

IN MEMORIAM.

**HARIOT, MARCHIONESS OF DUFFERIN AND AVA.
"THE GREATEST ULSTER WOMAN OF HER TIME
AND PERHAPS OF ALL TIME."**

On October 25th there passed away, in London, at the advanced age of 93, Hariot, Dowager Marchioness of Dufferin and Ava, whose name will go down in history as one of the great Victorians, and whose personality, charm, and fruitful work in the service of others is deeply impressed on her generation.

As the wife of the first Marquess of Dufferin and Ava, that great diplomatist and statesman who upheld and enhanced British prestige in all parts of the world, Lady Dufferin found scope for the exercise of her great talents; and that these were used to support her husband in the positions he held with such distinction, he himself bore testimony at a dinner in Belfast on the eve of his departure for India to take up his appointment as Viceroy, when, acknowledging a toast in her honour, he said of Lady Dufferin:

"It is no exaggeration to say that during the course of my public career, no ancient goddess of Grecian mythology could have rendered me more effective aid, could have extended over me more completely the aegis of her sweet wisdom and comforting counsel."

The Sympathy of Queen Mary.

Royal sympathy was conveyed to Lady Dufferin's family in the following telegram from Queen Mary:

"Grieved to hear of your dear mother's death. Send you my heartfelt sympathy.—MARY R."

Another message received was from the Duke of Connaught: "Accept my heartfelt sympathy in the loss of your dear grandmother, whose kindness and hospitality to me during the whole Viceroyalty of her distinguished husband in India I could never forget."

The nurses of the Empire have special cause for gratitude to Lady Dufferin, for in the early days of the movement for State Registration of Nurses, when influential friends were few and opponents many, she gave the prestige and influence of her great name as a Vice-President of the Society for its promotion, and again in support of the Congress of the International Council of Nurses held in London in 1909.

To the end of her life Lady Dufferin's interest in nursing and nurses continued, and in May, 1934, she honoured the British College of Nurses with a visit and personally presented to it two valuable books of prints after the drawings by Lady Alicia Blackwood, who worked for the soldiers' wives in Crimean Hospitals with Miss Florence Nightingale, to whom the books were dedicated. Their value to the British College of Nurses is greatly increased by the inscription recording their presentation in Lady Dufferin's own handwriting.

In the private chapel at Clondeboye, County Down, built by the first Marquess, the body of his wife was borne

for her home-coming, prior to its interment by his side in the beautiful private burying-ground a mile distant. Canon Bradley, Rector of Bangor, who gave the address and alluded to Lady Dufferin as "unquestionably the greatest Ulster woman of her time, and perhaps of all time," said she had lived far beyond the allotted span: her frail body was worn out; she had fought a good fight, she had finished her course; she had kept the faith. "We think," he said, "of that beautiful life of Christian witness, and that record of Christian service for others which she has left behind. We think of that unspoilt character. We think of the courage and Christian fortitude with which she faced the great sorrows—and they were great and many—which befell her. We think of that friendliness which characterised her relations with everyone with whom she came in contact.

"We think of the sympathy which she was ever ready to bestow upon those around her who were in trouble. And, above all, we think of that simple piety which assured all who knew her that she did love the Lord Jesus Christ in sincerity. We thank God to-day for all these fragrant memories, and for that example that will be remembered by us while life lasts."

So she passed to her final resting-place, surrounded by every evidence of affection, honour, and respect, followed to her grave by her daughters, near relatives, friends, and tenants, and employees of her grandson the present Marquess, all bearing lovely flowers.

She has passed from our sight but her works do follow her. Most especially is her name honoured in connection with "The National Association for Supplying Female Medical Aid to the Women of India," which she founded in 1885, during the years when Lord Dufferin was Viceroy of India, with the object of providing women doctors, nurses, and midwives for Indian women. It is impossible to estimate the number of lives of women in childbirth saved, and the suffering mitigated or averted, through means of this Association, known as "The Dufferin Fund," in which Lady Dufferin took deep interest throughout her life.

The Song of the Women.

This work for the women of India has been fitly commemorated by Rudyard Kipling in "The Song of the Women," which includes the following lines:—

How shall she know the worship we would do her?
The walls are high and she is very far.
How shall the women's message reach unto her
Above the tumult of the packed bazaar?
If she have sent her servants in our pain,
If she have fought with death and dulled his sword;
If she have given back our sick again,
And to the breast the weakling lips restored,
Is it a little thing that she has wrought?
Then Life and Death and Motherhood be nought.

The distinctions conferred upon Lady Dufferin were many, but her greatest distinctions were the beauty of her character and the example of her life.



**HARIOT, LATE DOWAGER MARCHIONESS
OF DUFFERIN AND AVA, V.A.C.I., D.B.E.**

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