

SHE MAY YET BE QUEEN.

THE PRINCESS MAY WHO IS TO BE WEDDED NEXT MONTH.

Her Early Life and Her Surroundings—Her Tastes and Habits—The Duke of York is Said to be Very Fortunate in His Selection of a Wife.

As in the case of our Queen, the birth-place of Princess May was the quiet old Palace of Kensington, and here much of her happy childhood was spent, says the Pall Mall Budget. Later her parents took up their residence for a time abroad, Florence being their favorite home; but even in the beautiful Italian city the little maiden was not removed from English influence, as the circle round the Duchess of Teck was largely composed of natives of her own country. The charities which claimed her patronage and warm-hearted assistance were for the most part those with which the British colony was chiefly concerned, and in the long morning spent in the studios, a favorite resort of the Duchess and her daughter, preference was, intentionally or otherwise, given to those presided over by an English artist. On their return to England the Duke and Duchess, who were anxious that their children should receive a thoroughly English education established themselves at the White Lodge, Richmond, and it is this pretty country house which will always be considered as the real home of our future Queen in her girlhood.

Within this home it is not going too far to say the Princess May is adored. As an only sister she had been the constant companion of her three brothers, whose amusements she has always with affectionate persistence insisted on being permitted to share. Thus when the International football match took place at Richmond a few weeks ago, every one was sure that not only the princes of the House of Teck but their sister would be among the spectators; and when a light boat is seen shooting

consultation should be held about some flowers, or to the cottager that an early visit should be paid, must remain unfulfilled. Each, too, has the same half-conscious way of moving about the room as she talks to more intimate friends, now giving a light touch to a potter, that it may hang with more grace, re-arranging a stand of ferns,

daughter on trust. For long, whenever there was a good and helpful deed to be done, were our hospitalities to be enlarged, institutions for encouraging self-help and self-dependence among the women and children of the working classes to be founded, or the welfare and happiness of the poor of our land to be considered, the first to



The Family Seat of the Duke of Teck. or bringing forward an easy chair, till the place seems instinct with the identity of its mistress. To her other qualities the younger Princess adds an unusual share of the buoyancy of youth, and this shows itself in her merry laughter, in the light, quick

whom the promoters of the scheme have turned has been the Duchess of Teck, and with her she has never failed to bring the inseparable companion who shares her sympathies, and who has inherited from her one of the warmest and kindest hearts



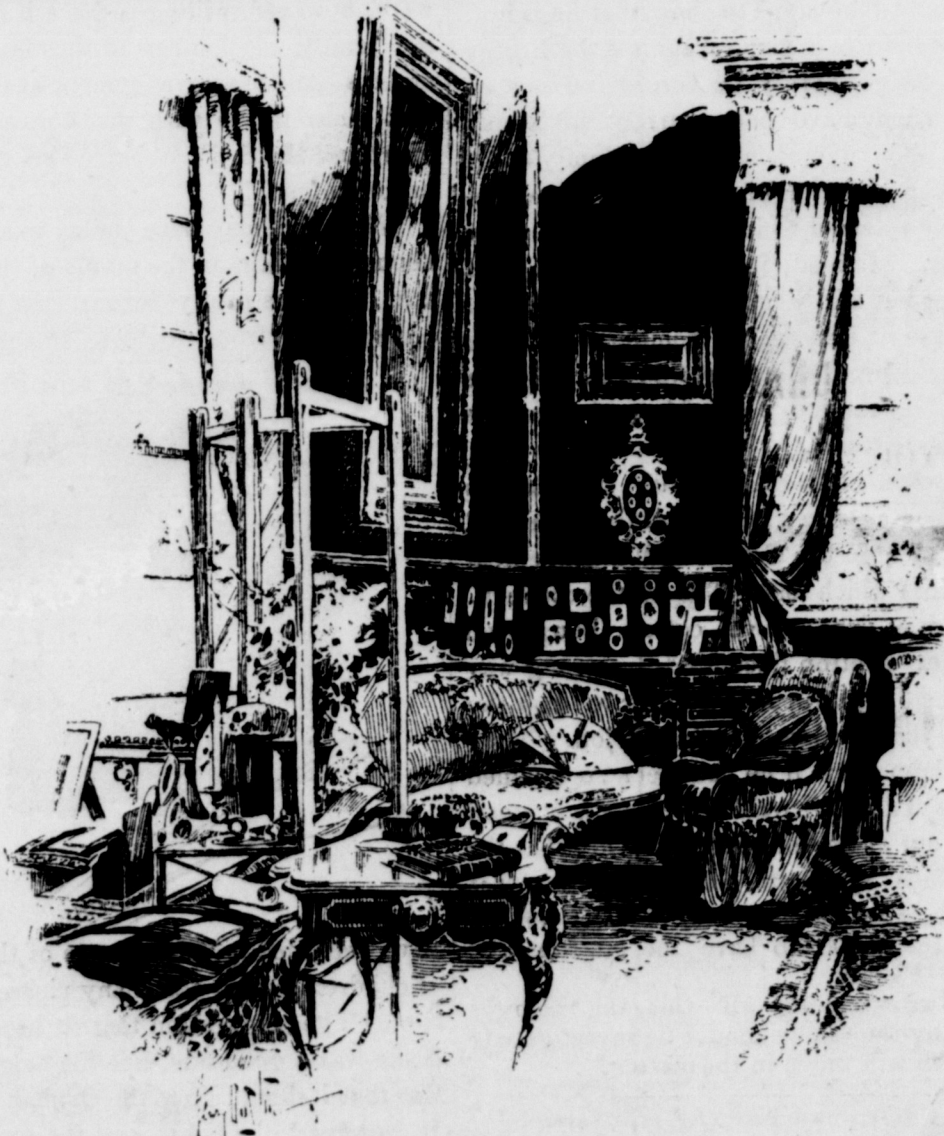
Princess Mary of Teck.

