

French motto which tells us that *noblesse oblige*, that did our Queen. Generous in the original and secondary sense of that word, of exalted lineage and of selfless character, she exhibited (as we know so well) that tender consideration for others, that gracious and delicate sympathy which made and kept the hearts of her people irrevocably hers. That she entered into their joys and sorrows, that she was grateful for their sympathy in her own, that she was, in a word, their true *friend*;—these are the commonplaces of the last sad days. It well befitted the transparent simplicity of her character, that the Prince, who, two or three hours before she died, had announced, “The life of our beloved Queen is in the greatest danger,” should announce her death by saying not “the Queen,” but “My beloved mother has passed away.” It is just a glimpse into the character of that home circle of which she was the centre, and the influence of which has done so much to keep up the standard of English family life.

It seems strange (as we look back upon it) that