

For it is not the Queen alone whom we mourn, but the woman whose sweet, pure life is the best inheritance she leaves behind her. We feel that our loss is a personal one. Our tears are the tribute to a noble character. Though most of us have never seen her, yet outside our own family circle, there is no one in all the world whom we had learned to love so well. In the truest sense she was related to us as the mother of all her people. Her sympathies went out in every direction, especially towards the desolate and oppressed. Her solicitude was constantly bestowed upon the lessening of human pain and the increase of human happiness. Many a humble peasant will recall the soothing voice which knew so well how to speak a word in season, and the winning smile which lit up the darkened home with a ray of benediction. Even though burdened with the weight of years, she maintained to the end her anxious regard for the welfare of her subjects everywhere; and amid all the splendours of royal station refused to shut out the awful spectacle of suffering and death about her. Sharing alike the joys and the sorrows of others, she linked the monarchy to the people in a tie which cannot be broken. And therefore, though in one sense her reign is ended, she does not abdicate the throne which belongs to the queenly nature, around which grateful hearts have twined a wreath of immortelles to keep her memory green forever.

The constitutional freedom which, broadening "from precedent to precedent," has been gradually built up for British subjects through the course of centuries, prevents any sovereign, even if so inclined, from pursuing a policy which is at utter variance with the will of the people. But though our nation is too old to have its destiny determined by any single person, the bulwark of law which now surrounds the meanest subject of the realm does not lessen the effect of good influences from the throne, but rather gives them greater prominence. While the Queen understood her subjects thoroughly, and showed due regard for all their reasonable wishes, her own magnetic personality was the most powerful force in guiding popular sentiment. It is hardly possible to overestimate the value of the ideals which she unconsciously impressed upon the mind of the whole nation. She was the good genius of Britain. Her name was the synonym for all that is just and kindly. She repressed the turbulence of passion and the greed of aggrandizement, and encouraged the growth of reverence, sincerity, and self-control. In any station, her example would have been a blessing to others. In the fierce light which beats upon a throne, it was almost omnipotent in creating a love for truth and righteousness.

She was the Queen of the home. Children and children's children rise up and call her blessed. Her union with the lamented Prince Consort was a union of mutual affection; and when his death made the crown "a lonely splendour," the Queen's chief solace was found in cherishing his dear memory, and in training

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