

### THE LATE FLORENCE NIGHTINGALE

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FLORENCE NIGHTINGALE completed her 90th birthday in May last. Among her fast friends and admirers were three Sovereigns of her beloved country—Victoria, Edward VII. and George V. The whole civilized world knows and regrets that this great woman has passed away.

Although she had been an invalid for a long time, and was under the constant care of a physician, her death, which occurred August 13, was somewhat unexpected. We extract from a very interesting article which appeared in the *Montreal Gazette* the following items respecting the great work performed by Florence Nightingale:

Some years ago the surviving British officers of the Crimean war held a banquet in London. One of their number proposed they should take a vote on the question, "What name connected with that war will live longest in history?" When the ballots were counted, lo and behold! every vote was for a woman, and when the name of Florence Nightingale was announced as the unanimous selection of the grizzled veterans the banquet hall rang with approving cheers.

As the pioneer in the system of trained female nurses for war, and as the ministering angel who saved thousands of lives and eased untold sufferings, Florence Nightingale won immortality on the bloody fields of the Crimea. This is the more remarkable as she was reared in luxury, and came of a race of peculiar delicacy of taste. Her father was William Edward Shore, a banker of Sheffield. On inheriting the estate of a kinsman named Peter Nightingale, he was compelled by the terms of the will to assume the name of Nightingale.

#### BENEVOLENT AS A CHILD.

The family spent much time in Italy, and the second daughter was born in May, 1820, in the city of Florence, from which her name was borrowed. She was a precocious child, and early in life made great advancement in music, mathematics and languages. Happening to visit a hospital, the impressionable girl at once announced that nursing was to be her mission in