

Extract of a Sermon, preached on Sunday evening the 29<sup>th</sup> of Nov<sup>r</sup> 1710.  
at St. Mildred's in the Poultry, by the Rev<sup>d</sup> Mr. Ackland, from the  
24<sup>th</sup> chapter of St. Matthew, Verse 44. "Be ye also Ready."

"Among those who have lately been called hence, we trust, to join that blessed society, observation cannot but rest on our aged and Virtuous Queen, Faction and Slander may openly assail, as it is their nature to assail, all that is either exalted in Rank, or conspicuous in virtue. Envy and detraction may take a more insidious course, and with cold-hearted malignity, may seek to derogate from those good qualities which they want courage to dispute and authority to deny. - But while I acknowledge the pulpit to be the last place of servile adulation or unmerited encomium, still I should not feel that I was doing my duty as a Minister of that establishment, of which the family reigning in these Kingdoms is the head; I should not be speaking the truth boldly, as I ought to speak it, if I did not affirm, that, amidst the indecent assertions of some, and the uncharitable surmises and insinuations of others, every well-ordered mind will bear ready testimony to the many amiable and estimable qualities of our departed Queen - will associate her memory with what is most valuable in the great practical duties of life - will acknowledge promptly and gratefully, that the whole weight and influence of her high station were invariably given to the side of religion, decency, and virtue; and will apply, therefore, to her the assertion of the wise man; that favour is deceitful, and beauty is vain; but that a virtuous Woman, she shall be praised. -

"To our venerable Monarch, and to his late virtuous Consort, this Country owes the inestimable benefit of that example which, issuing from the Throne, necessarily diffused an influence more or less powerful through all the ranks of society. - Chosen as the Partner of that Throne, in very early Youth, she adopted from the first, and to the last, inflexibly adhered to that system of discrimination to those rigid principles of female honour and virtue, which made her Court conspicuous beyond those of all other countries, and beyond those of this Country at other times, for decorum of manner and purity of conduct. And, although constituted as human communities are and must be, we cannot expect that Vice should be entirely eradicated from them, yet we know that it has in our country been stripped of that great support which arises from

The public countenance of the highest authority; and incalculable indeed (as has been well observed) is the good which has accrued to English morals from this single source, at a period especially which has been unhappily marked by the relaxation of so many morals and religious ties through the pernicious prevalence of a false Philosophy.

"Of our late Queen's parental virtues, the surest test is to be found in the tender and unwearied attentions of such of her Children as were present to watch over her last protracted illness. — It would be unjust not to say, that the constant solicitude, the undeviating attendance, the unremitting exertions for her comfort, displayed in an especial manner by the two leading members of her Family, have been such as to stand an example to the land of filial duty, of filial duty evinced in a manner the most devoid of ostentation, at the same time it was most replete with affection and true sensibility. — As a Wife, the illustrious object of our present notice has left us the highest example. — Blessed with a consort who had centered in him all the characteristics of the affectionate father, the loving husband, and the mild and upright prince, the most unbroken unity of affection for more than half a century knit their hearts together. — Where ever one appeared, there the other was to be seen; whether in the ceremonies of their Court, in the relaxation of public amusement, in the attendance on Divine worship, or in the midst of their numerous family, they were always side by side. — Long after our good afflicted King became unconscious of her care, his faithful partner zealously continued to him her constant personal attention; and well do I remember, when on an occasion immediately antecedent to her last illness, she attended a public examination of the national Schools of this Metropolis, and heard a Thousand poor Children joining in the prayers of our church, and begging spiritual blessings on the head of their suffering Monarch, well do I remember — for I myself witnessed it — the Fear of conjugal affection, the fervour of conjugal piety, with which her lips breathed forth, an Amen to the supplication. — This brings us lastly to her Christian character. — pious and regular in her devotional exercises, she followed them up with those practical duties without which Religion is but a name. — What she believed to be right she did, and acted not from feeling only, but from principle. —

Her Christian fortitude and resignation were evinced, as well on those occasions of domestic sorrow and difficulty, by which, both on private and on public grounds, we all know she must have been severely tried, as in her patient endurance of the last painful month of her human existence. Her benevolence was active, her bounty great, towards any and every deserving object; and while slanderous tongues were clamouring of hoarded treasures, and avaricious insensibility, facts and realities have proved that the very reverse was the case; and many a retired and solitary sufferer could testify that while the charities of our departed Queen were extended to an amount far beyond what was generally known or suspected, they partook at the same time of the genuine Christian spirit. She sounded not a trumpet before her, to blazon her benevolence; her deeds of mercy were in secret: and that heavenly Father which seeth in secret, as now, we may hope, called her to himself, in order to reward her openly. He has called her away from a Temporal Throne to sit down with her Redeemer on his Throne; to exchange an earthly and perishable crown for one incorruptible and undefiled reserved in Heaven for her."

