

unselfishness. It was always "Is it right?" If it was, it was done. It was the same thing, its being right and its being done.

The end came thus at last. He was very ill on the morning of June 24—the Tuesday before his death, but he insisted on getting up and going into the City (with his son: he could go nowhere alone because of his blindness) about some business. . . . Then 3 days and nights of constant suffering from sickness. Then the end—it was perfect peace. A photograph was taken a few hours after death. Lady Lawrence sent it me. If it had been an Annibale Caracci, a Leonardo or a Michael Angelo sketch, we should have said how far Art transcends Nature. In the holiest pictures of the old Masters I have never seen anything so beautiful or so holy. . . .

All India will feel his loss: no one now living knows what he did there, in private, I mean, as well as in public, the raising of the people by individuals as well as by Institutions. Who will write his life? . . . And how the little curs here have barked and bit round the heels of the old lion. He heard them, but he heeded not. . . .

Lady Lawrence wished to give every one something which had belonged to his personal use, but it was found he had nothing. There were some old clothes and a great many boots, patched, but nothing else, not even a pin, except his watch 20 years old, and his walking-stick, which she kept. The lady who served as his Secretary after his blindness had his old shoes and horn. . . .

THE SINGLE LIFE.

Sir Frank Benson the famous actor-manager tells us in "My Memoirs," just issued, a book not only to read but to buy, "that Jowett (the famous master of Balliol) was in love, and anxious to win for his wife the great woman of that time, Florence Nightingale." Indeed, he was not alone in this ambition, but in Chapter VII. of Sir Edward Cook's Life of Florence Nightingale headed "The Single Life," which might, and should be read again and again by young women considering marriage, he quotes as follows:

"I had three paths among which to choose," wrote Miss Nightingale in a diary of 1850. "I might have been a literary woman, or a married woman, or a Hospital Sister." Florence Nightingale was no vestal ascetic. A true and perfect marriage was she thought, the perfect state. "Marrying a man of high and good purpose, and following out that purpose with him is the happiest 'lot.' The highest, the only true love, is when two persons, a man and a woman, who have an attraction for one another, unite together in some true purpose for mankind and God."

In her own case, Miss Nightingale was conscious of capacities within her for "high purposes for mankind and for God." She could not feel sure that the marriage which was offered to her would enable her to employ those capacities to their best and fullest power. And so she sacrificed her "passional" nature to her moral ideal. "I am 30," she wrote on her birthday in her diary in 1850. "The age in which Christ began His mission. Now no more childish things, no more vain things, no more love, no more marriage. Now, Lord, let me only think of Thy will."

Florence Nightingale turned away from marriage in order that she might remain entirely free to fulfil her vocation.

THE NIGHTINGALE'S SONG TO THE SICK SOLDIER.

Listen, soldier, to the tale of the tender Nightingale.
'Tis a charm that soon will ease your wounds so cruel,
Singing medicine for your pain, in a sympathising strain,
With a jug, jug, jug of lemonade or gruel.
Singing bandages and lint, salve and cerate without stint,
Singing plenty both of liniment and lotion,
And your mixtures pushed about, and the pills for you served out,
With alacrity and promptitude of motion.
Singing light and gentle hands, and a nurse who understands.
How to manage every sort of application.
From a poultice to a leech; whom you haven't got to teach
The way to make a poppy fomentation.
Singing pillow for you smoothed, smart and ache and anguish soothed,
By the readiness of feminine invention.
Singing fever's thirst allayed, and the bed you've tumbled, made
With a careful and considerate attention.
Singing succour to the brave, and a rescue from the grave,
Hear the Nightingale that's come to the Crimea.
'Tis a Nightingale as strong in heart as in her song.
To carry out so gallant an idea.

Punch, 1854.

THE PUBLIC HEALTH.

QUESTIONS IN THE HOUSE OF COMMONS.

JUNE 25th.

Smoke Abatement.

Sir Nicholas Grattan-Doyle asked the Minister of Health what number of local authorities had adopted by-laws on the subject of smoke abatement; what number had no by-laws; and whether it was proposed to take any steps to extend the adoption of such by-laws.—Mr. Greenwood replied: 116 local authorities have made by-laws. Although this leaves 1,652 without by-laws, the districts without by-laws are largely those where few or no manufacturing processes are found, and many of them are rural. In view of this, and of the powers of proceeding for proved nuisance even without by-laws, I do not think it necessary at present to exercise the power given me by the Act of 1926 of forcing local authorities to make by-laws.

Sir N. Grattan-Doyle: Will the right hon. gentleman bear in mind that this question of smoke abatement is of very vital interest in the public health, and will he not try to ginger up the local authorities so that they will do a little more than they have done?

Mr. Greenwood: I am very anxious to encourage local authorities but the process of ginging up is one to which there is a limit.

Mosquitoes and Public Health.

Sir William Davison asked the Minister of Health whether his attention had been called to the continued increase in the number of mosquitoes in this country; and what action was being taken to combat this menace to the national health.—Miss Lawrence (Parliamentary Secretary to the Ministry of Health) replied: My right hon. friend is advised that the number of mosquitoes in this country fluctuates from year to year, according to the climatic conditions, but does not show any general increase. In the present year some species (especially the sylvan species) are unusually prevalent. My Department, in collaboration with the British Museum (Natural History) has given

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