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THE DEATH OF THE QUEEN.

AN EMPIRE BEREAVED.

No words ever before carried grief to so many millions as "The Queen is dead." The British Empire is in tears at the loss of its beloved Sovereign Lady, the Queen. Civilized humanity, indeed, in all parts of the world, mourns the loss of the noblest, sweetest, wisest woman who ever occupied an illustrious position. Other Queens and Empresses there have been whose lives have made their memories immortal with honour, but to none of them could be applied the most sacred and most tender of human titles as it is to "Victoria, Queen and Empress," who was the loving Mother of Her people; no less than their wise Sovereign, as Ben Johnson says, she was,

"Of greatest blood, yet, more good than great."

History teems with illustrations of the fear felt by monarchs lest their dignity should be disparaged by coming too closely into touch with their subjects. Queen Victoria demonstrated the folly of such apprehension. The closer she came into contact with her people the more she manifested her sympathy with the joys, the sorrows, the trials, the bereavements, the domestic life of her subjects, the higher she rose in reverence, the deeper became the loyalty of her people to her throne. When she visited the "Black Country," as South Staffordshire is called, those colliers who were unable to join in giv-

ing her a welcome in the streets of Wolverhampton all gathered in scores at the pits they worked in, where deep down in the dark hollow of a coal shaft they sang, "God Save the Queen!" When, time and time again, the Queen sent a loving message to the widows and orphans of colliers killed by a fire-damp explosion, it was recorded, and has been told us by eye-witnesses, that nothing said or done to comfort the bereaved gave them such consolation as the Queen's motherly sympathy. Weeping over the death of His friend has inspired more worship of the God-Man than all his "mighty works." So, while history will have a brilliant page in recording the deeds of statesmanlike wisdom and sagacity which have given Queen Victoria the chief dignity amongst great sovereigns, history will have a still more shining chapter when it sets forth her womanly virtues, her womanly tenderness, that inspired the people with a passionate devotion towards their Queen, which has no parallel in human annals. Never was a monarch more fortunate in the circumstances of his life before assuming the sceptre than was Queen Victoria. Some will question this, as they may point to the death of her father ere she knew him, to her mother's poverty and isolation from the people, whose language she spoke not, and to the scandals associated with her relatives. But, the eigh-