

laid the groundwork of the imperishable British Constitution ; of its Magna Charta ; its Bill of Rights, and the Revolution of 1688 ; of the glorious days of Good Queen Bess ; of the sages, the poets, philosophers, heroes, statesmen, artisans and men of science who have from age to age brightened Old England's glory, her liberty and her renown. Nor need he cast his reflections only on the past, the present still affords a higher theme for exultation, when he sees in full expansion the triumphs of preceding centuries, developing themselves to the extended happiness of the human race. Fostered and encouraged by a Queen whose rare virtues and exemplary patriotism can find no parallel in the past history of British sovereignties. The child of hope, the daughter of promise, as Princess, that we first contemplated, we find, as Queen, merged into the performing angel of an o'erswaying Providence ; under her benign rule the evil disaffection of rebellious subjects became quickly silenced ; peace extended her olive-branch o'er all the land ; taking the opportunity afforded by national quiet she extended the liberties of her subjects at home, and gave free constitutions to her colonies abroad ; the arts of peace, the diffusion of science, the interests of commerce, the pursuits of industry and the rights of labor were upheld and encouraged by every influence that could be devised, palaces of industry were built for their display, and the various nations of the world invited to share in and to increase their usefulness. Such were the humanizing effects of Victoria's gentle rule that nations—almost considered hereditary foes—bowed the knee in homage to her ; and republican democracies, whose hatred for aught of royalty had previously been their distinguishing characteristic, suspended their usual traduce-ment of crowned heads, listened with patience, then with delight to the British National Anthem, called for its renewal, and not unfrequently joined in the English chorus, " God save the Queen."

Such is the patriotism, such the deservings of our gracious Sovereign. Yet all this greatness of character so well merited as queen, is but of a secondary consideration when we reflect on her exemplary virtues as a woman. The daughter, the wife, the mother, the friend and the Christian, show in her mind and actions their loveliest developements. The character and conduct of the English aristocracy have under the brightness of her example