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DROPS OF HONEY.

BY MRS. ANNA L. ANGIER.

Drops of honey! let them fall,
From the lips, and from the pen;
Scatter them at sorrow's call;
Stay not, asking where or when?
Let them fall,—these drops of honey!
The poor need them, who've no money.

Drops of honey! Human bees
Cluster round us, daily, craving;
Just one drop—one sweet heart's ease,
For him who life's bleak storm is braving.
Then let fall these drops of honey;
They may prize them, who have money.

Drops of honey!—kindly words;
Haste to breathe them, every hour,—
Sweeter than the song of birds,
Rich and poor both feel their power.
And all can give these drops of honey,
Which some hearts value more than money.

QUEEN VICTORIA.

On the 7th of April, another son was born to Queen Victoria; which makes the number of sons and daughters, in the Royal family of England, equal,—eight in all. The usual congratulatory addresses were voted to Her Majesty, by both Houses of Parliament, on the announcement of the event. *The Times*, however, we are told, is constrained to admit, in not exactly so many words, but in substance, that there are so many princes and princesses already, that the birth of another is "an event that can scarcely be received as one of great political importance." It assumes that it will nevertheless be felt as "a private joy at every fireside."

The occasion seems, therefore, not unsuitable for bringing to the notice of our readers in the domestic circle, some passages from an interesting sketch of this amiable and exemplary Queen, written by Mrs. Sarah J. Hale, for the *Woman's Record*, and quoted in the *Ladies Repository*, for this month. The sketch embraces something relating to three generations. Morally viewed, indeed, the Mother of the Queen, the Duchess of Kent, is the principle-figure of the group:

"VICTORIA, the reigning Queen of Great Britain and Ireland, was born at Kensington, Palace, May 24, 1819. Her father was Edward, Duke of Kent, fourth son of George III., and her mother was Victoria Maria Louisa, daughter of the Saxe-Coburg. Left a widow when her delicate infant was but eight months old, the Duchess of Kent devoted herself to the great purpose of training her daughter to be worthy of the crown which it seemed probable that she might wear. Queen Victoria is, therefore, the exponent of female nature rightly cultivated for the highest station a mortal can inherit by birth. The means by which this instruction was perfected, and the results to humanity, are studies for the statesman, philosopher, and Christian.

In our brief sketch we shall only allude to some of the seemingly small circumstances; yet really great events, because influencing a mind that was to have a vast influence on other minds. The ordering and training of Queen Victoria was entirely the work of her wise hearted mother, and chiefly accomplished by female agencies. That her education was of the highest and most perfect order for her station, there are ample proofs; it has given to the greatest monarchy in the world the best sovereign the world contains; the best of her own royal line; the best, morally speaking, that ever sat on England's throne. More than this, Victoria was trained to perform all her duties; she is an accomplished lady, as perfect in her feminine as in her queenly character; a dutiful daughter; a loving wife; a watchful mother; a kind mistress; a generous benefactor; an exemplary Chris-

tian. There are no startling contrasts, no weak inconsistencies in her conduct. Such uniform adherence to the right and proper, under circumstances when selfish propensities are so often stimulated and so easily gratified, must be the result of the conscientious principle early and unceasingly cultivated. In this lies the germ of all moral goodness and the element of all true greatness. From conscientiousness, enlightened by the divine precepts, are educed the virtues of obedience, temperance, truth, justice, mercy, prudence, fidelity, benevolence, and self-control; while the sweet feelings of love, hope, and faith, whose union and exaltation form the crowning grace of piety, owe their best and holiest charm to the same principle of right. Let us see how the teachings of a mother could thus lead her child in the way of righteousness, whose end is always happiness. Before the birth of this precious child, the Duchess of Kent had shown, in the previous circumstances of her life, and particularly in the personal sacrifices and risks she endured, when, leaving her own home in Germany, she hastened to England, so that her offspring might be British born, her deep devotion to duty, and that innate wisdom which has guided her through every task and trial. The Duchess of Kent nursed her infant at her own bosom; always attended on the bathing and dressing; and, as soon as the little girl could sit alone, she was placed at a small table beside her mother's at her meals, yet never indulged in any except the prescribed simple kinds of food. Thus were the sentiments of *obedience, temperance, and self-control* early inculcated and brought into daily exercise.

