

A Study of Royalty.

Ouida in June Forum.

Injury is done to the public, in a great measure by the teaching of sham sentiment and fictitious enthusiasms toward royal houses. In 1892 the British public was told that it became it to be plunged into grief at the death of the Duke of Clarence. In the year 1893 it was told that it became it to be convulsed with joy at the marriage of the Duke of York. The British public promptly counterfeited each sentiment in turn. Neither event in actual fact affected it in the least. Why should it? But it counterfeited both, and such counterfeits whether in the press or the multitude, are unwholesome. They make hypocrites of a nation and waste the people's best emotions on shams.

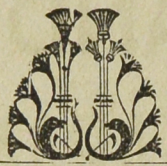
When the Prince of Wales patronizes the women's dancing in the cage of the flogged and intimidated lions, and the spectacle of the boxing kangaroo, his influence is entirely pernicious; when the German Emperor eulogizes the long distance rides, and the ideas and experience gained from them, his influence is wholly injurious to humanity. Example added to precept is here of the most detestable kind, and the evil done by both is incalculable.

Royal people are much to be pitied. No one ever tells them the truth; they are surrounded by persons who all desire to please that they may profit by them. It is impossible for them to be certain of the sincerity of a friend. They are never alone, and they can scarcely escape in their sleep from the stare of the watching eyes, and the strained ears of eavesdroppers. They probably never in their lives get a genuine answer to any question which they may put. There is always a young Raleigh to throw a cloak over any gutter; and if they wished to learn the truth incognito, like James of Scotland, they could not do so, for photographynas everywhere preceded them.

It generates subserviency, hypocrisy and egotism; and it suffers itself from the *contrescoup* of these creatures of its loins. And so in a minor degree does every courtier; statesmen who ought not to be courtiers, become so perforce to the injury of their character. That a Chatham should have to bow in silence before a Guelph, is an unjust penalty attached to office. That a Bismarck should have to thank a Hohenzollern for his favors, is a degradation to humanity in its highest intellectual form.

Courts are the field in which the bacteria of snobbism are most readily propagated. Fulsome sycophancy is sown by it broadcast like the murrain. In the recent nuptials of the Duke of York, a dignitary of the English Church was not ashamed to write an ode calling such a marriage "The Fairest Scene in all Creation"! Could sickly, silly hyperbole swell itself to more nauseous folly? To make presents on these nuptials, dockyard laborers, longshoremen, river boatmen, village peasants, mechanics, miners, parish school children, weavers, carpenters, brick layers—the whole, in a word, of the poorest and hardest worked members of the nation, were bidden, in terms which admitted of no denial, to give up a day's wage or the price of a week's

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