

Patriotic Discourse.

By Rev. H. F. Adams, Truro, N. S. (Preached May 21st, and published in the Truro Daily News.)

Text: 1 Peter 2, 17—"Honor the King."

When the Apostle Peter wrote these words, it was an age in which demons reigned in human form, when

"Wealth was a monster gorged
Mid starving populations."

Nevertheless he urged upon his fellow Christians the duty to honor the King. That is, in the Master's own words, to "render unto Cæsar the things that are Cæsar's." It was a hard and bitter thing to honor such a petty King as Herod, whom the angle of the Lord smote for receiving blasphemous adoration; or such Empire Kings as Caligula, Nero and Domitian, whom to receive at death, "Hell enlarged herself."

Turning to the monarch who today rules "a vaster Empire than has been," the subjects of Queen Victoria, find it an easy and pleasing task to do honor to her name. We are so familiar with all the graces for which the name Victoria is synonymous, that we seldom pause to think of them, and thank God for them. This week our noble Queen will celebrate her 80th birthday anniversary, and next month, the 63rd year of her reign. Such a wonderful career. I deem worthy of our earnest study, and trust we may derive some helpful lessons, in the pursuit of those great principles which have governed her life.

When Dukhobours from Russia, and Galicians from Austria, seek for freedom in the dominions of Victoria, that name must mean more to the persecuted of those lands, than the Emperors who reign there. If in India, and Africa, and the Islands of the Sea, the Queen's subjects delight to hymn her praise, her personality must be to them one of perennial and ever-increasing beauty. For woman in those lands, is at a discount. Strange then, passing strange, it must be to the Orientalists mind that a woman, and a little woman, is the Monarch of the vastest Empire and mightiest nation in the world.

When the Duke and Duchess of Kent, were training their only child for the throne, little did they think that she would become such a great and powerful Queen as she is today. "They built better than they knew."

The Queen recently visited the Kensington Palace, her father's home, and as she passed through the rooms where she spent her childhood and girlhood, even she must have wondered how much greater her life has a hundred fold exceeded her parents' most sanguine prophecies!

As we gaze upon the lone widow, in her four score years of life, we can scarcely think it possible, that she was 63 years ago, the timid girl-queen of 17 summers, whom the Archbishop of Canterbury and Lord Chamberlain awakened early on the morning of June 20th, 1837, to notify her of her uncle's death, and her own ascension to the throne.

"The dew was on the summer lawn,
The roses bloomed, and the woods were green,
When forth there came as fresh as dawn,
A maiden of majestic mien.
They girt a crown upon her brow,
They placed a sceptre in her hand,
And loud rang out the nation's vow,
"God guard the lady of the land."

—Austen.

Through all the changes in her home and in her Empire, that one woman has been solitary in grandeur of true wifehood, noble motherhood, and incomparable Queenhood. With a splendid steadfastness of purpose to be faithful to her triple office, she has grown in the affections of her children and her people. The nations of other lands, have paralleled the Britisher's love for Victoria, only by a wholesome fear of that name, so that today she is the best loved and the most feared woman in the world. When a lad of some 14 summers, I remember with what boundless enthusiasm I cheered Her Majesty, when she was driving in state to St. Paul's Cathedral. I was but a sample of every English boy, who has learned the Queen's true character, only to love her. But why should her nearly four hundred millions of subjects love her as they do? Granting the Divine Providences that have been the Nation's dowry, there must be qualities of a personal nature to enshrine her so deeply in the hearts of her subjects.

England had Henrys, Charleses, Jameses, Georges and Williams, but to not one were the English people deeply in love or the foreigner deeply in fear. In most cases, while they had some virtues, their vices overshadowed them, and became more conspicuous, and consequently more generally copied. Whereas Queen Victoria's virtues are not discounted by any vices. I know that the wonderful forward movements in every department of the British nation, during the Queen's reign, have been making history, unparalleled in any similar previous period of time. And I believe that back of all the boundless prosperity, expansion of the Empire have been the eternal purposes of Jehovah.

Yet on comparison of Victoria's character with that of any of her predecessors, I believe that such a woman, with such a character, came "to the Kingdom for such a

time as this." She is the Queen of all the ages, most nearly to perfection, known, and for what she is, and has done, and is doing, we must, we will, we do "Honor the Queen."

