

world the character and influence of the Prince Consort are understood, there will be regret and pity, astonishment and speculation, to the full as much as among ourselves. But let us for a moment, at least, forget, even at this critical time, the world and its doings, and, thinking only of the bereaved wife and the fatherless children who are mourning round the bed of untimely death, let us pay our tribute of sympathy and condolence. The expression of national sorrow is not a vain ceremony in the case of such a man as has just departed. Nor is it, on the other hand, a weak yielding to emotions which are useless, for a people is united and purified by a common regret. For Her Majesty the deepest sympathy will be felt on every side. The life of the Queen and her husband, for nearly twenty-two years, was so calm and happy and domestic, that we had been accustomed to look upon them as realizing that ideal of earthly happiness which, it is said, seldom falls to the lot of Princes. Until within a few months, no severe family loss had troubled the Queen. All her children had lived; she had seen her eldest daughter married to the heir of a great monarchy; another daughter was about to form an alliance prompted by mutual affection; the country, which on her accession was still shaken by political tempests, had become quiet and loyal to a degree which the most hopeful could not have expected; and the Queen had, moreover, the happiness of feeling that in every province of the empire her personal character and that of her Consort were credited with many of the blessings which her subjects enjoyed. The death of the Duchess of Kent, though a heavy blow, was not calculated long to affect the Royal happiness. The departure of the aged is an event to which the mind gradually reconciles itself, and, happily for mankind, new affections spring up to obliterate the trace of past griefs. But in the loss of her devoted husband a dreadful blow has indeed fallen upon our Sovereign. The world in general knew that in public affairs Her Majesty consulted her husband, but it hardly appreciated how constant were the services, how unwearied the attentions, which this position of the Prince Consort involved. For years he hardly ever stirred from the side of the Queen; and, knowing how much the direction of a large family, the management of a great Court, and the administration of public affairs must tax her strength, he gave her his help with an energy, an acuteness, a tenderness, and a solicitude of which there are few examples. He has been cut off just when his mind was most vigorous, his experience verging on completeness; when his children are at the age when a father's authority is more than ever necessary; and, by a singular fatality, at a moment when the country is threatened with a most terrible conflict.

PARTICULARS OF THE SAD EVENT.

It is no intrusive curiosity which the nation feels with respect to the last days of the Prince Consort, and it is with no desire to satisfy such a curiosity that we endeavour to give some account of that sad time; but the sorrows of Her Majesty have called forth such deep sympathy that it is but due to the public to acquaint them with events in which they take so lively an interest. We are the more willing to do so, since, with the announcement of the Prince's death, we can happily give the assurance of our bereaved Queen's health being good, and that she supports her great affliction with admirable fortitude. The Prince Consort was taken ill some twelve days since. Symptoms of fever, accompanied by general indisposition, made their appearance. For some days the complaint was not considered to be serious; but from the early part of last week the medical men in attendance, and the persons about the Court, began to feel anxious. It became evident that, even if the disorder did not take a dangerous turn, a debilitating sickness would at least confine the Prince for some time to the palace. It need not be said that no statement was made which could unnecessarily alarm Her Majesty or the public. It was not till Wednesday, when the fever had gained head and the patient was much weakened, that the first bulletin was issued, and even then it was said that the symptoms were not unfavourable. In short, it was considered to be an ordinary though severe case of gastric fever, from which a person of the Prince's age and strength, aided by the skill of the first physicians in the country, might be reasonably expected to recover. It is said that as early as Wednesday morning the Prince expressed his belief that he should not recover. On Thursday no material change took place in his condition, and on Friday morning the Queen took a drive, having at that time no suspicion of immediate danger. When, however, Her Majesty returned to the Castle the extremities of the patient were already cold, so sudden had been the fresh access of the disorder. The alarming bulletin of Friday was then published. From that time the state of the Prince was one of the greatest danger. On Friday evening it was thought probable that he would not survive the night, and the Prince of Wales, who had been telegraphed for to Cambridge, arrived at the Castle by special train about 3 o'clock on Saturday morning. All night the Prince continued very ill, but in the forenoon of Saturday a change

