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EDITORIAL.

THE PASSING OF PRINCESS CHRISTIAN, PRINCESS HELENA OF GREAT BRITAIN AND IRELAND.

*"You have deserved
High commendation, true applause, and love."*

The death of Her Royal Highness Princess Christian, Princess Helena of Great Britain and Ireland, has caused widespread national sorrow, for this noble Lady was greatly beloved. A daughter of Queen Victoria, no one who saw her could doubt from her bearing her Royal heritage, evident in the dignity, charm of manner, and strong sense of duty with which she discharged the obligations of her exalted position. Nevertheless, she knew how to unbend, and to reveal the simplicity and singleness of character, genuine kindness, humour, and genius for friendship which were so characteristic of this great Princess.

Highly educated, she was an accomplished musician and had a great appreciation of art; while it is not surprising that a daughter of the beloved Prince Consort should have a real interest in education, an interest which contributed to the staunch support she gave to trained nurses in the movement to better not only their material condition, but to improve their education and to obtain legal status.

Those nurses who were present at the meeting at St. George's Hall early in 1888, when the British Nurses' Association was publicly inaugurated, will remember that Her Royal Highness, as President, thus defined its aims: "The first object of the Association is to obtain for the calling of Nursing the recognised position and legal constitution of a profession. . . . It will follow from this that, in the future, every member of the nursing profession must have been educated up to a definite standard of knowledge and efficiency."

At a time when hospital authorities and their medical staffs were almost unanimously combined in the endeavour to prevent nurses from obtaining these elemental rights, it required

intuitive genius not only to appreciate but to publicly espouse their cause.

Many Royal ladies in all countries give their support to works of charity; but the special claim to greatness of Princess Christian lies in the fact that she saw that only along the lines of higher education and self-help lay the true path of development, and did not hesitate, while the British Nurses' Association was still in its infancy, to support its objects with the weight of her great position and personal interest.

It was this foresight on the part of Her Royal Highness which largely enabled the Nursing Profession to obtain favourable consideration of their aspirations for professional status, and her services to the profession in helping them to obtain the grant of a Royal Charter—the concrete foundation on which State Registration of Nurses has been built up—must ever be held in the greatest gratitude. And not only did the Princess give personal service to gain the Nurses their Charter; the day came when that Charter was in jeopardy, and she saved it for them. In days to come let the nurses of the Royal British Nurses' Association remember that the duty of preserving it intact is a sacred obligation entrusted to them by their first beloved President.

Never has so spontaneous a public tribute been paid to the talents and womanly virtues of a Royal Princess as the vote of condolence with His Majesty the King, moved in the House of Commons on Tuesday by the Home Secretary, on behalf of the Prime Minister, supported by the leaders of every Party in the House.

At the funeral, which takes place in St. George's Chapel, Windsor, on the morning of June 15th, the Army will provide a gun-carriage, and a detachment of two officers and fifty men of the King's Royal Rifle Corps. The burial will be in the royal tomb-house below the Albert Memorial Chapel, near the remains of the late Prince Christian.

A memorial service will be held simultaneously at Westminster Abbey.

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