

But, at the present time, we surely have no need to be taught this lesson by memorials of departed greatness in the cemetery of the Escorial, or beneath the venerable roof of Westminster Abbey. The whole empire of England is now mourning for the loss of one, who, so lately in possession of all the accidents of worldly greatness, and in the full exercise of all the high talent, with which he was endowed, has thus afforded us a most striking commentary on these words of Scripture: "All flesh is as grass: and all the glory of man as the flower of grass: The grass withereth, and the flower thereof falleth away." The husband of our Queen, the late Prince Consort, just in the prime of life, full of active energy, nobly fulfilling all the various duties of his station, has suddenly (so suddenly that we in Canada, knew not of any the least ailment till we heard of his death; and even in England it was only anticipated for less than a couple of days) has suddenly been hurried out of this world: when we might have been naturally calculating upon a long course of usefulness before him, and imagined that his allotted task, the work of his life on earth, was only just culminating to its meridian. "So inscrutable are the judgments of God; and his ways past finding out."

I shall not now attempt any detailed description of the character of the departed Prince. Called as he was at an early age to fill in England so high and responsible a position, as the husband of our Queen, it may be sufficient to say that in every way he proved himself equal to the occasion; and by his whole demeanour and life, and talents, added dignity and grace to the exalted rank which he held. The loss of so wise and prudent a statesman, so judicious an adviser of the Sovereign, one who, himself keeping aloof from all party political strife, had free access to the royal ear at all times, and who was always at hand ready to assist with his manly wisdom, and support with his vigorous aid, that imperial Crown, the reflected lustre of which rested on his own ennobled brow, this loss can scarcely yet be appreciated by the empire at large; because, devoid of all low and vulgar ambition, he never obtruded his actions on the notice of the public; but was contented, if only wise counsels prevailed, that his influence should unperceived affect the mainsprings of power; conscious