

so early a period that I would be oppressed with it, were it not for the confident expectation that the Divine Providence which has called me to the work, will give me strength to perform it; and that I shall find my zeal in the service a recompense for the ability which usually belongs to a longer experience. Educated in England, under the tender care of a most affectionate mother, I have learned to respect the constitution of my native country.' These were the words uttered in her first legal communication with her subjects. And had she not nobly redeemed them? (Applause). His Lordship thought that, besides the vote of condolence in which they so cordially united the other day, they ought to do honour to themselves by erecting in the city a permanent and lasting memorial of their respect. They did not expect to see Her Majesty personally among them, but they should do something by way of token to their children and children's children, of the loyal respect they cherished for the good name of good Queen Victoria." (Applause).

"It is reported," says the *Court Journal*, "that when it was first urged on our bereaved Queen that she should leave Windsor before the funeral, she wept bitterly, and said her subjects were never advised to leave their homes or the remains of those lost to them, and why should she have additional sorrow given her in tearing her away from all that was left? The Queen did not consent till the safety of her children was urged, as the fever that had deprived her of her husband might snatch away some other dear object."

We understand that the "Tribute to the Memory of the Prince Consort," in the January number of *Blackwood's Magazine*, has been so highly appreciated by Her Majesty, that she has ordered twelve copies of it to be struck off separately, and forwarded to her.—*Scotsman*.

4. CHARACTER OF THE PRINCE OF WALES.

A Cambridge paper thus refers to the Prince of Wales:—"We declare, without fear of contradiction, that while the Prince of Wales was at the University, he proved himself to be a good and amiable young man, a true English gentleman, and a Prince wholly free from everything approaching to a debasing tendency. No parent could wish his son to behave better, and now that his time of trial has come, we feel confident that his Royal Highness will be found neither unwilling nor unfit, nor unable to console and assist his bereaved mother, and to fulfil the warmest hopes of the people."

A correspondent of the *Manchester Guardian* contributes these items:—"The character of the Prince hitherto has shown itself to those brought into closest contact with him singularly pure and honorable, and perfectly free from that insincerity and dissimulation which so early developed themselves in George IV., and formed no small element in the character of even his comparatively excellent predecessor. But, while the Prince is a perfect gentleman, truthful, straightforward and unstained by any propensity or vice that can cause anxiety to his parents, or his teachers, friends and advisers, he is not in the least a student by natural taste or acquired habits. He is, in fact, the very reverse of a lover of literature. A successor to his father, as an active and personal promoter and planner of improvements in education, in arts and science, he is not fitted by nature to be, and his distinctions as a sovereign will have to be sought in other directions."

The Prince of Wales will soon proceed to visit Corfu and the Ionian Islands, as arranged before the death of his father.

5. LETTER FROM THE PRINCE OF WALES.

The following is a copy of an autograph letter from his Royal Highness the Prince of Wales to the Council of the Royal Horticultural Society, and is, we believe, the first public letter written by him. Most of our readers are aware that the first suggestion of a memorial of the Great Exhibition of 1851 was closely coupled with the name of the departed Prince. Most of the money, for it, was subscribed under the impression that the memorial would comprise a Statue of the Founder of the Great Exhibition. The idea was abandoned out of deference to the wishes of the Prince, who said, "Men should not have statues raised to them while they are living." A statue of the Queen was consequently substituted. But the Prince's death has changed the situation. That attempt to do him honour which, living, he declined, others, in their grief and admiration, have a right to renew. The desire of Her Majesty and the Royal Family—and we may add the whole empire, is expressed in the following touching letter of the Prince of Wales:

"OSBORNE, Dec. 28, 1861.

"GENTLEMEN,—Prostrated with overwhelming grief, and able, at present, to turn her thoughts but to one object, the Queen, my mother, has constantly in her mind the anxious desire of doing honor to the memory of him whose good and glorious character the whole nation in its sorrow so justly appreciates.

