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"Not slothful in business: fervent in spirit."

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Poetry.

God save the Queen.

The following hymn, composed for the occasion the Rev. Newman Hall, was sung on Monday evening, December 16th, at the weekly meeting of the working-classes, held at Surrey Chapel (formerly Rowland Hill's in London):—

"God save our gracious Queen!
Long live our noble Queen!
God save the Queen!
Lord, heal her bleeding heart,
Assuage its grievous smart,
Thy heavenly peace impart,
God save the Queen!"

"Our Royal widow bless!
God guard the fatherless!
God save the Queen!
Shield them with loving care,
Their mighty grief we share,
Lord, hear the people's prayer,
God save the Queen!"

"O Lord our God arise!
Bless England's enemies!
On Thee we call!
Let sorrow whisper Peace,
Bid wrong and anger cease,
Let truth and love increase,
Make evil fail!"

"In this our Nation's need,
With Thee we humbly plead!
God bless our Queen!
Her life-woe sanctify,
Her loss untold supply,
Thyself be ever nigh
To save our Queen!"

Miscellaneous.

Death of the Prince Consort.

Since our last issue we have received farther particulars of the death of Prince Albert. The following from the *Times* will be read with deep interest:—

"We believe," it says, "that the Prince himself had for some days a melancholy conviction that his end was at hand. The recent death of his relative the King of Portugal from a similar disorder is understood to have had an unfortunate influence upon him, and possibly assisted the progress of the malady. It is said that as early as Wednesday morning the Prince expressed his belief that he should not recover. 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, and he expired without pain at a few minutes before eleven o'clock. He was sensible, and knew the Queen to the last."

It must have cheered the last moments of the illustrious patient to see his wife and nearly all his children around his bed. The Princes Royal, who is at Berlin, was prevented by recent severe indisposition from travelling, and, indeed, the death of the Prince followed too soon on the discovery of his danger for such a journey to have availed her. 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 young members of the family. 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.

"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 attentions of a Sovereign who feels that the interests of a great nation depend on her firmness. Her Majesty declared to her family that, though 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 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."

A letter from Windsor, dated on Sunday night, appearing in *The Manchester Guardian*, differs in several particulars from the above accounts. The writer says:—

"Her Majesty bears up with considerable fortitude. To one who spoke to her of resignation this morning, her Majesty replied, through her tears, 'I suppose I must not fret too much, for many poor women have to go through the same trials.' Last night, about half-past eight o'clock, when no hope remained, her Majesty and her children were admitted into the chamber of death to take a last earthly farewell of the Prince. All were present save the Crown Princess of Prussia, Prince Alfred, and Prince Leopold. The scene was intensely painful and affecting. The Princess Alice was carried from the chamber in a state of hysterical agitation, and when the fatal news was communicated to her she was seized with a rigidity of the nerves and temporary insensibility which alarmed the attendants. The grief of her Majesty and the Royal children was scarcely less intense. At ten o'clock, General Biddulph, master of the household, entered the Prince's chamber. The Prince did not know him. A state of coma had supervened, which continued until death; and in about an hour the sufferer ceased to breathe. "The Prince's sufferings during the last day or two of his life are said to have been agonising. When an attempt was made to lift him, or move his position, his groans were distressing to hear. During the latter part of yesterday his weakness was so great that he could not raise his head from his pillow."

"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 three 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."

"The Princess Royal was, it is said, prevented from obeying her desire to receive a parent's dying blessing by her approaching *accouchement*. The King of the Belgians has been urged to visit the royal mourners, and is expected in the course of a day or two. Prince Albert's brother, the reigning Duke of Saxe-Coburg, and his sister, have also been invited to the house of mourning."

"The Lord Chamberlain arrived at Windsor to-day, and immediately proceeded to make the arrangements necessary for the funeral. The restoration of the Waterloo Gallery was actively proceeding under the direction of the Prince Consort. Orders have of course been given to countermand those and other works."