about the river anywhere between Hampton Court and Hammersmith, those to whom their features are familiar are constantly able to declare that the merry party within have come from the White Lodge, while the slender fingers and strong supple wrists of the young Princess are often remarked on as doing as good service at the oar as those of her male companions. Even the studies of the princes were not entirely pursued apart from their sister. Often after the tutor had taken his place, the tall, slight form of the young girl would glide quietly in, and, with some scrap of needle-work in hand, she would seat herself in the embrasure of the window, at first giving demure attention to her own legitimate occupation, but soon forgetting it, and turning the bright animation of her face to the table where the lecture was being given, which would serve as a subject of warm discussion between her and her brothers when next they found themselves alone. Skating is another of the Princess's favorite amusements, and day after day, during the frosts of the past winter, she could be seen darting about the different sheets of water with which the neighborhood abounds, the ease and grace of her rapid movements being as much admired as are those of the Princess of Wales whenever she indulges in this pastime, of which she has all her life been so fond.

Now that reference has been made to the elder Princess, one may say one word as to the very deep affection with which she regards the bride of her son. For a long time past few of the Sandringham parties have been considered complete unless the young cousin from the White Lodge was present, while written communications between the two houses have been most frequent. The mother and the affianced bride of the young Duke have so many tastes in common. Each cares a thousand times more for the quiet happiness of the hearth at home than for anything, however brilliant and varied, that society can offer. Each, so soon as the early breakfast is over, turns most willingly to the piano, running light fingers over the keys in duets or accompaniments to songs until they find with surprise that the hands of the clock have been as busy as their own, and that unless the sailor hats which are lying near to are caught up quickly, the promise that was made to the gardener that before lunch a

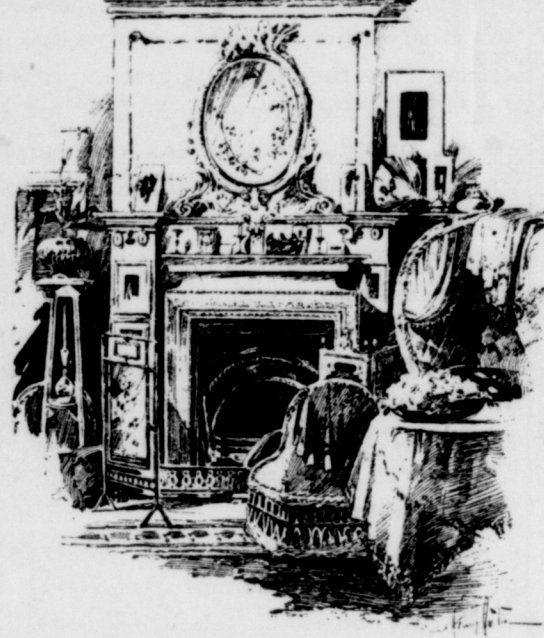
movements with which she passes about the pretty gardens of her own home.

So far we have spoken only of the lighter side of the life of the Princess May, such as it has been in her maiden home and as it will be in the old Palace of St. James.



Princess Mary's Boudoir.

when the Duke of York leads her there to begin a happy married life; but that which the English people most thought when they received the news of her betrothal was of the generosity and kindness with which her name has been connected. Few princesses have been so popular as the Princess Mary of Cambridge, daughter of old King George's seventh son. The Princess has not let us to take her



A Corner of the Drawing Room.

which ever interested themselves in the welfare of the nation.