for the better took place. Unhappily, it was only the rally which so often precedes dissolution, but it gave great hopes to the eminent physicians in attendance, and was communicated to the public as soon as possible. The ray of hope was fated soon to be quenched. About 4 o'clock in the afternoon a relapse took place, and the Prince, who from the time of his severe seizure on Friday had been sustained by stimulants, began gradually to sink. It was half-past 4 when the last bulletin was issued, announcing that the patient was in a critical state. From that time there was no hope. When the improvement took place on Saturday it was agreed by the medical men that if the patient could be carried over one more night his life would in all probability be saved. But the sudden failure of vital power which occurred in the afternoon frustrated these hopes. Congestion of the lungs, the result of complete exhaustion, set in, the Prince's breathing became continually shorter and feebler. Quietly and without suffering he continued slowly to sink, so slowly that the wrists were pulseless long before the last moment had arrived, when, at a few minutes before eleven, he ceased to breathe, and all was over. He was sensible, and knew the Queen to the last. An hour after and the solemn tones of the great bell of St. Paul's—never tolled except on the death of a member of the Royal family—told all the citizens how irreparable has been the loss of their beloved Queen, how great the loss to the country.

AFFECTIONATE SOLICITUDE OF THE QUEEN AND HER CHILDREN.

It must have cheered the last moments of the illustrious patient to see his wife and nearly all his children round his bed. The Princess Royal, who is at Berlin, was prevented by recent severe indisposition from travelling. Prince Alfred is serving on board his ship on the other side of the Atlantic; but the Prince of Wales and the Princess Alice were by his side, together with several of the younger members of the family.—The Queen's attention to her royal consort has been most exemplary and unceasing. As his disorder approached its crisis, the Prince could not bear her to leave the room, and was impatient for her return. The Queen and the Princess Alice sat up with him the whole of Friday night. About 3 o'clock they were joined by the Prince of Wales, who remained with them during the rest of their mournful vigil. A gentleman who has seen the corpse, informs me that the features have more than the usual pallor of death. The face, always composed and statuesque in expression, is wonderfully calm, placid, and peaceful in death. It is as if the figure had been suddenly transmuted into the whitest alabaster. Of the devotion and strength of mind shown by the Princess Alice all through these trying scenes it is impossible to speak too highly. Her Royal Highness has, indeed, felt that it was her place to be a comfort and support to her mother in this affliction and to her dutiful care we may perhaps owe it that the Queen has borne her loss with exemplary resignation, and a composure which under so sudden and so terrible a bereavement could not have been anticipated.

TOUCHING, AND NOBLE CONDUCT OF THE QUEEN.

This fact will, we are sure, give the greatest satisfaction to the country, and we may add that, after the death of the Prince, the Queen, when the first passionate burst of grief was over, called her children around her, and, with a calmness which gives proof of great natural energy, addressed them in solemn and affectionate terms, which may be considered as indicating the intentions of a sovereign who feels that the interests of a great nation depend on her firmness. Her Majesty declared to her family that, although she felt crushed by the loss of one who had been her companion through life, she knew how much was expected of her, and she accordingly called on her children to give her their assistance, in order that she might do her duty to them and to the country. That Her Majesty may have health and strength to fulfil these noble intentions, and that she may live many years in placid cheerfulness and peace of mind, alleviating the recollection of her loss by sharing the happiness of her children, will be the earnest prayer of all her subjects.

CHARACTER AND INFLUENCE OF THE PRINCE CONSORT.

The nation has just sustained the greatest loss that could possibly have fallen upon it. Prince Albert, who a week ago gave every promise that his valuable life would be lengthened to a period long enough to enable him to enjoy, even in this world, the fruit of a virtuous youth and a well-spent manhood, the affection of a devoted wife and of a family of which any father might well be proud,—this man, the very centre of our social system, the pillar of our State, is suddenly snatched from us, without even warning sufficient to prepare us for a blow so abrupt and so terrible. We shall need time fully to appreciate the magnitude of the loss we have sustained. Every day will make us more conscious of it. It is not merely a prominent figure that will be missed on all public occasions; not merely a death that will cast a permanent gloom over a reign hitherto