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WESTMINSTER'S DAY OF MAJESTY.

31/91.

The day when the Queen is to open Parliament in State is also, by happy coincidence, the 80th birthday of Sir Winston Churchill, Her Majesty's first minister and undoubtedly, the greatest man of our century.

Measuring 3 feet 4 inches in diameter is this giant birthday present from a London baker. Now a vast bouquet of English roses, divided into two displays so that it may pass through the doorway. Thousands of similar gifts have been sent from all over the world to honour Sir Winston who leaves Downing Street to attend the State Opening of Parliament. At the Palace of Westminster, the traditional search for Guy Fawkes is carried out by the Yeomen of the Guard. Meanwhile members of the Lords and Commons, and their wives, enter for the ceremony. The downpour of rain suddenly stops, and a rainbow curves across the London sky. Even the weather is kind for such an important birthday as this.

The Irish State Coach brings Her Majesty and Prince Philip to Westminster. The Queen, who is to make a speech from the Throne, wears a glittering coronet of pearls and diamonds.

Outside the House of Lords, the Sovereign's Escort, of Household Cavalry lines up as, accompanied, by her husband, the Queen enters to deliver her address, and to seek God's blessing upon the counsel of her ministers. At noon, the scene changes to Westminster Hall where drum-beats, sounding the victory signal, herald the entrance of Sir Winston.

Appropriately, it is the leader of the opposition, Mr. Attlee, who speaks for members of all parties in congratulating the Premier and presenting their gift.

The portrait is the work of Graham Sutherland, one of the most famous and controversial painters of our time,. Doubtless, Sir Winston has very decided views about the portrait for, of course, he is a skilled painter himself. Now the Premier is to receive another birthday gift. The Father of the House, Mr. Grenfell, presents a book signed by all but a handful of members of the House of Commons. It is their personal gift to the man who had guided the destinies of our nation with such vigour and courage through some of the grimmest hours of our history.

Now Sir Winston, described by Mr. Attlee as "the last of the great orators who can touch the heights", thanks his fellow-members;