NO CHECKING SYSTEM THERE.

How English Railway Thieves Manage to Make Big Hauls.

A dangerous branch of railway thieves is that of the luggage-stealers, says an English paper. Of all forms of theft this certainly requires the greatest experience and self-possession, for it may not be generally understood that if men who are well known even show themselves on a great London terminus, they can be arrested and imprisoned with hard labor for three months, under the Prevention of Crimes Act. From this it will be seen that so daring a robbery as baggage-stealing must be conducted in the most open manner possible, and with the assistance of railway porters, like ordinary passengers.

A case which illustrates the cool and amazingly clever way in which this is worked was brought to light only a few days ago in the police-courts. A well-dressed man was seen on a certain platform endeavouring to find his luggage, and noticing a porter wheeling a truck loaded with boxes and parcels, he at once recognized the lot as his own; at the same time he abused the man for the delay with such consummate acting, that the two detectives, who were watching the whole transaction were lost in admiration.

was taken back to the platform and the audacious thief arrested.

A most amusing and very clever instance of outwitting even smart detectives occurred some months ago at Fenchurch Street Station. A special train was to leave for the Albert Docks to convey passengers to a big P. and O. steamer bound for India, all of whom were very wealthy men traveling first class.

Among the crowds of gentlemen chatting on the platform in traveling costume was a tall, dark man, surrounded by trunks, deck-chairs and corded boxes, yet apparently not one of the party, as he had just come from abroad, and was waiting for porters to remove his luggage.

This gentleman was elegantly dressed and distinguished looking, and occasionally consulted his watch with an air of well-bred boredom. Nearly all the passengers having retired to the refreshment rooms, save this one, he called a porter and pointed out a large pile of luggage, which he wanted removed to a cab outside. This order was nearly executed, when a detective followed them outside, and pointed out that there was certainly something wrong somewhere, as the wrong luggage had been removed. The labels were examined, and the error was detected, so the truck was loaded once more and taken back to the platform. A second time was a heap of valuable property wheeled out, this time escorted by the supposed owner and two detectives, who entertained the gentleman with stories of daring luggage thieves.

After he had been driven off they returned to the platform to witness the departure of the train, but found that one of the passengers was minus his luggage. From descriptions furnished by this gentleman, the detectives learned to their horror that his luggage had been stolen by an expert thief, and, further, that they themselves had superintended its removal. I may add that the property was valued at \$5,500, and the thief was never captured.

From this it will be seen that, although our great stations swarm with detectives and every precaution is taken, it is absolutely necessary to look after one's own property. And the luggage-stealer's clever trick is not confined to London alone, as the following story will show:

A very valuable lot of luggage was consigned to Brighton from Victoria, to be called for on arrival there by the owner's carriage, which would then convey it to his house in Western Road. A carriage did call, the correct name was given, and the coachman, assisted by the porters, placed the boxes in and upon the brougham, which was then driven slowly off.

Scarcely three hours after this, another carriage called for the same luggage, and the coachman was given in charge as an impostor. It appeared, however, that this was the real man, and that the property was cleverly stolen by the first caller, who never turned up again. It was supposed that all particulars were obtained from the owner's servants—a class which has come forward lately in the startling guise of the conscious or unconscious accomplices of crime—and thus a daring robbery was successfully executed.

The Largest Sign in Canada.

Sterling Soap has the largest sign in Canada painted on a Toronto warehouse. It is 157 feet long by 21 feet deep, and in the bold, striking letters that the manufacturer has adopted must be an effective reminder in the Queen City of the West, that Sterling Soap is among them. The introduction of this Maritime product into Upper Canada, has been followed by such encouraging sales that attractive spaces have been taken in a number of the leading papers in the larger Canadian cities which must give the sale a speedy impetus.

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We are not revolutionizing the Dry Goods Trade of St. John, but simply the prices.

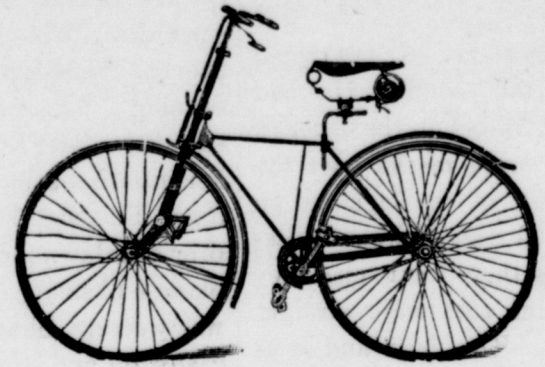
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