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"Glory to God in the highest, and on earth Peace, good will toward Men."

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BRIGHT FLOWERS FOR HER I LOVE.

BY WILLIAM RODERICK LAWRENCE.

Bright flowers for her I love
Yes, flowers and rich and rare,
The rose-bud and the violet
To grace her golden hair;
Yet nature's gems—though beautiful
And pure and bright they be—
Are not so fair as she I love,
Or beautiful to me.

Rare gems for her I love!
All sparkling in their light,
A diadem to grace that brow
So beautifully bright;
Yet earthly crowns must fade—
Immortal crowns above
Alone are worthy to be sought
By her I fondly love.

Music for her I love!
Melodiously low,
Breathed soft from harps whose golden strings
With songs of rapture glow;
Such music as the angels make
In worlds of light above—
Such music would I have to cheer
The heart of her I love.

And peace for her I love!
The peace religion brings,
Renouncing fleeting, transient joys
For bright and heavenly things;
Let happiness be here,
And heaven her rest above;
May this, my prayer, accepted rise
For her I truly love.

[Written for the Visitor.]

RUSSIA.

BY A. H. MUNRO.

(Continued.)

Talleyrand said, or some one said that he did, that History never repeats itself. But not a few are disposed to question that the great diplomatist was as truthful as he was oracular. Perhaps "much might be said on both sides;" and will be no doubt when these private memoirs of his see the light. In the meantime, we must say on our own responsibility, that if history does not repeat itself, it occasionally comes very near to it. We have often been struck with the resemblance which passages in the histories of different nations bear to each other, but never more so than in comparing the early history of Russia with that of England. A parallelism where few would expect it.

In Roman History there is more than one reference to the Scythians the free, wild hunters and warriors of Northern Asia and Europe. The rigour of an inhospitable climate inured them to hardships and privation, the forest was their home; the chase their necessity and past-time. This race of fierce rovers we must identify with the Scavi of late times, who, in their restless, predaceous habits, have been no discredit to their wild, migratory ancestors. In the fifth century, very Characteristically, a body of three people exchanged the banks of the Danube for those of the Dnupor. A new locality seems to have given a new bent to their genius.—They built the cities of Hovgorod and Kief, formed many flourishing settlements and cultivated commerce with both energy and skill, extending their operations from the Black Sea to the Baltic. In the ninth century they appear to have been a comparatively prosperous and contented people. Their laws lenient. Their Government was mild and republican. But with their advance in the peaceful arts they had lost their knowledge of the arts of war, and, like the ancient Britons when forsaken by the Roman forces, they were no longer able to defend themselves against their barbarous and fierce neighbors. Like the ancient Britons, too, they applied to a more valorous and warlike people for aid; and with exactly the same result. The mercenary soldiers whom they had employed to defend them, became their conquerors.—But if, in this respect, there is a resemblance

to the Saxon Subjugation of England, in others, there is as marked a similarity to the human Conquest. The Varagians, who in the ninth century became the masters of the Scavi, were a branch of the ancient Scandinavian family. A race that under the names of horsemen, Danes and Normans has taken a prominent and daring part in the history of the nations of western Europe. Charlemagne shed premonitory tears when he saw their piratical keels plunging the waters of the Mediterranean. He knew them to be adventurous, unscrupulous and brave. Under the guidance of Ruric they completely subdued the Scavi. Ruric was their William the Conqueror. He fought his "Hastings" on the plains of Novgorod, and imposed his yoke on the necks of the Scavi, precisely as William of Normandy, two centuries later, trod upon Saxon rights and freedom. He gave a new name and dynasty to the Scavi, who after him were called Russians. Dying, while his son Igor was yet too young to govern; he was succeeded by a kinsman named Oleg, who made the first Russian attempt upon Constantinople. In leading his army of 80,000 men, he evinced much skill and indomitable perseverance. Difficulties only developed his ingenuity: as an instance of which, may be mentioned, his invention of a specious land-boat, with wheels and large sails attached to them. His expedition against Constantinople was successful. After he had pillaged and destroyed to his heart's content, he was induced to return home on the payment of a heavy tribute. Igor, on ascending the throne, renewed the attack on Constantinople, but was defeated with the loss of two-thirds of his army. From a second attack, a heavy bribe induced him to desist. Being a very industrious gentleman, and having a large force to employ in some way or other, he gave his attention to a people called the Drevlians. Having defeated them in battle, he was returning, loaded with spoil and captives, when he fell into an ambuscade, was overpowered, taken prisoner and put to death by the Drevlians. His widow, Olga, who appears to have been one of the "strong minded women" of the tenth century, considering vengeance her "special mission," wary and bloody as a tigress, she prepared to fulfil it. The poor Drevlians, apparently a very matter of fact sort of people, who believed that there were just as good fish in the sea as ever came out of it, as they had, in the chapter of accidents, deprived Olga of one husband, very reasonably and considerately, offered to furnish her with another, selecting one of their chief for that honour. In reply to this proposal, Olga requested that ambassadors might be sent to her to negotiate the business. These, on their arrival, she caused to be secretly murdered. To a similar fate she submitted several embasses, which, on various pretences, she induced the confiding Drevlians to send to her. Before their suspicions were awakened, she invited the Drevlian chiefs to a solemn festival, at which the indissoluble union of their interests with her own should be ratified. The invitation being accepted in good faith, during the conviviality of the occasion, the unsuspecting chiefs were murdered to a man. Olga now threw off the mask. She swept over the country, killing, burning, destroying wherever she came, and concluded by laying siege to the town, in which, Igor was killed. It was bravely defended. Despairing of taking it by force, she assured the inhabitants of her wish to raise the siege, but her queenly honour required that she should receive, at least, a nominal tribute before withdrawing her forces, which, she consented to do if they would send her all their pigeons, of which they had a great many. The Drevlians agreed to this proposal, and sent her the birds. They soon found, however, that Olga's ideas of the uses of pigeons were decid-

edly original, for she shortly sent them home, not only with their tails behind them, but appended thereto, lighted matches, which igniting the straw roofs of the houses, speedily set the whole town in a blaze. The wretched inhabitants, fleeing from the flames, fell beneath the swords of their relentless foes.

Olga was the first Russian ruler that was a member of the Greek church. She was baptized at Constantinople. On even her fierce nature, religion seems to have had some effect. At all events, she spent the last years of her life more peacefully, and in the way of road making and bridge building, did much to improve her country. She died in 969.

QUEEN VICTORIA.

No Sovereign on earth fills a more exalted position in the confidence and affections of his or her subjects than Queen Victoria.—Her Empire is almost limitless in extent, and hence her subjects are found on all sides of the globe. Throughout this vast dominion all hearts cherish no other feeling towards her gracious Majesty than that of profound respect and ardent love. The admirable qualities of heart and mind, which she has exemplified during her successful reign, justly entitle her to this elevated place in the hearts of her people.

The Sketch of Victoria by the pen of Mrs. S. J. Hale, originally written for the *Woman's Record*, as given below, presents her in the varied relations of daughter—pupil—wife—Mother—and Sovereign. Her picture is well drawn and brings out the several phases of her character in beautiful and well wrought proportions and is fraught with instruction to enrich the mind and to improve the heart.—[Ed.]

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 Christian. 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 obe-

dience, 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 round the little Princess; the counsels and examples of that faithful mother, 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 his 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. Geo. 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 intimated to her mother that some distinguished prelate should be appointed instructor, and Earl Grey 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 distinguished clergyman were indispensable to fill this important office, there would be no objection if Dr. Davys received the prefer-