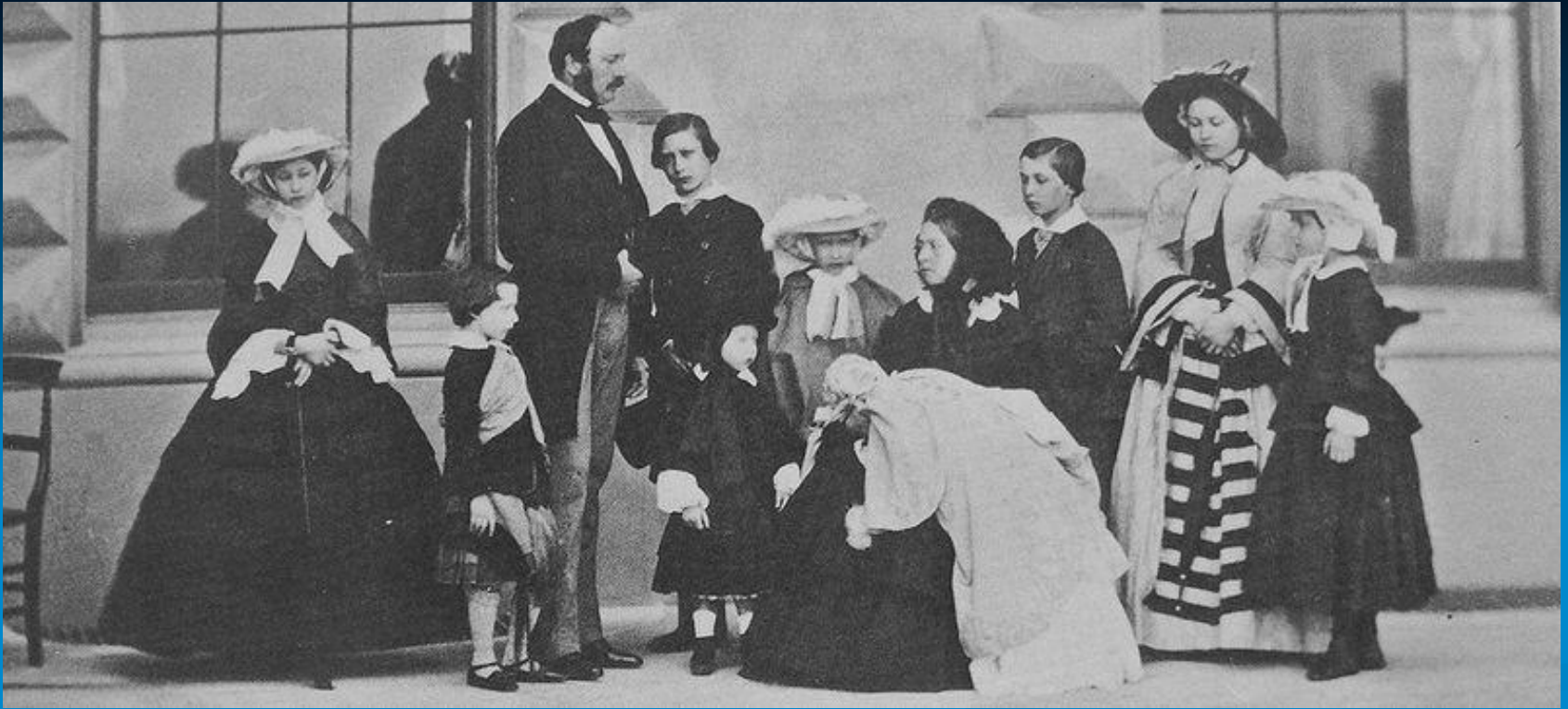
For the
next 20
years they
lived in
harmony.



Albert became not only the Queen's companion, but an important political advisor. Her political influence wasn't entirely strong until she married Prince Albert who helped shape her into a queen of the people.



In her early days Victoria was known to be stubborn and not interested much of the outside world. Learning by example, he attended meeting with ministers and helped formulate politics at home and abroad for the world's strongest nation.



Albert taught Victoria that she should have an active part in Britain's politics. From him she learned hard work, dedication and perseverance.



