

praise, nor affect to censure, but I think it becomes us to let his voice, wherever we ourselves can speak, be so heard and to let his light so shine that others, seeing his good works, may glorify our Father who is in Heaven. From so lofty a position as that which he occupied, vast influence must necessarily descend. Our very first and deep regret must be for that illustrious personage thus bereaved of an adviser, a counsellor, a guide possessed of remarkable sagacity and tact and practical wisdom. For Her Majesty we prayed together last Sunday most fervently; for her we will pray still, not merely with the cold formalism of subjects, but with the loyalty of Britons, with the love of Christians, and with that deep and earnest sympathy which we all feel towards that illustrious lady who is as popular as she is good, and who has only to express the word and there is not a sword that would not leap from the scabbard to defend her, or a heart in England that would not brave and bear and risk and dare all peril, in order to shelter and honour her. But our regrets are very much mitigated by recollecting the admirable example which the illustrious Prince who is gone has bequeathed to us after him. During the 22 years he spent as the husband of the Queen, the blamelessness of his life, the warmth, and yet unostentatious warmth, of his attachment to the Queen, the delicacy with which he occupied the most delicate and difficult position—namely, that of the second personage in the empire, the good counsels as far as Queen could ask or he give, the deep, the reverent, and respectful affection which he bore to the Queen—an affection that faltered not in the worst and wearied not in the best of times—remind one of those beautiful lines of Mrs. Barrett Browning, addressed to Prince Albert on marrying the Queen:—

"Hold that wedded hand less dear for sceptre than for ring;
And count her uncrowned womanhood to be the Royal thing."

That Prince Albert did I am sure—if of anything on earth. And as husband of our Queen, being dead, he speaketh to every husband now present; and I am sure I neither flatter nor indulge in eulogy when I say, "Go thou and, in thy sphere, do likewise." Let us look at him, again, as the father of that interesting family, those boys, for such they still are, growing up to manhood, in the midst of whom, in perfect health, I saw him only a few months ago on the banks of the Dee. View him as the father of those sons, and of that son especially who has now come out of obscurity into greater prominence, and must one day sway the sceptre of these Imperial realms. From all I can gather, and I have conversed with those who are competent to testify and give evidence of facts—from all I can gather, these sons have been reared in wisdom, with consideration, with rare tact, with exquisite common sense; and in every respect he has, as the father of his family, set a precedent for the fathers of England. If I might allude especially to the education of the Prince of Wales, he was, you will remember, sent first to study at the University of Edinburgh, next to the University of Oxford, next to the University of Cambridge, that he might thus acquire a breadth of thought, a liberality of thinking, and might at the same time, by such a remarkable distribution of his studies, convey a kind yet delicate compliment to nations that under one Imperial sceptre are sometimes jealous of each other. He was also, you will recollect, sent to travel in the United States. That was a good lesson. He has learned there to appreciate more profoundly that limited monarchy which, I think, is the glory of our nation and our people, as contrasted with the fierce democracy of Republicanism.

VISIT OF THE PRINCE OF WALES TO CANADA.

Then he visited very recently—and all this, I believe, was the inspiration of the Prince Consort—he visited very recently the Canadas. What a happy event was that! One of the Canadas was thought to be a little wavering; speaking the French language, their sympathies, it was supposed, were not wholly or perfectly English. The Prince of Wales visited the Canadas, and the enthusiastic loyalty by which he was greeted as the eldest son of our beloved Queen found eloquent expression in every newspaper, and especially in those reports and statements that were transmitted to *The Times* newspaper, and which we all read with so much interest. And the probability is that the Canadas—to which the gallant Guards have recently gone, for whom we pray that they may come back safe and unscathed—the probability is, if war should break out the Canadas would show themselves more attached to England in 1861 than they would have done before the Prince of Wales paid them that visit.

THE PRINCE AS A FATHER, A PHILANTROPIST, AND A LANDLORD.

