

The Passing of Her Majesty Our Great and Beloved Queen Mary

“ During the past hours Queen Mary’s condition has become more grave, there has been a serious weakening of the heart action which gives rise to increasing anxiety.”

In these words the Bulletin from Marlborough House, on the evening of March 24th, conveyed the sad warning that the end was at hand.

This critical turn in the condition of Queen Mary brought the Queen, and throughout the day, members of the Royal family to visit Marlborough House; the Archbishop of Canterbury (Dr. Fisher) was also there. At 11.15 p.m. the anxious crowd of many hundreds of people still waiting in silent sympathy at the gates of Marlborough House learned the last bulletin—“ While sleeping peacefully Queen Mary died at 20 minutes past 10 o’clock.”

At this hour in the House of Commons, the Prime Minister, Mr. Churchill, rising slowly from his seat, announced in a solemn voice :

“ Mr. Speaker, I rise to move the adjournment of the House, I have with great regret to make the announcement that Queen Mary has died.”

In the House on the following day the Prime Minister moved that a humble Address of Sympathy be presented to Her Majesty in which surely the epitaph :

“ SHE LOOKED A QUEEN,
SHE ACTED LIKE A QUEEN ”

must be inscribed in the hearts of millions of British people.

Her Majesty Queen Mary was born at Kensington Palace on May 26th, 1867, her father was the Duke of Teck and her mother Princess Mary of Cambridge, a grand-daughter of George III.

As the daughter (then known as Princess May) of a charming and extravagant mother, when only in her teens, she learned the need for economy and the wisdom of prudent housekeeping. It was these financial circumstances, which compelled the family to take up residence in Florence. The City of Florence left a lasting impression on the future Queen. Its treasures of art, pictures, antiques and archaeology were to inspire her love and remarkable knowledge of antiques of which she was to become an authority. It was in Florence too, that in her strong desire for further education—she became a student of History. With the guiding influence of “ Bricka,” an Alsatian governess, she embarked on a strict course of study of six hours reading a day without respite. Queen Mary’s determination to master this subject, as she did every subject she took up—is revealed in Reminiscences from the Manchester Guardian—just come to light :



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Extra-Mural

“ A little-known anecdote about Queen Mary came to light this afternoon, by chance, when members of a research team from the extra-mural department at the University of London were going through some old

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