

M0015999: Poem and scene showing Florence Nightingale in a hospital

Publication/Creation

April 1957

Persistent URL

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An Address in aid of the "Nightingale Testimonial."

SAINT of another creed, in distant lands :
 In ours, a WOMAN self-devoted, wise,
 With dauntless heart, and never-tiring hands,—
 Thus she appears unto our English eyes !

Eyes that, through all their tears, have gather'd still
 This comfort, o'er our dear and absent dead,
 That one, uniting scientific skill
 With woman's tenderness, watch'd round their bed.

Letters in life : in death all cherished things ;
 Last words she sent, with sever'd locks of hair,
 Witness our Angel, with her steadfast wings,
 Troubled the pool at frequent seasons there.

To Oh ! how many, a pool whose glassy wave
 Gives red reflections of the battle-strife !
 'Neath which, in endless shadow, is the grave
 Of all they held of hope or joy in life !

Ye who have tasted of that bitter cup ;
 Ye who were spared it ;—all who love our land,
 I charge you now to build her memory up,
 Who nursed our sons with more than mother's hand.

September, 1855.

Not in proud trophies :—not in builded tow'rs,
 Nor sculptured marbles :—not in gold or plate :—
 Vanities fitting other days than ours,
 And other names than we perpetuate.

Be hers a monument to meet the age,
 Advancing now, on wider social grounds,
 When Woman's name shall shine on history's page,
 Yet not by striking out of Woman's bounds !

And be it one where practical result
 Of bright example, in her brave career,
 Through straits of sickness, dark and difficult,
 May be expanded, in a wider sphere !—

An Altar, where, unbound by any vow,
 Her meet companions in the foregone toil,
 And all with heart to follow, may bestow
 Their free-will gifts of Christian wine and oil !

Her gift, her life ; and many a voice shall bless
 Those soothing hands, through all its fever-moans !—
 Be this her Monument ! Our gifts are less—
 Let us lay gladly the foundation-stones !

H. A.

CONTRIBUTIONS IN AID OF THE "NIGHTINGALE TESTIMONIAL" WILL BE THANKFULLY RECEIVED AT 14, BRUTON STREET.