The Duke of Kent died in debt for money borrowed of his friends. The Duchess instructed the little Princess concerning these debts; and encouraged her to lay aside portions of money, which might have been expended in the purchase of toys, as a fund to pay these demands against her deceased father. Thus were awakened and cultivated those noble virtues, justice, fortitude, fidelity, prudence; with that filial devotion which is the germ of patriotism. And thus, throughout all the arrangements during the first seven years, the order, the simplicity, the conscientiousness of the teacher, were moulding the ductile and impressible mind and heart of the pupil, to follow after wisdom and do the right. Love, in her mother's form, was ever around the little Princess; the counsels and examples of that faithful mentor, like an inspiration, served to lift up the young soul to have hopes in God and faith in the Lord Jesus Christ.

Well was it that the Duke of Kent left his wife sole guardian over their child. The Duchess could arrange the whole manner of Victoria's education and superintend it.—She did do this. From the day of her husband's death till Victoria was proclaimed Queen, the Duchess of Kent never separated herself from her daughter. They slept in the same apartment; the first lessons were given by maternal lips, and when careful teachers were employed, still the mother was ever present, sharing the amusements and encouraging the exercises and innocent gaiety of the child. Thus was Victoria trained. Her intellectual education was as thorough as her physical and moral. From her cradle she was taught to speak three languages—English, German, and French. In her fifth year, her mother chose as preceptor for the Princess, the Rev. George Davys; now, through the gratitude of his pupil, Bishop of Peterboro. In the co-operation afforded by this gentleman with the wise plans of the Duchess for her daughter's instruction, he evinced great excellence of moral character, and his faithfulness was well rewarded. The Duchess confided in him fully. When the Princess became heir-presumptive to the throne, and it was in-

timated to her mother that some distinguished prelate should be appointed instructor, and Earl Gray named the Bishop of Lincoln, then was the conscientious and truly noble mind of the Duchess displayed. She expressed her perfect approval of Dr. Davys as her daughter's tutor, and declined any change; but hinted, that if a dignified clergyman were indispensable to fill this important office, there would be no objection, if Dr. Davys received the preferment he had always well merited. He was soon afterward made Dean of Chester. Such traits deserve notice, because illustrative of the good influence which surrounded the young Princess, and also because they exhibit the constancy of woman's esteem when gained by worthy conduct.

Besides her preceptor, Victoria had an excellent instructress, the Baroness Lehzen, whose services were likewise retained through the whole term of her education; and the long harmony so happily maintained between the mother and her auxiliaries, in this important work of preparing a sovereign to be worthy of a throne, is an example worth consideration by those who would seek the best models for private education.

It has been stated repeatedly, and never contradicted, that the Princess Victoria was not aware of her claims on the succession till a little before the death of her uncle, George IV. The Duchess had thus carefully guarded her child from the pernicious flattery of inferiors, and kept her young heart free from hopes or wishes which the future might have disappointed. When the accession of King William placed her next the throne, she had completed her eleventh year, and evinced abilities and possessed accomplishments very rare for that tender age in any rank of life, says an English author. 'She spoke French and German with fluency, and was acquainted with Italian; she had made some progress in Latin, being able to read Virgil and Horace with ease; she had commenced Greek and studied mathematics, and evinced peculiar aptness for that science of reality; indeed, in all the sciences connected with numbers, the royal pupil showed great skill and powers of reason.' She had also made good proficiency in music and drawing; in both of which arts she afterwards became quite accomplished. Thus happily engaged in acquiring knowledge of every kind necessary for her royal station, among which the knowledge of the people was not neglected, nor the arts, sciences, and employments which most conduce to the prosperity and advancement of a nation, this young Princess passed the intervening years till her majority, May 24, 1837. The day was kept as a general holiday throughout the kingdom. The city of London voted addresses of congratulation to the Princess Victoria and the Duchess of Kent on that occasion; which we notice in order to give a few sentiments from the reply of the Duchess. She said:—'The Princess has arrived at that age which now justifies me in expressing my confident expectation that she will be found competent to execute the sacred trust which may be reposed in her; for, communicating as she does with all classes of society, she cannot but perceive that the greater the diffusion of religious knowledge and the love of freedom in a country, the more orderly, industrious, and wealthy is its population; and that the desire to preserve the constitutional prerogatives of the crown, ought to be co-ordinate with the protection of the liberties of the people.'