Victoria and Albert were really happy, they had nine children:



The Princess Victoria, Princess Royal (1840 -1901)



The Prince Albert Edward, Prince of Wales, later
King Edward VII (1841 – 1910)



The Princess Alice (1843 – 1978)



The Prince Alfred, Duke of Saxe-Coburg and Gotha and Duke of Edinburgh; Admiral of the Fleet (1844 – 1900)



The Princess Helena (1846 – 1923)



The Princess Louise (1848 – 1939)



The Prince Arthur, Duke of Connaught and Strathearn;
Field Marshal, Governor General of Canada (1850 –1942)



The Prince Leopold, Duke of Albany (1853 – 1884)



The Princess Beatrice (1857 – 1944)



Albert of Saxe-Coburg Gotha

But in
December 1861
Prince died of
typhoid fever at
the age of 42
due to the
primitive sanitary
conditions



at
Windsor
Castle.



Victoria mourned the death of her husband for ten years, and she wore black for the rest of her life. She avoided appearing in public and rarely left home. This made her unpopular, she was widely criticized. Some people even doubted the value of monarchy.

MORE
LEAVES FROM THE JOURNAL
OF
A LIFE IN THE HIGHLANDS,
FROM 1862 TO 1882.
FIFTH EDITION.
LONDON:
SMITH, ELDER, & CO., 15 WATERLOO PLACE.
1884.
All rights reserved.

One important step to popularity was the publication of the Queen's book "Our life in the Highlands". The book was the Queen's own diary of her life with Prince Albert and her family. It delighted the public as they had never before known anything of the private life of the monarch, and they enjoyed reading it. They were impressed by the fact that the Queen wrote about her servants as if they were members of the family.

