

VICTORIA.

More than one-fourth of the world's population has been called upon to mourn the loss of a ruler—VICTORIA, Queen and Empress, counsellor and friend. From the 19th of January, when tidings of her serious illness was flashed over the world, followed on January 22nd by the news of her death, up to February 4th, when all that was mortal of the Queen was tenderly consigned to the mausoleum at Frogmore, the thoughts of millions of subjects throughout her vast empire turned to her with love and reverence, and the nations of the world vied with each other in their tributes of respect. The story of those days of mourning, the events of that wonderful life as they have been brought in review and eagerly scanned by vast multitudes of readers, have passed into history. The death-bed scene at Osborne House, the few earnest words to the future King, and the whispered adieus to the members of her sorrowing family and attendants; the days of mourning in that castle in the Isle of Wight, lonely in spite of the gathering throngs; the funeral pageant, impressive as the world has ever seen, which began on the first afternoon in February, when the remains, reposing on a gun carriage, were borne along the sun-lit waters of the Solent on the yacht "Alberta" to Portsmouth, amid the thunders of cannon from the English fleet, assembled to pay the last honours to the "Queen of the seas;" the mooring of the royal yacht for the night in Portsmouth harbour after passing and receiving the salute of Nelson's flagship, the "Victory;" the railway journey early on Saturday morning from Portsmouth to London, the procession through London, with the rulers or their representatives from nearly every country of the civilized world, wending its way amid vast but orderly throngs who, in spite of fog and chilling rains, with uncovered head and mute lips, paid a last tribute to their beloved Queen; the journey from London to Windsor, and the impressive funeral service in St. George's chapel, when similar services were being held throughout all parts of the British Empire; and finally the last sad rites on Monday, February 4th, when the coffin was conveyed to the crypt at Frogmore, to be placed beside the remains of "Albert the Good;"—all these events, narrated by spectators, have lent an interest to these historic scenes never to be effaced from memory.

Never in English history has a sovereign been borne to the grave attended by so many distinguished mourners; never has one been more sincerely mourned by her subjects. Her greatness as a sovereign has compelled the admiration and love of both high and low; her womanly nature and consideration for her subjects everywhere won their affection and loyal attachment.

The teachers of Canada who have drawn lessons from her character as a Queen and woman have inspired their pupils with higher ideals of truth, honesty and duty because of her noble example, and because they felt that she was the children's friend.

One of the latest acts of the Queen was to signify a wish that the testimonial of £3,399 sent by the children of Canada for the benefit of the widows and orphans of the soldiers killed in South Africa, should be handed over to the Royal Patriotic Commissioners. This wish was executed on the day the Queen died.

The soldiers of Canada who fought for her in the Transvaal, many of whom received from her own lips words of praise, have returned home with a deeper sense of the meaning of loyalty and a firm attachment to the mother-land, whose Queen manifested such a warm personal interest in their welfare and who took every occasion to show her marked appreciation of their devotion to the empire.

The people of Canada mourn for her sincerely. They have testified their attachment not by outward symbols merely, but everywhere their silent and reverent demeanor has spoken, far louder than any outward expression, of their devotion. The services in the churches of every denomination have been marked by a simplicity of speech, a sincerity of tone, that has impressed even the most careless hearer. Not a jarring note has marred the solemnity of those days of mourning. Thus have the people testified that she has lived a good life, that she whose name shall be venerated in Canada for all time, has passed from this earthly life to a glorious life beyond

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