"It appears that Prince Albert has not been in a good state of health since his return from Scotland. His illness dates, however, from his visit to the Prince of Wales at Cambridge, about a month ago, when he went out shooting, got wet through, and, it is said, was imprudent enough to sit in his wet clothes. The private apartments and corridors at Windsor Castle are, I hear, kept at a temperature of about 60°, and hence the Prince took with him to Cambridge a susceptibility to cold which rendered any long exposure imprudent, if not dangerous. About a fortnight since the Queen and Prince Consort reviewed the Eton School Volunteer Rifle Corps. The rain fell fast during the ceremony, and the Prince was seized on the ground with pains in the back, resembling an attack of lumbago. He became feverish, and complained of pains in his limbs. Confinement to his room was ordered. Gastric fever supervened, and wasted his strength. Typhoid fever followed, and his five physicians were unable to make head against this combination of maladies. I hear that Sir James Clark, a week ago, prophesied that last night would be the crisis of the patient's disorder. Sir James and Dr. Jenner remain at the Castle, as a matter of caution. Dr. Jenner is an eminent authority in cases of fever, but it is consolatory to know that there is nothing infectious in the disease which carried off the Prince."

"The marriage of the Princess Alice will be, it is believed, postponed for another year."

The funeral of the Prince was fixed for Monday 23d, in St. George's Chapel, Windsor. The "Royal Vault" in which the body of the Prince would be deposited, has not been opened, except for the funeral of the Queen Dowager, since the death of William

IV. Three gates close the entrance to this final resting-place of departed Royalty, the keys of which are kept by the Sovereign, the Lord Chamberlain, and the Dean of the Chapels Royal. According to custom, the body, would be interred in four coffins, the inner one or shell being of polished mahogany cased outside with lead, then an outer, plain, but very massive coffin of mahogany; over all comes, the State coffin or case, of crimson velvet and with massive silver gilt ornaments. On the leaden coffin is a silver plate, engraved with the style and titles of the deceased Prince. The outer mahogany coffin would simply bear a plate with his name and the date of his birth and death. On the State coffin would be the customary silver gilt plate bearing an inscription similar to that on the leaden coffin.

On the 18th according to the custom observed on the decease of the Kings of England, the body of his late Royal Highness was dressed in field marshal's uniform, and placed in the shell, when, by command of her Majesty, those of the Royal household who might desire were permitted to take a last farewell of their Royal master, and in the evening the body was soldered down. On the leaden coffin is a massive silver plate, with the following inscription:—

"Depositum
Illustriissimi et Celsissimi Alberti,
Principis Consortis,
Ducis Saxonie,
de Saxe-Coburg et Gothia Principis,
Nobilissimi Ordinis Perseculidis Equitis,
Augustissimae et Potentissimae Victoriae Reginae
Conjugis percarissimi.
Obiit die decimo quarto Decembris, MDCCCLXI,
Auno aetatis suae XLIII."

The *Post* says, that previous to the closing of the coffin enclosing the remains of the Prince Consort, a wreath of flowers made by the Princess Alice was placed over the corpse and a miniature portrait of Her Majesty.

THE FUNERAL CEREMONY.

The official programme of the funeral ceremony has been issued. The Prince of Wales, as chief mourner, will be accompanied by Prince Arthur, followed by the Duke of Saxe-Coburg, the Duke of Cambridge, the Crown Prince of Prussia, the Duke de Brabant, and the Count de Flanders, Prince Louis of Hess, the Prince of Leiningen. In the procession from the Castle the hearse will be followed by a carriage of the Queen, and a carriage of the Prince of Wales, the Duke of Cambridge and Duchess of Cambridge, each drawn by six horses. Preceding the hearse will be eight mourning coaches, each drawn by four horses conveying the officers of the late Prince Consort's household, and immediately preceding the hearse, a carriage of Her Majesty's drawn by six horses, conveying Earl Spencer and Lord G. Lennox, the former bearing the Crown, and the latter the Baton of his late Royal Highness. The hearse, drawn by six horses, will be attended by an escort of the Life Guards.

"The Lord is my Shepherd."

BY REV. CHARLES STANFORD.

