

## THE DEATH OF THE PRINCE CONSORT.

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“THE foremost man in all this land” has been struck low, and while with all our countrymen we lament this heavy, this irretrievable loss, and with all our fellow-subjects we sympathise with the deep grief of that Royal Widow for whom all true hearts beat in devoted loyalty, as men of science we bewail the loss of a brother. Prince Albert was a patron of art; in science he was a student and a workman; and the good he has effected by his aid and example, to those especially who labour in all branches of social science, cannot be over estimated. In this country little enough of honour is given to those who court the secrets of nature, and it has been no small encouragement to feel that one in Prince Albert’s great station thoroughly appreciated all efforts to extend the boundaries of knowledge. We have had one or two learned monarchs, but we should have to go back in history to him who alone is called “Great” among our kings for an example of a ruler who, according to the lights of his time, could be truly called scientific. Prince Albert, indeed, has fought no fight against the foes of his country, except those universal foes who rebel against the laws of nature and who devastate by the agencies of crime and disease. His has been the steady glory of a well-spent life. In his career Usefulness and Honour lovingly lent each other helping hands, and he might truly have said—

Fame gave me Use at first, and Use again  
Increasing, gave me Fame—  
I rather dread the loss of Use than Fame.

Let us in our sorrow accept the consolation that his use is not, cannot be lost; let us pray that it may survive in the beneficent influence of his calm, steadfast, and unselfish character upon those who were dearest to him, and who are dearest to the nation who mourns for him. The seeds of good he has sown cannot but be fruitful in all time, and “in his large recompense” may a grateful nation see him ever present in unceasing efforts made to shape the life of the community on the firm basis of physiological and social law.