

THE YOUNG QUEEN.

"This awful responsibility is imposed upon me so suddenly, and at so early a period of my life, that I should feel myself utterly oppressed by the burden, were I not sustained by the hope that Divine Providence, which has called me to this work, will give me strength for the performance of it."—*The Queen's Declaration in Council.*

The shroud is yet unspread
To wrap our crowned dead ;
His soul hath scarcely hearkened for the thrilling word of doom:
And Death, that makes serene
Ev'n brows where crowns have been,
Hath scarcely time to meeten his for silence of the tomb.

St. Paul's king-dirging note
The city's heart hath smote,—
The city's heart is struck with thoughts more solemn than the tone !

A shadow sweeps apace
Before the nation's face,
Confusing, in a shapeless blot, the sepulchre and throne.

The palace sounds with wail,
The courtly dames are pale—
A widow o'er the purple bows, and weeps its splendour dim ;
And we who clasp the boon,
A king for freedom won,
Do feel eternity rise up, between our thanks and him.

And while all things express
All glory's nothingness,
A royal maiden treadeth firm, where *that* departed trod !
The deathly-scented crown
Weighs her shining ringlets down—
But calm she lifts her trusting face, and calleth upon God.

Her thoughts are deep within her—
No outward pageants win her
From memories that in her soul are rolling wave-on wave ;
Her palace walls eering
The dust that was a king—
And cold beneath her tender feet, she feels her father's grave.

And one, as fair as she,
Unrecked of cannot be,
Who held a lifeless babe instead of all a kingdom's worth !
The mourned, blessed one,
Who views Jehovah's throne,
Aye smiling to the angels, that she lost a throne on earth.

And eke our youthful Queen
Remembers what has been,
Her childhood's peace beside the hearth, and sport upon the sod !

Alas ! can others wear
A mother's heart for her ?—
But calm she lifts her trusting face, and calleth upon God.

Yea ! call on God, thou maiden
Of spirit nobly laden,
And leave such happy days behind, for happy-making years !
A nation looks to thee
For steadfast sympathy—
Make room within thy bright clear eyes, for all its gathered tears.

And so the grateful isles
Shall give thee back their smiles ;
And as thy mother joys in thee, in them shalt thou rejoice ;
Rejoice to meekly bow
A somewhat paler brow,
While the King of kings shall bless thee by the British people's voice !

E. B. B.

CHARACTER OF THE LATE KING.

All is now over. The good old King of England is relieved from earthly trouble—from mental anxiety, domestic and political—from bodily suffering, such as it was terrible to witness. Death has done its worst on what was mortal of King William, and the memory of his inoffensive nature will protect that portion of him which bade defiance to death from the shafts of human envy, vengeance, or malignity. The monarch whose loss we now deplore had committed no wrong, had provoked no enemy, and in the tomb need fear no slander. The events of the late King's life afford no fit materials for the biographer. They are already familiar to the whole world, and partake so much of the common-place of history, both individual and political, that if they were now, for the first time, to be made

public, it would be difficult to ingraft upon them any novel or striking interest. The simplicity of William IV.'s career before his accession to the crown corresponds with that of his original mind and disposition. There was no involution or complexity in either. He met with no adventures on a wide scale. He displayed no gross, no great, nor memorable attributes. There was no guile in his nature, nor obliquity in his course. He was not a man of genius nor of superior talent, nor of much refinement, but he was diligent, nay laborious, in his application to that which he conceived it to be his duty to comprehend,—sincere in his declarations, and swayed in his decisions mainly by a regard to right and justice. If the features of his character had little in them of an historical shape or colour, still their bent and texture were indisputably good; he had all those tendencies which contribute to domestic comfort and enjoyment—affectionate to wife and children to brothers and sisters—steady in his attachment to the friends of his early life, and indefatigable in his efforts to serve them, whether by purse or influence. William IV. manifested on the throne the best qualities of a private English gentleman, exercising throughout his reign the most unaffected and liberal hospitality, the most active charity, the most neighbourly kindness, and social cordiality and cheerfulness. He bore himself in every instance like an honest and well-intentioned man—one who, had he done nothing for the cause of public liberty, could, even as an individual of high station in the country, have been ill-spared in times like these—and who well exchanged a title to the admiration of mankind, for an undisputed claim to their esteem and their affections.—*Times.*

o We would not irreverently intrude into the chamber of death, but the parting hour of a good man needs no veil to protect it from the observation of all. His Majesty's death was such as the wisest will wish for himself; such as cannot be described without honour to him whom we have lost—without a melancholy gratification to those who were nearest and dearest to him—without profit to all, to the more prudent as well as to the thoughtless. Though suffering much from pain and exhaustion, the King preserved his faculties unclouded to the last. He died surrounded by his weeping family, and surrendered his generous spirit to "his Father, and our Father; to his God, and our God;" in an humble but assured hope of mercy through the merits of that Mediator who bought him with his blood—Since the day of his happy union with that best of women and of wives, who supported his dying pillow with even more than feminine tenderness and love, the King had progressively advanced in the seriousness of his religious views—until for some years past the considerations of eternity engrossed the whole man, not to the exclusion of secular duties—for such he observed with strict punctuality—but to the sanctification of these duties by making their conscientious discharge, as every pious will man make it, a part of his religion—Even in the most awful crisis of life—on the eve of its termination—the reward of such a state of heart in part descended to support him through the unimaginable change; and it was observed by all around the dying Monarch, that though his body grew more feeble from day to day, and though nature was too manifestly racked by pain, his mind became more active, vigorous, and serene, as if strengthened and illuminated by the dawn of that higher state of peace and joy to which the nearly emancipated spirit was gently approaching. Oh! that men would compare scenes like this with the clouds and the tempests—the hurry, darkness, alarm, of a death-bed repentance. His Majesty was within two months of completing the seventy-second year of his age—within about three weeks of completing the nineteenth year of his marriage—and wanted but six days of having reigned seven years. His Majesty had, by his marriage two children; both died in infancy.—*Standard.*

