

'Midst earthly monarchs found
Greatest and Best.

Long let her people share
Here her maternal care ;
Long 'neath her smile
May every good increase,
May every evil cease,
And freedom, health, and peace
Dance round our isle.

Under Thy mighty wings
Keep her, O King of Kings !
Answer her prayer.
Till she shall hence remove,
Up to Thy courts above,
To dwell in 'ght and love,
Evermore there."

THE HOME AT BALMORAL.

GRACE GREENWOOD tells a Balmoral incident which touchingly showed the womanly tenderness which has endeared the Queen to all our hearts :—

"When I was in England, I heard several pleasant anecdotes of the Queen and her family from a lady who had received them from her friend, the governess of the Royal children. This governess, a very interesting young lady, was the orphan daughter of a Scottish clergyman. During the first year of her residence at Windsor her mother died. When she first received the news of her serious illness, she applied to the Queen to resign her situation, feeling that to her mother she owed even a more sacred duty than to her Sovereign. The Queen, who had been much pleased with her, would not hear of her making this sacrifice, but said, in a tone of the most gentle sympathy, 'Go at once to your mother, child; stay with her as long as she needs you, and then come back to us. I will keep your place for you. Prince Albert and I will hear the children's lessons; so in any event let your mind be at rest in regard to your pupils.'"

"The governess went, and had several weeks of sweet, mournful communion with her dying mother; then, when she had seen that dear form laid to sleep under the daisies in the old kirk-yard, she returned to the palace, where the loneliness of Royal grandeur would have oppressed her sorrowing heart beyond endurance, had it not been for the gracious womanly sympathy of the Queen, who came every day to her school-room, and in considerate kindness of her young pupils.

"A year went by; the first anniversary of her great loss dawned upon her, and she was overwhelmed as never before by the utter loneliness of her grief. She felt that no one in all that great household knew how much goodness and sweetness passed out of mortal

life that day a year ago, or could give her one tear, one thought to that grave under the Scottish daisies.

"Every morning before breakfast, which the elder children took with their father and mother, in the pleasant crimson parlour looking out on the terrace at Windsor, her pupils came to the schoolroom for a brief religious exercise. This morning the voice of the governess trembled in reading the Scripture for the day; some words of Divine tenderness were too much for her poor, lonely, grieving heart—her strength gave way, and laying her head on the desk before her, she burst into tears, murmuring, 'Oh, mother, mother!'

"One after another the children stole out of the room and went to their mother, to tell her how sadly their governess was feeling; and that kind-hearted monarch, exclaiming, 'Oh, poor girl! it is the anniversary of her mother's death,' hurried to the schoolroom, where she found Miss — struggling to regain her composure.

"My poor child,' she said, 'I am sorry the children disturbed you this morning. I meant to have given orders that you should have this day entirely to yourself. Take it as a sad and sacred holiday—I will hear the lessons of the children.' And then she added, 'To show you that I have not forgotten this mournful anniversary, I bring you this gift,' clasping on her arm a beautiful mourning bracelet with a locket for her mother's hair, marked with the date of her mother's death.

"What wonder that the orphan kissed, with tears, this gift and the more than Royal hand that bestowed it!"

AN INCIDENT OF THE QUEEN'S EARLY DAYS.

ECONOMY and self-control were early lessons taught her. On one occasion it became known at Tunbridge Wells that the Princess had been unable to buy a box at the bazaar because she had spent her money. At this bazaar she had bought presents for almost all her relations, and had laid out her last shilling, when she remembered one cousin more, and saw a box, for half a crown, which would suit him. The shop people, of course, placed the box with the other purchases, but the little lady's governess admonished them by saying, "No; you see the Princess has not got the money; therefore, of course, she cannot have the box." This being perceived, the next offer was to lay by the box till it could be purchased, and the answer was, "Oh, well, if you will be so good as to do that." On Quarter-day, before seven in the morning, the Princess appeared on her donkey to claim her purchase.