1. We honor the Queen for her Purity. Monarchs make their courts reflect their tastes and tempers. Their very position will lend sanction to vice or virtue, and will invite and induce imitation. Diaries and other historical records of bygone reigns, cause the flush to come to the cheeks of Englishmen. But since the Queen sat in the coronation chair in the Abbey of Westminster, her court has been conspicuous for its purity, the reflex of her heart and life. As there has been, never a whisper, reflecting on her fair name, so she would never countenance impurity in her extensive court. The ideal wife, mother and Queen she has been in purity of life, has contributed most powerful to the strong ideal womanhood, the aim of millions of her subjects in her wide dominions.

The Word of God puts a high value on purity. It is a great attribute in the Divine character. A pure heart, a clean heart, are emphasized as receiving the Divine approval, and the issues of such are invariably good, exalting and ennobling to those around. How pure our blessed Saviour was, and how truly has He been the central character of all history. If pure-hearted women are general in a nation, it cannot go wrong, for they must be in communion with the pure Christ, and therefore strong for morality, and righteousness. Englishmen will never know how much, under God, they owe Queen Victoria, for the pure wives and daughters, who now adorn their homes.

2. We honor the Queen for her home life. Her home has always been her happiest place on earth. England's great strength lies in her homes. Her Sovereign sets the happy example of a model home life. The Queen's has always been a true home. The Bible and prayer have always had their right place in her home. Both when Prince Albert was alive, and while she has been a widow. A house may be of costly materials, and furnished with the luxuries from the Orient, but if the Creator is not acknowledged and blessed by its residents, it is not a copy of the Queen's home.

The home I believe God meant to be the model, in miniature, of Heaven. But where God is excluded, the Bible unread, and prayer unheard, it may become the model, in miniature of Hell. Let us see to it, that, with all our desire to honor the Queen, we will not allow our dear Canadian homes to fall below the standard of that at Windsor Castle. For if we do, the Queen, and the Queen's Saviour, will not think our desire to honor her, a very sincere one. An approval of her virtues, and a refusal to imitate them, do not go well together. I beseech you, men and women, hasten and get yours up to the ideal home of our noble Christian Queen. Let not her 80th birthday anniversary pass without a strong effort to truly honor the Queen, in giving Christ and His Word a permanent place in your home.

3. We honor the Queen for her sympathy. She has not been an idle spectator of the woes that have befallen her people. In all her vast realm, millions have been afflicted in one way or other. Yet kind words of condolence, and practical expression in money, have been sent to afflicted communities by Her Majesty. Revelations have been given to her people of the fact, that scarcely any event of joy or sorrow, affecting the nation, escapes the ear of the Queen. Her heart is large enough, and her sympathy wide enough to compass the vast realm, over which she rules with true grace. Famines in India and pit explosions in Wales, accidents on land, and shipwrecks at sea; hospitals for the sick, and founding homes for the waifs, have all felt the touch of her royal sympathy. In all this, we see the training of her pious mother, and we recognize the spirit of the benevolent Christ, who has breathed into her heart His own deep, undying love for humanity. Whether in the sick chamber of her beloved Consort, or in the Children's Hospital in Great Guilford St., whether in requesting the possession of General Gordon's pocket Bible, or in pinning the Victoria Cross on the breast of the Sudan heroes, we behold a modest, yet big-hearted woman, who has well earned the honor we gladly give her today.

4. We honor the Queen because of her recognition of the responsibility attached to her position. One's heart grows sick in reading English history, because of the frequent absence of true majesty from the reigning monarchs. How grossly they used their positions for purely selfish ends, to furnish nauseating pleasures for their time-serving courtiers with no sense of responsibility for the reins of power. The names of her Premiers are much more mentioned in public, than the Queen. But if we knew all the weight of her consent, and all the power of her refusal in the great decisions of her Cabinets, we would find that her hand has made more history than any single human being since she ascended the throne. It is remarkable, nevertheless true, that England's two great Queens, Elizabeth and Victoria, contributed to the growth and greatness of the Empire, more than any two kings in our history. During their reigns, liberty of the people and loyalty to the throne, were, and are, two great features of their reigns, that were the natural

results of sound government at home, and colonization abroad, based on those eternal principles revealed in the Book of God, for the right and the wise government of nations.