Why do I state these things? Because I am given to understand that these steps were taken on the particular suggestion of the Prince Consort as well as of the Queen. In the education of his sons I see a precedent set by the Prince Consort worthy of all praise. Then, it is in these two aspects, the husband and the father, that we see the happy home. The home of our Queen may be a palace, but it is still home, and I am given to understand, having conversed with

some who can speak with authority, that it is a model English home. No words of mine can express the moral, political, social, national weight of that fact. A pure English home is a little country, and our country is simply a great home, and what the homes of a people are the country of a people must necessarily become. Again, if we look at the character of his Royal Highness as interested in the well-being of the labouring classes we have a very remarkable precedent for imitation. It is a great mistake that the noblest and the highest lose influence or part with power when they descend to instruct, to benefit, and to be useful to the poor. Never do they so gain. Why are the aristocracy of this country so popular? Because they throw themselves to a great extent into all the interests and currents and influences that are making and moulding the country, and showing that they are Christians and Englishmen as well as peers. Prince Albert was an eminent illustration of this. I recollect perfectly well his speaking in Freemasons' hall at a meeting of the Society for Improving the Condition of the Labouring Classes, and I was amazingly struck with the strong good sense, the warm and earnest sympathy, the gentleness of heart, and the practical wisdom he exhibited on that occasion. I am told that his farms in England are models, and his attention to his tenants beyond all praise. On the Dee side I have seen the cottages which he and our Most Gracious Queen constructed there, and as long as they reflect the suns that set behind dark Lochnagar, so long will those cottages testify to his good sense, his kindness as a landlord, his practical appreciation of the duties and responsibilities of his station. And what shows that the people appreciate all this, as one of my own elders told me yesterday, is that in conversing with the head of one of the largest drapery establishments in the world, perhaps, he said "The poor people are coming in crowds to buy mourning; they will have good mourning; they will be satisfied with nothing but the best;" showing the great sacrifices they are prepared to make in order to testify their regard for the Prince who has gone. This is one of those traits which, if it could be known in a palace, would be received as most precious, because the unbought but costly sacrifice of the labouring poor.

THE PRINCE AS A PROMOTER OF THE ARTS AND SCIENCES.

Then, again, I need not say that as a patron of the Arts and Sciences, the character, conduct, and career of the Prince Consort has been most conspicuous. The arts beautify, they don't support; they are the capital of the column; they are not its foundation; but, wherever Christianity has flourished in its purity, there the arts,—painting, poetry, science, literature,—have all flourished also. The Great Exhibition of 1851, I am told, was his idea. The original idea was that the Crystal Palace was to be, as it were, a mart, to show what England had done; and it was his suggestion that it should not be sectarian but catholic, not national but universal. He, too, I am told, originated the Great Exhibition for 1862. But that has lost a mighty attraction. We shall not be able to look on its beauty and splendour without seeing the shadow of one who was expected to be present to take the chief part. The very appearance of that exquisite and beautiful structure will be suggestive of a loss to science, a loss to the arts, a loss to the country—a loss that we all earnestly and deeply deplore.

THE PRINCE CONSORT AS A CHRISTIAN.

Then lastly I would notice his character as a Christian. I have every reason to believe, from the information I have received, that he did love those everlasting, those distinctive precious truths which lie at the foundation of a beggar's hope, and out of the reach of which a prince cannot be saved. It is not very long ago that it was my duty to occupy the pulpit in Crathie Church, and in the royal pew were Her Most Gracious Majesty, Prince Albert, and the children of the Royal family. I never saw listeners more intensely attentive, and I know from letters in my possession that the truths uttered were deeply appreciated; and I cannot but believe God's promise,—my word shall not return unto me void.

Her Majesty has lost one link that bound her to an earthly crown, and she has gained one link more to unite her to a crown of glory that fadeth not away. You have often heard me say, I don't believe in chance or accident. I believe every event has a mission, and for every event, however startling or painful, depend upon it there was a needs-be, or it would not have been. His Royal Highness had crowded into a few years more practical usefulness to his country than many have crowded in many years. He had finished his work; and each of us, you may depend upon it, is immortal till God Almighty has nothing more for us to do. Many of you are old enough to recollect the Princess Charlotte and her dead babe gathered together in the same tomb. That was thought at the time a shock, a disaster that no language could express and no time exhaust. But would any now, would any subject of Queen Victoria wish at this day it had been otherwise? If the Princess Charlotte and her infant had lived England would have been England, but it