

QUEEN VICTORIA.

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In October 1894 all Lancashire assembled at the Old Trafford --- not for a Test Match but to see Manchester joined to the sea by a canal to the Mersey at Liverpool. Queen Victoria performed the opening ceremony, and here is a re-enactment of that historic occasion, the inauguration of the Manchester Ship Canal. ~~Queen Victoria~~ Queen Victoria was played by Mrs Anna King, 70 years of age. ~~She was an~~ ~~excited~~ ~~and~~ ~~--- women in bustles and men in whickers ---~~ ~~the~~ ~~Manchester lived for another day in the rompsome atmosphere of the~~ ~~gay~~ ~~nineties.~~

And since we've gone old-fashioned, we might go back another twenty years. At Lullingstone Castle in Kent, the game of lawn tennis was first thought out and played --- ~~do you~~ like the net? Doesn't Gussie look a masher? Now mixed doubles. I do declare there's that dreadful tomboy Arabella joining in --- and Ermytrude --- what would the Bishop say? ~~It~~ It can't be good for girls, all laced up ~~tight~~. (Split.)

Well, the game's over! Thank you, it was most enjoyable. ~~You must~~ ~~come round to the~~ ~~Manchester Ship Canal~~ ~~year for a first game of~~ ~~backgammon.~~