As we gaze upon the map and see the world Empire that Britons have reared, it would seem to an ignorant outsider that the lone widow of Windsor Castle could not have much to do with so vast an undertaking. But a knowledge of facts will entirely change such a view. History (and especially as history is embodied in the biographies of statesmen who have occupied great offices of the nation), reveals a personality that has been a strong factor in all the great movements of the past 63 years' work of Empire-building. And while not obtruding her opinions upon the Cabinets that have been in power, she has always made them feel that they were her Executive, and she is their Queen. More than once she has averted war with great nations, by requesting her Premiers to modify their communications with other governments, while corresponding on critical issues of great importance.

5. We honor the Queen because she is a Christian. Her love for the Bible, and her hope in its Saviour; her encouragement to Christianity, and her fidelity to the Protestant faith, have been a tower of strength to the nation, and one of the great causes of its power today.

Surely a Queen of such beautiful virtues, fidelity to principle, and heroic statesmanship, is a special gift from the Almighty Father. And for one who has lived so purely, and reigned so wisely, we feel it an incumbent duty, yea even a joyous privilege, to unite our thanksgiving with 350,000,000 in the Empire, and praise and adore the King of Kings, for His great gift to us, a nation of nations extending from the rivers even unto the ends of the earth.

While we are truly grateful for this noble woman, and all the good influences in the nation, we must not forget that mightier influences have emanated from another throne, which have been all powerful in moulding the national life. Divine elements have been educating the nation up to such an idea of womanhood, motherhood and Queenhood, that the idea became an ideal. This would have made it impossible for a bad woman to have occupied the throne without a rebellion. The 17th century would not put up with the misrule of an unjust King, but beheaded him in Whitehall, and the 19th century would not have tolerated any such manners from a woman. So we are doubly thankful to our Heavenly Father, on the 21st day of May, 1899; first, for the providences which have brought the nation to admire purity, and love goodness in the ruler; and second, for the good woman who has answered the nation's highest expectations of the occupant of the throne.

O King of Kings, whose reign of old
Hath been from everlasting,
Before whose throne their crowns of gold
The white-robed saints are casting;
While all the shining courts on high
With angel songs are ringing,
Oh let thy children venture nigh,
Their lowly homage bringing.

For every heart made glad by Thee,
With thankful praise is swelling,
And every tongue with joy set free,
Its happy theme is telling,
Thou to us hast mindful been,
And lo! we come confessing—
Tis Thou has down'd our noble Queen,
With eighty years of blessing.

Oh, Royal heart, with wide embrace
For all her children yearning;
Oh, happy realm, such mother-grace
With loyal love returning!
Where England's flag flies wide unfurled,
All tyrant wrong repelling;
God made the world a better world
For man's earthly dwelling!
Lead on, O Lord, Thy people still,
New grace and wisdom giving,
To larger love and purer will,
And nobler heights of living,
And, while of all Thy love below
They chant the gracious story,
Oh, teach them first Thy Christ to know
And magnify His glory.

—Bishop of Wakefield.

Gethsemane.

When my Saviour in the garden
Sweating drops of blood I see,
Oh, the anguish that comes o'er me
That he sweat those drops for me.

One disciple came betraying;
Three, hard by, were sleeping sound,
As the sacred man of sorrows
Bowed in anguish to the ground.

When I hear his "Abba Father,"
"Let this bitter cup depart,"
Then I know my sins and sorrows
Were the griefs that pierced his heart.

There he labors broken-hearted,
Till we hear, "Thy will be done,"
With an angel from the Father
Strength and victory have come.

Though betrayed, despised, forsaken,
He, the Son of God and man,
Loving us through all the ages
Goes to consummate his plan.

Fragrant garden, place of sorrow,
Place of blessed victory,
May my heart grow pure and stronger
As I walk with Christ in thee.

CHO.: Man of sorrows, man of sorrows,
Help me bear my cross with thee.

Yarmouth, N. S.

—M. R. FLETCHER.