

THE DAYS OF HER YOUTH

WERE PROPHECIES OF THE GLORY OF THE QUEEN'S OLD AGE.

An Interesting Account of Victoria's Childhood and Matrimonial Days—'I Will be Good'—A Long and Beautiful Reign Tells how Well This Pledge was Fulfilled.

They decked her courtly hair;—They reined a hundred whips;—And shouted at her palace gates,—"A noble queen succeeds."

It is an old and familiar phrase that says: "As the twig is bent, the tree's inclined," and certain it is that a good beginning is half the battle of life. The revered sovereign whose natal day was celebrated yesterday had indeed a good beginning, but not in the same way which used to be considered the proper ending in the story-books of childhoods day. The "happy forever afterwards" meant a life full of sunshine and prosperity and this assuredly was not the good beginning which attended the youthful days of England's Queen.

The Duke of Kent was a poor man, deeply in debt, and the Duchess of Kent had not come on her marriage to a happy country. England could scarcely have been said to have recovered from the commercial blight of the long Napoleonic wars though the great national sufferings were thrust out of sight by the national victories; but the suffering and unhappiness were there nevertheless. Much was against the alien duchess; her sex, her age, the difficulty with which she spoke the language, the fact that she was a widow of the Duke of Leiningen to whom she was married in Coburg at the age of seventeen years in the first girlish flush of that brilliant beauty traces of which she retained until her death. It is not at all likely there was much of romance in her marriage with the middle-aged Duke of Kent, but it is universally admitted that their short married life was a happy one, and his death was sincerely mourned by the duchess.

The baby Victoria, who was afterwards to rule over the destinies of the mightiest of nations was not a year old when her father died, and from a very early age she was well acquainted with the domestic cares and jealous strife which bore so heavily on the expatriated widowhood of her mother. It is well known that the Regent who within a week of the death of the Duke of Kent succeeded George III. as king had lived at open enmity with his brother and now extended that dislike to his widow and child.

"The first gentlemen of Europe" was present at the baptism of the royal infant but only under stress of political policy and etiquette; and when she was a little prattling child of four, all unconscious of the great future in store for her, he condescended to entertain her at a garden party and to present her with a miniature of himself set in diamonds. Nevertheless he was bitterly jealous of the little princess and her mother. The Duke of Clarence was however very fond of his little niece and when he succeeded to the throne he expressed great dissatisfaction with the retired manner in which his heirress was being brought up; but in this no doubt the Duchess displayed much wisdom for although the court was presided over by Queen Adelaide it had certain elements which made it not quite a desirable place for the young princess. The Duke of Cumberland had a positive hatred for the simple and innocent girl whose existence was fatal to the pretensions of his worshipped son George.

Until the Queen was almost grown up the little household at Kensington was obliged to dwell in almost total seclusion and many sacrifices, which at the time seemed all in vain, were made by the duchess. Thus in the early days of her youth the Queen experienced something of the adversity which has "sweet uses" and without a doubt this had much to do with the formation of her character. Later in life she refers to her "sad childhood" and says her happiest days were those she and her mother spent with her indulgent uncle at Claremont, where there was at least a temporary forgetfulness of the troubles of home. Victoria's first knowledge of life did not give her the false idea that it was a bed of roses; she knew that thorns were there long before the first great sorrow of her womanhood came upon her.

The greatest possible care was exercised in the education of the young princess and the Baroness Lezhzen, the daughter of a Hanoverian clergyman was one of the best persons that could have been chosen to assist in this work.

