

A toast to A Certain Gracious Lady  
by Greg D. Ruby  
before a meeting of the Diogenes Club of Washington, DC  
at Old Ebbitt Grill, in Washington, DC, on March 19, 2016

She is never directly referred to in The Canon.  
But then again, neither was President Buchanan.  
There are references to colonies, stations and streets  
named after her, which must be a real treat.

Her full title is 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.

That surely would have caused cramps to the writing hand of the literary agent.

So, to Holmes, she is a certain gracious lady.

She ascended to the throne at a young age,  
The monarchy being all the rage.

She was soon to be married  
To a prince of a man  
Who's been famous for so many years  
For his time in a can.

{pause to allow groans to subside}

She ruled through an era that saw the progression  
Of industrialization and economic expression;

That saw the growth of the greatest empire yet  
Upon which, it's said, the sun never set.

But her memory shall live  
Due most of all,  
To those famous initials  
On Mrs. Hudson's wall.

To Victoria Regina!