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※ DO YOUR DUTY! ※

"WELL, it is all over, but I think I have done my duty." Simple words these, but what addition would you make? Lying behind and leading up to them, a sense of honorable intention and honest performance makes the mind easy and the heart at peace when the last hour of earthly life draws near. To face one's duty bravely, to do it consistently, to maintain fidelity to the end,—these are qualities that will become a man whether his place be among the mighty ones or with the lowly sons of toil. Though he live in a palace and wear a kingly crown, he is no king whose soul is base, whose aims are selfish, or whose conduct is unmanly. Judged by what he was, as well as by what he did, no more kingly man or manly king ever sat in Britain's royal throne than he whose passing hence has brought sincere mourning to many millions of loyal hearts. Not for the place he occupied but for the way he filled it will Edward VII. be long revered. Not for the power that he possessed but for the way he used it will he long live in the heart of the nation. He is gone, but is it therefore "all over"? With him, yes! but even though dead, he speaks to every member of the vast Empire over which he ruled so wisely and so well. And what is the message? Just this, "Do your duty!" What that may be, if heart is sincere and mind alert, God will make plain. The law of the kingdom over which the King of kings rules must be honored and obeyed with supreme and unquestioning loyalty. Then will all else find its fitting relation, and when the close of life's brief day draws on apace, and the sunset shadows lengthen, fearless and undismayed, because trustful and obedient even unto death, we may say with Britain's dying monarch, "I think I have done my duty." Such words, so spoken, are priceless gems to be stored forever in the nation's heart as stamping the speaker with the marks of true Christian manliness. Let us cherish them, and ever emulate the spirit that they showed forth. So may we, too, die content.