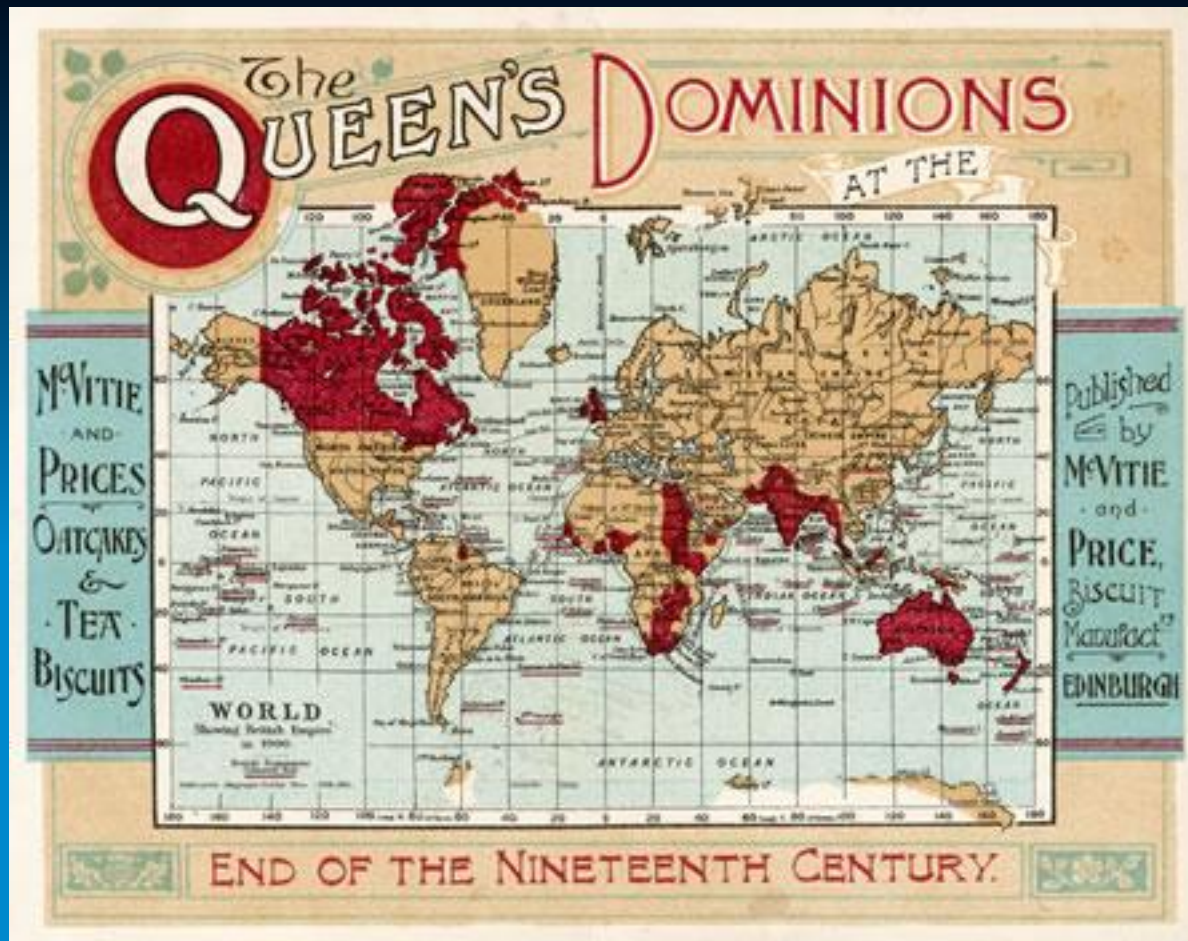


The democratic British liked and respected the example of family life which the Queen had given them; they saw that she and her family shared their own moral and religious values. She touched people's hearts. During the late 1870s and 1880s Victoria gradually returned to public view and was restored to favour with the British people.



The Victorian era was at the height of the Industrial Revolution, a period of great social, economic and technological changes in the United Kingdom. Britain became the most powerful country in the world.

The number of people living in Britain more than doubled. Many factories and machines were built, and new towns grew up. Railways, originally built to transport goods, allowed people to travel around the country.



Victoria's reign was also marked by a great expansion of the British Empire which included Canada, Australia, India, New Zealand and large parts of Africa.



From a Photograph by 'Valery, Regent' SL

Souvenir Portrait
of Her Most Gracious Majesty
Queen Victoria, Empress of India

Presented with "The Gentlewoman"

At the end of Queen Victoria's reign, the Queen's full style and title were:

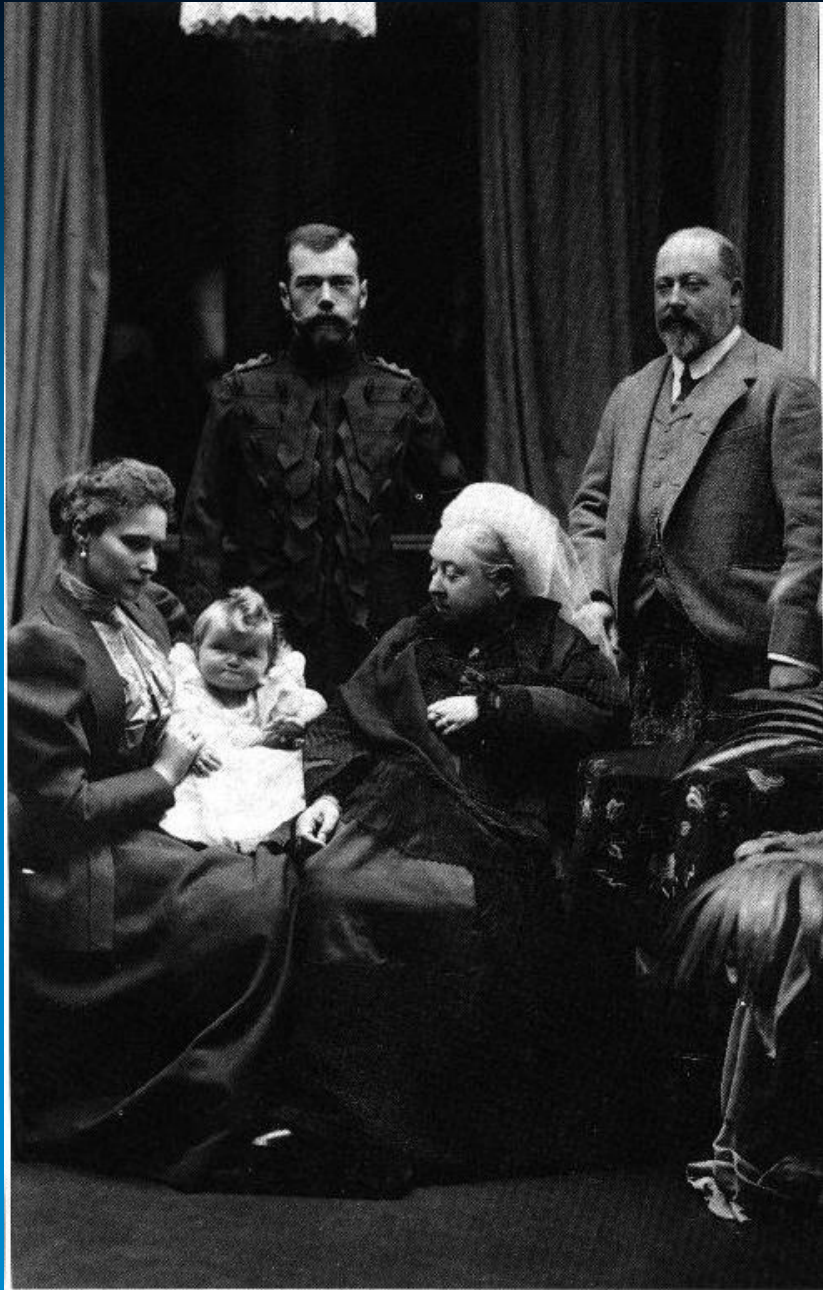
**Her Majesty Victoria, by
the Grace of God, of the
United Kingdom of Great
Britain and Ireland
Queen, Defender of the
Faith, Empress of India**



