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THE DEATH OF THE PRINCE CONSORT.

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A SERMON PREACHED BY REV. WM. GREGG, A.M., ON DECEMBER 29<sup>TH</sup>, 1861.

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“Know ye not that there is a prince and a great man fallen this day in Israel?”—2 *Samuel* iv. 38.

The public mind on this continent has of late been awakened to unusual agitation. Twelve months ago all was calm and peaceful. There were indeed dark, threatening clouds, which were supposed by some to betoken an approaching storm. By most, however, it was hoped that the clouds would soon be dispersed. These hopes have, alas! been disappointed; and now, from the Gulf of Mexico to our own Great Lakes, the whole North American continent resounds with the tramp of war, and trembles beneath the tread of contending armies. Nor is this all. The public mind on this continent has been still further agitated by the fears of more terrible evils. Every packet that crossed the Atlantic during the last few weeks carried the tidings of angry words and fierce denunciation, exchanged between the people of Britain and our Republican neighbours. The result, it was feared, might be a tremendous struggle, the effects of which must be felt in every quarter of the globe, and especially in this Province, whose loyal people would be called on to endure the first shock of the encounter.

While the public mind was thus agitated by wars and rumours of wars, it might have seemed impossible that it could be suddenly arrested by any new occurrence, and especially an occurrence fitted to draw forth the finer feelings and tender sympathies of our nature. Such an occurrence has taken place. From the palace of our Sovereign there has issued a wail of sorrow, which has not merely found a response in every British heart, but which has touched the hearts of all men of all nations. The death of the Royal Consort, Prince Albert, cut down in the prime of manhood, has done what scarcely any other occurrence could have done. It has hushed for the hour the passions of men. It has bowed the hearts of all as of one man. It has turned, in one vast tide, the kindest feelings and affections of the whole world to that royal chamber,