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DEATH OF THE EARL OF SHAFTESBURY.

THE death of the Earl of Shaftesbury was announced in the journals of the 2nd everywhere, throughout the country, with expressions of deep regret and the greatest respect.

Lord Shaftesbury, weakened by a troublesome attack of illness, had gone to stay at Folkestone. A chill, caught in the north-east wind, brought on inflammation, and he gradually became weaker. In the afternoon of Thursday, the 1st, he quietly breathed his last. According to the *Record*, he suffered comparatively little during the later stages of his illness ; and his last moments were of the most peaceful character :

The night nurse had been with him until an early part of the morning, when his valet resumed duty by the bedside. During the morning his Lordship dictated two letters to his daughters. Three members of his family—Lady Templemore, Lady Edith Ashley, and the Hon. Cecil Ashley—were in constant attendance upon him, and he conversed with them in the most affectionate and cheerful manner. Up to the last he retained consciousness, and conversed with the utmost sensibility. He expected death, and his gentleness with his children in the last hour was most touching.

Antony Ashley-Cooper was born on April 28, 1801. He was therefore in his eighty-fifth year when he entered into rest.

The *Times* said :

The death of Lord Shaftesbury, which all the English race is to-day deplored, removes one of the most honoured figures of our contemporary history. He is the most conspicuous recent instance of a man who, born to a great station and ample fortune, has deliberately devoted a long life neither to pleasure, nor to personal advancement, nor to political power, but to furthering the material, moral, and religious well-being of his countrymen.

The *Telegraph* said :

A long life, rich in deeds of piety and benevolence, and unwearied until the last in well-doing, reached, yesterday, its peaceful close. The passing of the Factory Acts, great as it was, was only a glorious episode in a consistently noble career. Whenever there was mitigable suffering or remediable wrong, wherever there seemed hope of cheering lowly lots, of brightening dismal lives, of purging physical or moral uncleanness away, there the hand which will labour no more in good works was quick to help and indefatigable to sustain.

No one in modern times, said the *Post*, has left behind him the record of so much excellent work accomplished as Lord Shaftesbury.

Lord Shaftesbury won the hearts of the people as well as their respect, said the *Chronicle*, and by no section of the

community will he be more sincerely or deeply mourned than by the toiling millions to whose welfare he devoted his life.

The *Record* (Oct. 2) said :

We feel that on this occasion the ordinary expressions of regret are entirely out of place. The noble career that is now closed leaves an indelible mark on the history of the nation and on the condition of its people. It has made men glorify our Father in heaven, and will doubtless be even more influential for good as its features come out more grandly, if less vividly, in the sober light of history. One of the first impressions produced by the perusal of the *Memoir* we present this day will be that of thankfulness to Almighty God for a life so signally illustrating the power of His grace, and consequently of such wide and enduring usefulness to mankind.

The *Memoir* of the *Record*, after touching upon the Harrow and Oxford career of Lord Ashley, gives the chief stages of his career in the House of Commons and in the Upper House, in connection with Social Reforms. The story of the Ten Hours Bill is admirably told, as is also the course of the illustrious philanthropist's efforts in regard to agricultural gangs, workshops, colliery children, and chimney-sweeps. The work which he did in regard to the Lunacy Laws, it is well said, is comparatively little known. In the year 1843, he moved :

That an humble address be presented to her Majesty, praying that her Majesty will be graciously pleased to take into her instant and serious consideration the best means of diffusing the benefits and blessings of a moral and religious education amongst the working classes of her people.

In the year 1870, when the question of Religious Education was debated, Lord Shaftesbury was in the forefront of the contest, stoutly opposing the demands of the Secularists and those who from one or other cause were inclined to aid them. Largely by his aid, the Vice-President, Mr. Forster, that distinguished statesman to whose honesty and decision the venerated Earl, in private and in public, at the time, gave warm testimony, carried the Bill.

Upon Ragged Schools, Dwellings of the Poor, Early Closing, and other philanthropic movements; upon the British and Foreign Bible Society, the Church Pastoral Aid Society, London City Mission, Young Men's Christian Association, and other Societies and religious movements, a biography of the great and good man soon to be issued will enable us to touch.

The remains of the noble Earl were interred on the 9th in the family vault at St. Giles', in Dorsetshire.