It was also a largely peaceful reign. Although there were conflicts in the Empire, British forces were involved only in one European conflict, the Crimean War (1854 – 1856). At the time when monarchy was losing, it's place as an integral part of the British governing system, Victoria managed to establish it as a respected and popular institution.



Queen Victoria was also popular in Europe. She became known as the Grandmother of Europe after marrying members of her family into many royal houses of Europe.



Among her grandchildren was Alexandra, her most favourite granddaughter, wife of Tsar Nicholas the Second of Russia.





Queen Victoria
died on the
22nd of January
1901 at the age
of 81



at Osborne House on the Isle of Wight.



B

Photograph of Queen Victoria with members of her family, 1881
© Paparazzi

She outlived 3 of her 9 children, 11 of her 42 grandchildren.



Queen Victoria remains the most commemorated British monarch in history, with statues to her erected through out Great Britain and the former territories of the British Empire:



the Victoria Memorial outside Buckingham Palace,



monuments and statues in Australia,



Canada,



New Zealand,



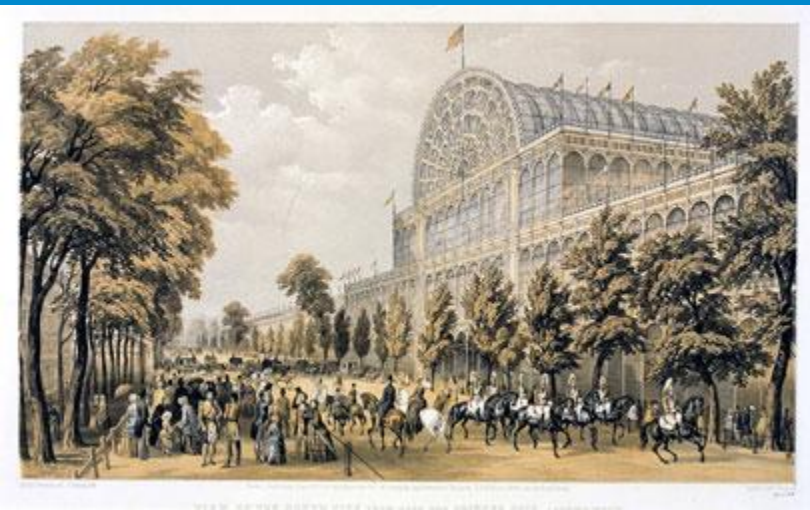
India



and in other

countries.





Many institutions, parks, squares, hospitals bear her name.



The British should
be proud of such
a glorious Queen.

The end