The man who uttered these words has now spent thirty centuries in heaven. Thirty centuries have taken their flight since the lips of "the sweet singer of Israel" trembled, and mouldered, and mingled with the dust of death. Ages upon ages have elapsed since even the last relic or trace of his material life vanished from this earth, and since it was possible to touch the harp from whose strings his fingers swept celestial melody; to grasp the tattered banner which he was wont "to lift up in the name of the Lord;" to see the book of the law which "he made his meditation day and night;" to mark the rift in the palace wall where once hung and quivered Saul's javelin, aimed at David's heart; or to stand in a time-worn chamber at Jerusalem, and say, Here his beautiful and holy spirit passed away from earth to join the "harps," amidst the mighty thunderings of music within the veil!

Yet, child of God, although this hymn is old, and was old even when Homer wrote his poetry, or Solon gave his laws, like the organ around you, it is always new. You will not say of a single sentence it contains, "It is out of date, it is unsuited to the life of an Englishman in the nineteenth century; and

besides this, all its meaning is known to the uppermost, all its vital spirit spent, and it has no longer power to move me." Had it been inspired this very morning, it could not have had the charm of more dewy freshness; it could not have been more quickening, nor could it have been more exquisitely fitted to express your own best and deepest life. The solid facts of true theology, and the effect they have upon the heart, can never become antiquated; and because it sets forth some of the most gladdening of these with brevity, yet in perfection, it has an immortal novelty—it is a poem "incorruptible, undefiled, and that fadeth not away."—we may apply to it, and for the same reasons, the epithet applied to the praise of the glorified, and call it through ages, "A new song." O sing unto the Lord this new song!

The fundamental idea of the psalm is contained, and its key-note struck on this sentence, "The Lord is my shepherd, I shall not want."

It states a fact in David's spiritual life,— "The Lord is my shepherd." In studying this statement we must first endeavour to identify the Personage it sets forth. Two titles are included in his appellation,—Lord and Shepherd. Who is He? We ought to know Him; and if we live and die not knowing Him, we must live and die among the lost. Let us enter "the House of the Interpreter," and ask Jesus Christ. If we do, we shall hear Him, say "I am the good Shepherd, and I know my sheep, and am known of mine." The term Lord points to divine perfection; for it would be high treason to call any created intelligence Lord of the Spirit. The term Shepherd points to a mediatorial relationship, for it describes the office of a Saviour. Only when we know "God in Christ," do we know Him as at once Lord and Shepherd.

The Lord—the holy, holy, holy Lord, before the burning beam of whose omnipotent holiness no sinful thing can stand, and at the dazzle of whose enthroned perfections the very seraphim of glory do bow and veil their faces—could not, without a mediator, admit to the participation of the joys that flow from his presence, a race like ours,—creatures who by disobedience have forfeited all claim to their possessions, and by pollution all capacity for their enjoyment; therefore, in the fulness of time, He whom we call Jesus Christ came forth from the divine Essence,—came forth divine, yet visible in human form, to minister as the one mediating agent between holy divinity and fallen humanity; the Root, yet the offspring of David; the Lord, yet the Shepherd of the soul. These truths, which we know in the form of history, the Psalmist only knew in the form of prophecy. The Gospels and Epistles were not in David's Bible, and we must not ascribe to him that precise knowledge of the Mediator which was impossible in his day; but he was mysteriously moved to utter words that ring with rich evangelical music, words adapted to express the joy of his own confidence in Jehovah, yet also fraught with meanings, some of which perhaps he only dimly saw, and which could only be fully known in after ages,—words intended to fit the thoughts of Christians when speaking of Christ, for we, explaining these words of the Old Testament by the discoveries of the New, know that the Lord our Shepherd is not the Father, "dwelling in the light unapproachable," but the Son, "God manifest in the flesh."

Let us next seek to understand the mediatorial office which this statement sets in view. What is meant when the Lord is represented as a shepherd? Forget yourself and your surroundings—live with David and look into his spirit,—try, by sympathy, to find the most natural and likely processes of the train of thought which led him thus to speak of God, and you may thus be best assisted to find the true import of his expression. He had himself been a shepherd, and though now he was a king, he still loved the simplicities of a shepherd's life. For the moment he often fancied himself a child again, singing among the hills of Bethlehem; he lived once more in the old times of his life, and looked wistfully back on the old scenes—scenes so soft with peace, so bright with spiritual sunshine, and so clear from weary care, that they seemed like a dream of heaven. Recollections of those bygone days