

Ontario Normal College Monthly.

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Ontario Normal College Monthly

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THE month that has just passed has been fraught with changes. It has not only inaugurated in its earlier days a new century, which, we fondly hope, will top the cycles of the years, but it has witnessed near its close a sad event which has brought to an end the noblest era in our national history. The death of our long beloved and now lamented Queen has cast a shadow of grief and sorrow upon the hearts of Britons the world over, that utterances of regret and emblems of mourning can only faintly betoken. It seems futile to attempt to add anything to the sincere tributes of admiration and heart-felt expressions of sorrow that have issued in such profusion from pulpit and press since the announcement of the death of our late Sovereign. It would not be fitting, however to let such a nation-stirring event go by without voicing on behalf of the students of the Ontario Normal College their deep sense of the empire's loss, and their appreciation of the noble qualities of the departed.

That Victoria's name must ever be associated with the rise and expansion of Britain's world-empire, "the mightiest that has been", was never before so clearly seen as now when her death has given proof of the love and sense

of personal devotion that her subjects bore to her in all parts of her great dominions. No such demonstrations of loyalty could be evoked by an abstract principle, call it by what name you please,—the state, the constitution or what not; it was the personality of the sovereign, standing behind the machinery of government and representing the nation, that to a large extent won and retained the allegiance of so many distinct and widely severed states. It was the name of Victoria with its associations of true womanly purity, tender solicitude for the poor and distressed, firm adherence to truth and justice and simple faith in God, that made the name of Britain revered above that of other nations among the simple tribes who from the outskirts of civilization have so often paid their tribute to the "Great Mother," and that among the states of Europe won the respect and undisguised admiration of potentates and men generally whom national prejudice had not wholly blinded.

But now she is gone and only her memory abides with us. It will live long with her people, as an ideal of true womanhood, though her presence and commanding personality will be missed, and we cannot yet fully realize our loss. She has left the monarchy firmly established and her successor receives the crown without a dissenting voice or the slightest whisper of opposition. He has come into a noble heritage, but one that entails grave responsibilities. Prerogative after pre-