"Actuated by this constantly recurring wish, the Queen has

commanded me to recall to your recollection that Her Majesty had been pleased to assent to a proposal to place a statue of herself upon a memorial of the Great Exhibition of 1851, which it was intended to erect in the new Horticultural Gardens.

"The characteristic modesty and self-denial of my deeply lamented father had induced him to interpose to prevent his own statue from filling that position, which properly belonged to it, upon a memorial to that great undertaking which sprung from the thought of his enlightened mind, and was carried through to a termination of unexampled success by his unceasing superintendence.

"It would, however, now, Her Majesty directs me to say, be most hurtful to her feelings were any other statue to surmount this memorial but that of the great, good Prince, my dearly beloved father, to whose honor it is in reality raised.

"The Queen, therefore, would anxiously desire that, instead of her statue, that of her beloved husband should stand upon this memorial.

"Anxious, however humbly, to testify my respectful and heartfelt affection for the best of fathers, and the gratitude and devotion of my sorrowing heart, I have sought, and have with thankfulness obtained, the permission of the Queen my mother to offer the feeble tribute of the admiration and love of a bereaved son, by presenting the statue thus proposed to be placed in the gardens under your management.

"(Signed),

"ALBERT EDWARD.

"To the Council of the Horticultural Society."

At a special meeting of the Council, summoned on Thursday, January 2, to receive this letter, the following resolution was agreed to:—"That under the lamentable and affecting circumstances in which the Council are placed by the irreparable loss which they, in common with the nation, have sustained by the decease of their late President, the gracious offer of his Royal Highness the Prince of Wales should be accepted, but at the same time he should be assured that they contemplate the loss of her Majesty's statue with regret."

6. REPLY OF THE PRINCESS ROYAL OF ENGLAND, TO THE MUNICIPAL AUTHORITIES OF BERLIN.

"For the sympathy you have expressed towards me after the heavy calamity which has befallen the Royal family and the people of England, and which has been the bitterest sorrow of my life, I return to the magistrates and municipal council of Berlin my most sincere thanks. In such a calamity the mind lifts itself above earthly things, and seeks for consolation in sources which are imperishable. If anything earthly could diminish the weight of heavy affliction, it would be the thought that the irreparable loss is acknowledged as such in every circle; and that the high and rare qualifications of my dear father, who has been so prematurely removed, will be embalmed in an enduring memory.

"Berlin.

(Signed)

VICTORIA, Crown Princess."

7. KING EDWARD VI. AND THE PRINCE OF WALES.

A short time since, the Prince Consort becoming possessed of a beautiful marble statuette of the boy-King Edward VI., had it stationed somewhat conspicuously at the top of one of the grand staircases, and designed to present it to the Prince of Wales on his coming of age next November. In the hand of the Royal child is a sceptre, so placed as to point to the representation of a Bible, and at that passage indicated as follows: 2 Chron. xxxiv., verses 1 and 2. The words, exquisite in their simplicity, and written by the finger of God Himself, are these: "Josiah was eight years old when he began to reign, and he reigned in Jerusalem one-and-thirty years. And he did that which was right in the sight of the Lord, and walked in the ways of David his father, and declined neither to the right hand nor to the left."

8. INTERESTING ITEMS IN REGARD TO THE ROYAL FAMILY.

—THE FAMILY name of the Queen is Alexandria Victoria Guelph; that of Prince Albert was Francis Albert Augustus Charles Emanuel Busici.

—MINUTE GUNS FOR THE PRINCE CONSORT.—This afternoon sixty minute guns were fired from Fort Henry in honour of the late Prince Consort. The colours at the various flagstaffs in the garrison, which for some days have been hoisted half-mast high, will be finally lowered this evening.—*Kingston Whig*, 20th Dec.

—THE PRINCE CONSORT'S PORTRAIT.—Such has been the demand for the "Cartes des Visite" portraits of his late Royal Highness Prince Albert, that 3,000 of these little souvenirs were sold by one firm in London before ten o'clock on the day of the funeral.