

to be a noble pure woman with an intensely affectionate heart; and while entirely devoted to her duties as Queen of the greatest Empire the world has ever seen, still able to find time as a true mother to care for and train her children in purity and truth and humility, in love for nature, and in those healthy tastes and habits which we delight to think of as distinguishing England's gentlemen and gentlewomen.

Yes, my brethren, we may, and we ought to thank God to-day that the Court of England's Queen has ever been not only intensely, brilliantly pure and free from the least shadow of moral taint, but that the home of England's Queen has always been what a true English home ought to be,—a home, the virtues of which the humblest of her subjects, as well as the most exalted, can understand, can sympathize with, can feel a holy influence from it coming home to themselves in their own lowly cottages, can feel that here is something good and true which even they can copy.

These four great features in Queen Victoria's reign,—her own good and virtuous example, her quiet, unostentatious devotion to religion, her faithfulness to her high trust as the constitutional sovereign of this great Empire, and the brilliant whiteness of the purity of her court and of the home-life of her family,—constitute a body of reasons abundantly sufficient to justify the enthusiasm manifested throughout the world-wide dominions of England to-day in the celebration of her jubilee.

And yet we must all feel, when we go back in thought over our beloved Queen's life, that the half has not been told.

In the first half of those fifty years how beautiful was the intense happiness of her married life! And when it was all blighted in a moment by her great bereavement, how beautiful again in the latter half in those long years of a heart-broken widowhood—her devotion to carrying out faithfully for her people all the lessons of true Queen-ship she had learnt from her wise and good husband! How tender and sweet the sympathy learnt from her own great sorrows which she has manifested on so many hundreds of occasions with the sorrows and bereavements of her subjects!

Yes, my friends and fellow citizens, we may well to-day, as we think of those fifty years of faithful service of our Queen,—every day, every hour of which has been given up