The royal little girl was singularly destitute of playfellows of her own age and rank in life, but among her acquaintances was numbered a young Queen who by the exigencies of fortune had been driven into exile and had sought English shores. When the Princess Victoria was about ten years old George IV. gave a children's party at which two little girls were the centre of attraction. One was our own Victoria the other was afterwards Maria da Gloria, Queen of Portugal, a good and pure woman in private life, but so incapable of receiving advice from those who knew her affairs best that she nearly cost the House of Braganza a crown. She wore a dress that sparkled at every turn with costly jewels, and her manner was as studied and courtly as that of some royal dame five times her age. Maria da Gloria was dark

and sallow, and it is related that once during the evening she accidentally tripped and this wounded her dignity so much that she did not dance again that evening. In characteristic and beautiful contrast was the childish English girl, with her simple white dress and unsophisticated manner. The two Queens, who were afterwards connected by marriage, met later in life and renewed their youthful acquaintance. Simplicity and exquisite taste marked the dress of the future Queen; in her dainty white muslin evening dresses, there was nothing to denote her rank, except the diamond comb which kept the flaxen hair in order. Her

1837—just fifty eight year, ago and within a month King William died. Everybody now knows the Princess was awakened from her slumber at five o'clock on a bright June morning and donning a simple white wrapper came into the presence of the Archbishop of Canterbury, the Prime Minister and the Lord Chamberlain who hailed her as Queen! Very touching was her request to the Archbishop, for his prayers. With her own hands she wrote affectionate words of sympathy to the widowed Queen, and though the address she put upon the letter "To the Queen of England" was under the circumstances



THE FOUR GENERATIONS OF THE ROYAL FAMILY

amusements were also of the simplest and commonest kind and such as children of all ranks usually find most fun in.

In 1830 when Victoria became by the accession of William, the nearest heir to the throne, a grant of ten thousand pounds was added to that already given to the Duchess of Kent upon the death of her husband. Parliament also paid a high tribute to the excellent qualities which the duchess had displayed in her daughter's education by appointing her regent in case the Princess should inherit the throne while a minor.

Two characteristic little stories are told of the queen's childhood and are given on the excellent authority of her former tutor, Davys, Bishop of Peterborough and also of her governess, Baroness Lezhzen. The first illustrates the honorable features of straightforward and unswerving honesty of the woman and queen. One day she was trifling over her lessons when her mother entered and asked how the child was behaving.

"She was a little troublesome once Your Grace," replied the governess.

"No, Lezhzen, twice; don't you remember?" was the conscientious amendment of the small offender.

The scene of the other story is also laid in the sunny upper room used as a school room. It was when she discovered the genealogy paper which had been placed in her history; she pondered over it for some time, then her blue eyes took in its meaning and she said eagerly what she thought as to who came nearest the throne. Her next words were the touching pledge, "Lezhzen, I will be good." A long and glorious reign tells how well that pledge was kept.

As she grew older her life at Kensington became more diversified and tours were made through her future kingdom in order that she might become thoroughly acquainted with her native country.

She was also permitted to meet the leaders in different fields of thought and action and these of course included, learned divines, statesmen, wise judges, famous generals, travellers, men of art and literature, though much caution had to be exercised in the favor shown.

Finally the frank, smiling child became the maiden of seventeen and already suitors were eager to establish themselves in favor for her hand, and throne. But the good uncle who had so long planned for her had not left this unattended. Very naturally his thoughts turned to a young relative of whom he was very fond. King William offered some opposition to this as he also had another suitor in view, but finally a visit from the young kinsman was arranged, and contrary to the way such pre-arranged matters usually turn out, Prince Albert and Princess Victoria fell in love though when he returned to his home there was no formal engagement and no correspondence was established.

The Princess came of age May 24

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wrong, she refused to change it saying that she did not wish to remind the Queen Adelaide that the title was no longer hers.

By her own wish the Queen went in alone to preside over her first council. Her uncles the Dukes of Cumberland and Sussex, both old men were first to do her homage and as they kissed her hand she blushed vividly and immediately rising kissed them on the cheek. The gathering that morning in the wide low room, included the most distinguished men in the kingdom but the slight, almost childish figure, in deep mourning robes, was the centre of attraction. All were eager to see how she would conduct herself at this trying moment, as it they would judge from those signs of what her future was to be; The men of different political opinion were unanimous in declaring that nothing could exceed her simplicity, her modesty and the total absence of self consciousness which she displayed or that trying occasion.

Most everybody is familiar with the romantic betrothal of the Queen and Prince Albert, and of the chief incidents in their married life. It is related that just before the marriage the Archbishop of Canterbury asked the Queen if she wished the word "obey" left out of the marriage service. "No," she replied, "I wished to be married as a woman, and not as a Queen."

