

Tuesday, November 5, 1922.

EMILY FAITHFUL'S LECTURE ON QUEEN VICTORIA AND THE ROYAL FAMILY, AT THE ACADEMY OF MUSIC, PHILADELPHIA.

[CONCLUDED.]

The most remarkable exhibition of enthusiasm toward the Queen was recently on the occasion of the anniversary of the recovery of the Prince from his almost mortal sickness. It was simply awful in its intensity. When I saw the enthusiasm there, no doubt was left on my mind as to the strength of the loyalty and love of her people. Once again did the Queen give an evidence of the deep appreciation which she entertained of these things. Her letter of thanks to her people touched the English heart everywhere. A few days after came the libelous attack upon her, which she resented, or rather endured, with her usual courage in Victoria, and her people know it. Like Elizabeth, Victoria has impressed herself upon her people and her Court. But, while Elizabeth, who, compared with two fierce ambitious, sacrificed much of her womanliness, Victoria, happy as a wife and mother—aye, happy as a peaceful, pure-hearted widow—has made herself the model of all the womanly virtues.

Her children are, on the whole, not unworthy of her. Her daughters are good women; her sons are somewhat different in their traits. While the Prince of Wales has just succeeded in getting through an after-dinner speech with some little credit to himself, Prince Arthur has already published a book, "The Marriage of the Princess Louise," and the Marquis of Lorne produced a great excitement with us in England, but the Queen has shown great tact in having broken the strong chain that has hitherto fettered the royal family on the score of untimely marriages.

The Princess Louise is an industrious and energetic woman, and I know that the Marquis of Lorne, her husband, has expressed himself as the firm supporter of woman's suffrage. [Applause.]

There is only left for me to speak of the Prince Consort. Denial is a natural throne, he devoted himself to intellectual work. Filled with noble projects, he was always active and resolute in carrying them out. What the word duty was to Albert the Great, the word progress was to Albert the Good. The poet's instinct was right, and, indeed, he seemed to me like the poet's own ideal knight.

Miss Faithful closed her lecture by a well-delivered extract from Tennyson's famous lines of dedication to the Queen. The applause, whenever the virtues of Victoria were referred to, was almost hearty. [Philadelphia Press, Oct. 26.]

DECLARATION OF AMERICANS.

It is a truth which must be admitted, that as a nation we are sadly wanting in that reproductive energy that characterizes most people of the earth. The disposition to lead lives of celibacy, the frightful increase of childless homes with the married, and the limited number of children where any are born, are telling wonderfully in the statistics of our country. For years ago the number of adults who voluntarily chose a single life were small comparatively, and when any children were born to parents a dozen was the rule and one and two the exception. Now a much less number marry, and the rule is one or two children, if indeed any at all, and the exception from five and eight to a baker's dozen. The effect of all this is to deteriorate our nationality, retard the progress it is our privilege and duty to make, and allow those who come among us to supplant us in our native land.

There is a cause for this—a very simple cause—and yet perhaps comparatively few have given it sufficient thought to be able to account for the results which all have observed, and it is understood, there is probably a disinclination to admit its truth, or an unwillingness to seek to correct the evil. But the fact exists, and it is one of fearful import to the future of America.

Dr. J. M. Toner, of Washington, a statistician of considerable note, has collected some valuable facts bearing upon this subject, and in his report showing the proportion of white children of both sexes under fifteen years to the 1,000 white females between fifteen and fifty years, under age, in each State at the beginning of each decade from 1800 to 1890, makes known the fact that what has been thrown into the face of the New England States, especially Massachusetts, as their peculiar shame, is equally true of every other State in the Union. He shows from the census reports that only one-half as many children are now born to each 1,000 women as during the year 1800, and that there has been a regular decrease from one decade of years to another. For example, the following shows the number of children to each 1,000 women at the several periods named:

Year.	Children.
Massachusetts in.....	1800 2,326
".....1810	2,151
".....1820	1,994
".....1830	1,763
".....1840	1,583
".....1850	1,418
".....1860	1,123
Virginia in.....	1800 1,779
".....1810	2,012
".....1820	1,877
".....1830	1,647
".....1840	1,397
".....1850	1,175

These figures tell the terrible story, and they ought to put Americans to shame for the palpable violation of natural laws, the result of which, as is shown in these tables is decimating the American people. With this ratio continued for a few generations, it is easy to see that the genuine Yankee will become nearly or quite extinct.

The cause for this condition of things must be looked for in the modern demands of society upon individuals and families. The greed for wealth; the postponement of marriage until it is attained; the inability to support and educate a family; the expense of living; the desire to be fashionable and in style; as well as the thousand considerations that have come of the modern ideas of home and society, operate in the direction indicated and lead to disastrous results. It is probably useless to preach upon this subject, for it will require some agency more powerful than the press or pulpit even to stay this mighty evil. But we can all see to what it is inevitably tending, and what will be the result upon succeeding generations. We can have the consciousness, if there is any pleasure in it, that there is little hope for our children and those who shall come after them in maintaining the distinctive national features and characteristics that pertained to our progenitors.—E.

D. COOPER.

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