

home-life is morally tainted, the moral life of the nation is sapped at its foundation, and in time moral ruin must ensue. Where the home-life is pure and sound, the people's national life is secure,—nothing very seriously calamitous can happen to it.

England's strength has always been the purity of the English home. In the worst of times, the home of the great body of the people has remained safe. Great and serious corruption has from time to time threatened it. Indeed we know that in the nature of things corrupting influences are always at work in human society. And when this moral rottenness exhibits itself in the home-life of the great and exalted the effect upon the masses is disastrous. The Courts of English Sovereigns have unhappily not always been pure.

But that now for one unbroken half century the Court of England has afforded an illustrious example of a sweet, pure English home—a home not only brilliant in its purity, but distinguished by simple healthy tastes and true family affection never surpassed,—is something the influence of which for good cannot be estimated. It is an influence which re-acts from rank to rank, from class to class of English society throughout England's vast Empire ; and from England's Court to foreign Courts, and from them to the highest ranks of foreign society, and through them upon the whole world. The world knows—and all women know—all wives and mothers know, that no woman with a tainted character has been for 50 years, or can be received at the Queen of England's Court, or welcomed to the Queen of England's table.

But more than this. It is not only that England's Court has been pure for fifty years. The curtain that shrouds the sanctity of the inner home-life of Queen Victoria and her children has been lifted by the Queen herself in those remarkable books, the Queen's Journals and the Life of the Prince Consort, and her subjects have been admitted to see and hear all the secrets of that inner home-life.

And what a beautiful picture it is. The Court of a great Empire must as a matter of necessity be surrounded with a great deal of state and formality. But in those books we see, behind all the pageantry and splendour of that greatest of earthly courts, an inner home-life specially distinguished by simple tastes and family affection. Our Queen is seen