In the hearts of her people is the Queen's best record and in future generations the late laureate's wish will be more than fulfilled:

May children of our children say,  
She wrought her people lasting good;  
Her court was pure; her life serene;  
God gave her grace; her land resplendent;  
A thousand claims to reverence closed  
In her as mother, wife and Queen.

THE EDITOR'S EXPERIENCE.

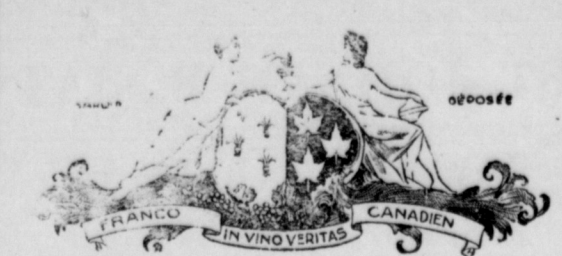
A SUFFERER FOR SEVERAL YEARS FROM ACUTE DYSPESIA.

Food Distressed Him and it Began to Have a Weakening Effect on the Heart—Many Remedies Failed Before a Cure Was Found.

(From the Canoe, N. S., Breeze.)

While newspaper men are called upon in their capacity as publishers to print from week to week words of praise spoken in favor of proprietary medicines, it is not often that the editor himself feels it his duty to say a good word on behalf of any of these preparations. And yet if a newspaper man has actually found benefit from the use of a proprietary medicine, why should he not make it known to his readers, and thus perhaps point out to some of them the road to renewed health. The editor of the Breeze believes it his duty to say a few words of praise in favor of a remedy that has proved an inestimable boon to him, and to say them without any solicitations on the part of the proprietors of the medicine, who, a matter of fact, had no reason to know that he was ailing or was using their medicine. For several years the editor of the Breeze had been subject to that distressing complaint, dyspepsia, and only those who have been similarly troubled can know how much misery this trouble entails. He had but very little appetite, and what he did eat caused an unpleasant feeling of fullness, and made him feel languid and heavy, often causing intense pain in the stomach only relieved by the food which he has taken. He was also troubled with palpitation of the heart,

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brought on no doubt by dyspepsia. Numerous remedies alleged to cure dyspepsia were tried but without success, and the trouble was approaching a chronic state. At the suggestion of a friend Dr. Williams' Pink Pills were tried and relief soon followed their use, and after a few boxes had been taken the editor was able to assert positively that he had been cured of his dyspepsia by this remedy that has proved so great a blessing to mankind. To any one troubled with this complaint he would strongly recommend Dr. Williams' Pink Pills. To newspaper men in particular they will be found just the thing to impart health and vigor to the whole system and enable them to pursue their work free from that tired, despondent feeling so prevalent among the craft. The editor of the Breeze firmly believes that what they have done for him they will do for others, and he gives them his hearty and unsolicited endorsement.

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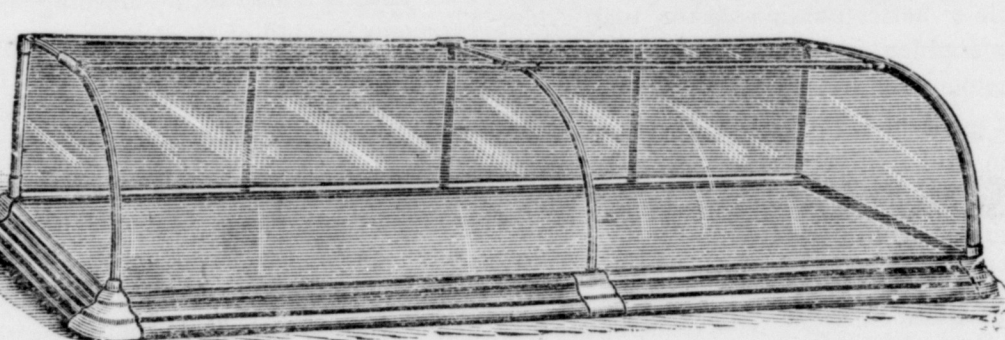
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