The best King which the house of Brunswick has given to the British nation yesterday put-off the mortal for the immortal crown. As a Monarch, neither of the preceding four can be for an instant brought into comparison with William the Fourth; nor is it more certain that his personal virtues, his frank and simple manners, and his kindly and amiable intentions towards all, equally distinguished his character from the portraits which history has justly given of his race. He was as far superior as a sovereign to his father, and his father's predecessors, as he was superior as a gentleman, and we need not say as a sovereign also, to his brother whom he succeeded.—*Constitu.*

Of the late King we will only now say that the evil (if any intentional evil be caused) of his reign will be "interred with his bones;" the good, and the incipient means of greater good, which during his sovereignty were attained by the people, "will live for ever."—*True Sun.*

It is from contemporary opinion that the future historian must derive the materials of his judgment upon the character of the Sovereign who lies enshrouded where the royal standard of England droops over the proud battlements of Windsor Castle. May not the chief points of his character as a British King be summed up on the page of history in some such words as the following. Brought up on that element which is the peculiar source of Britain's supremacy, and which is best calculated to render the mind familiar with

danger, the late King, though not possessed of splendid talents, had a vigour of character, a decision, and a manly frankness which could not fail to command the respect, to win the love, and secure the confidence of the people of England. The combined qualities of firmness and conciliation he eminently displayed in his conduct as the ruler of a great nation in times of no ordinary difficulty and peril. He yielded to the popular voice all that it was right and easy to yield, but he had both the enlightened purpose and the fixed resolve to protect the people, even against the impulse of their own passions, by firmly discountenancing their unreflecting demands.—In pursuing the generous purposes of an enlightened patriotism, he knew how to distinguish between the clamour of faction and the reasonable desires of the country, making it the object of a wise solicitude to leave unimpaired to his successors the constitutional grandeur of the throne—the sanctity of the national altars—the independence of the peerage, and the liberties of the people.—*Herald.*

We need not attempt to draw either the private or the public character of a Sovereign so well known to his subjects, and who neither had nor deserved to have one enemy either in his domestic circle or the wide world. No prince who ever sat on the Throne of this or any other kingdom had fewer detractors, and he has gone to his last home universally honoured and beloved. The frank free-hearted manners which distinguished the late Sovereign, previously to his accession to that high dignity, he preserved on the throne; and if he won the hearts of his subjects by the kindness of his disposition, he gained their esteem by his devotion to the public welfare. We have had before one Sovereign who bore, in our estimation, a most enviable title, and it will probably hereafter be assigned to his late Majesty; like Anne, he will be called the "good" King William. However much parties may differ as to the measures which have been passed in his reign, no person will deny that he possessed a steady and unflinching desire to perform his duties, and to promote, to the extent of his means, the happiness of the nation. Nor can any man say that his Majesty has been less successful than the most illustrious of his predecessors. If none of the glare of military glory—if none of the renown which belongs to that profession which he adorned in early life and always loved—was gathered during his short career, it would be difficult to find in the whole history of the monarchy another seven years of greater domestic prosperity, or when greater efforts were made to improve the condition of the great mass of the people. There may be—and it cannot be denied that there are—great differences of opinion as to the effect of those measures; but no man can deny that the great principle which has distinguished the policy of the whole of his Majesty's reign has been to increase the liberty, promote the civilization, and extend the power of the great bulk of the nation. In his time was embodied into a legal form the democratic principle—too long overlooked or decried—of giving political power to those who possess natural power and William IV., honoured as the good King, will be remembered as the Great Reformer. • • • It is said by one of our contemporaries, "that he was not a man of genius nor of superior talent, nor of much refinement, but he was diligent, nay laborious, in his application to that which he conceived it to be his duty to comprehend—sincere in his declarations, and swayed in his decisions mainly by a regard to right and justice." But one species of genius, one superior talent, his Majesty seems to have possessed in a remarkable degree for a Sovereign. He knew how to adapt himself and the principles of his policy to new circumstances. We must, therefore, give his late Majesty great credit for the general tranquility, the greater prosperity, and the improvement, both social and political, for which his reign has been remarkable. What may have been the precise effect of his personal influence we pretend not to decide; but the example of his private life, his liberal hospitality, and his active benevolence, his dislike of intrigues and his hatred of strife, have not been without their influence in preserving and promoting kindly feelings in the highest circles, in assuaging the bitterness of personal and party differences, and in producing that national tranquility which a more ambitious Monarch might have done much to disturb.—*Courier.*

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