

"When God took from the Women's Temperance Association and the world Margaret Bright Lucas," writes Mrs. West, "our hearts were heavy with sorrow, and our tear-dimmed eyes could not see who would fill her place. But even in that hour of darkness, God's love shining on those teardrops was transforming them into a bow of promise, a promise fulfilled in the bringing Lady Henry Somerset into the vacant place."

Isabella, Lady Henry Somerset, was born in 1851, and is the eldest daughter of Earl and Countess Somers, of Eastnor Castle, Ledbury, Herefordshire. Ledbury is a quaint old market-town, where John B. Gough spoke for temperance thirty years ago, and where now a strong branch of the B. W. T. A. flourishes. Three miles away from its railway station is Eastnor Castle, on the western side of Malvern Hills. It is beautiful for situation, majestic in character, and historic in its surroundings. In sight is Herefordshire Beacons, the highest point in the Malvern range, one of the strongest hill fortresses in Britain. For ages the summit of this hill has been used for beacon-fires. At the approach of the Spanish Armada,

"Twelve counties saw the blaze
On Malvern's lonely heights."

Thus Eastnor Castle is a fitting home for one who to-day stands as a beacon-light, not only for England, but for the world.

Having no brothers, Lady Henry Somerset succeeded to the inheritance of the vast estate of her father. The family have been land-owners in county Kent certainly as far back as the thirteenth century, and numbers many illustrious men and women in its line of succession. Among them is Lord Keeper Somers, of whom Macaulay says: "In some respects he was the greatest man of his age, uniting all the qualities of a great judge—an intellect comprehensive, quick and acute, diligence, integrity, patience, suavity."

Born thus to an inheritance of cul-

ture, refinement and wealth, married in 1872 to Lord Henry Somerset, second son of the Duke of Beaufort, receiving the crown of motherhood in 1874 by the birth of her only child, her cup was full to the brim of the richest draughts the world can furnish. Her life was passed in the gayest of England's most aristocratic society, and with it she seemed content until 1885. At this time she was brought under deep religious exercise. She turned her back upon London society, went to her country home, and spent some months in quiet retirement. During this time new views of life and duty were pointed out to her. She engaged in earnest work for the improvement of those under her influence.

The duty lying nearest her was the care of her large tenantry. Her clarified vision recognized her responsibility concerning them in regard not only to physical, but to spiritual interest. At the very threshold of her work for her tenants she was confronted with the terrible drink problem. This made her a temperance woman, and a temperance worker. The first temperance meeting she ever attended was in December of 1885; it was in the little village of Eastnor, at her castle gates; then and there she signed the temperance pledge, with forty of her tenants.

Into a meeting at St. James' Hall, the West London Mission, where Mr. Price Hughes and his devoted wife, with the "Sisters of the People," are bringing the sweetness and the light of the gospel into London's dark places, a lady, evidently a stranger, walked quietly one day, and at the close of the service came to Mr. Hughes, saying, "I will gladly receive into my country home some of the destitute poor in the slums of Soho." He asked her name, and she replied "Lady Henry Somerset." From that day to this she has been one of the strongest supporters of that mission, giving to the poor women who are its especial charge, the most precious gift of sisterly sympathy and uplifting.