In four weeks from that day the sudden death of William IV. gave the sovereignty of the British Empire to this young maiden of eighteen. Beautifully has she fulfilled the expectations of her mother, and the hopes of the nation. The manner in which the Duchess relinquished her power over her daughter, was a fitting sequel to the faithfulness with

which she had exercised it. The great officers of State and privy counsellors, a hundred or more of the noblest in the land, assembled on the morning of June 20th, at Kensington Palace. They were ushered into the grand saloon. Soon Victoria appeared, accompanied by her mother and the officers of her household. After the Duchess had seen her royal daughter enthroned on a seat of state prepared for the occasion, she withdrew and left the young Queen with her Council. From that hour the Duchess treated her august daughter with that respectful observance which her station, according to court etiquette, demands. No more advice, no farther instructions, not even suggestions, were ever offered. Doubtless, if the Queen seeks her mother's counsel in private, it is always given in love and truth; but the good seed had been sown at the right time; it put forth, by the blessing of God, spontaneously. The soul, like the soil, must bear its own harvest.

On the 17th of June, 1837, the young Queen made her first public appearance as sovereign over her realm; she prorogued Parliament in person; never was the act done more royally.

On the 28th of July, 1838, she was crowned in Westminster Abbey. Never were the long and tedious ceremonies more gracefully endured. From that time onward, there has been no diminution in her zeal; every duty devolving on her, every form prescribed, every custom held important in the old and cumbersome British Government, Victoria has performed, observed, and cherished. She has been the model of female royalty. But this is a trifling matter, compared with the salutary influence her high principles, refined taste, and graceful propriety of manners have wielded over those who give the tone to fashionable society in England. Vice and folly retire abashed from her presence.

Great Britain is governed by laws, but the ruler is not amenable to these laws. Hence the importance that the sovereign should show obedience to the laws of God, from which the morality of all Christian codes is educed. With wickedness on the throne, pollution in the palace, infidelity at the head of the Church, how can the nation increase in piety, virtue, and goodness? The great blessing of a female reign is in its purity of court morals and its decorum of manners. These strengthen the religious elements of human nature, and give the soul the supremacy over sense.

This example of strict virtue on the British throne was imperatively needed; hence the great blessing conferred by the reign of Victoria, who is, in her private life, a model for her people. She was married on the 10th of February, 1840, to her cousin, Prince Albert, of Saxe-Coburg, who had been, for a time, her associate in childhood; and whose development of character and talents has fully justified the wisdom of her choice and the worth of her influence. The union was one of mutual affection, and has been remarkably happy and fortunate. The royal pair have already eight children—Victoria Adelaide, Princess Royal, born November 21, 1840; Albert Edward, Prince of Wales, born November 9, 1841; Alice Maud Mary, born April 25, 1843; Alfred Ernest, born August 6, 1844; Helena Augusta, born May 5, 1846; Louisa Caroline, born March 5, 1848; Arthur Patrick, born May 1, 1850; and the eighth born on the 7th of April, 1853, and not yet named. All these children are carefully trained under the supervision of their royal parents, and the family of the Queen is one of the best governed and guided in England.

GOD SAVE THE QUEEN!