

duly set forth in our April number. Her pure and simple domestic affections are like those of the Queen, but she enjoys the advantages of a more graceful presence, a more stately beauty. If she does not exhibit such statesmanlike wisdom, she is not required to bear such statesmanlike burdens. It will be hers to carry into the social functions of the court the sweetness, the graciousness, the womanly refinement and purity which marked the court of the good Queen. In



QUEEN ALEXANDRA.

all the pictures which are shown of Queen Alexandra and her daughters, we are reminded of the words of Horace, "Mater pulchra filia pulchrior," "O mother, more beautiful than thy beautiful daughter," and of that fine phrase of Milton's, "the fairest of her daughters, Eve."

We quote some items about Queen Alexandra from an interesting character sketch by Mr. Stead in the March number of the *Review of Reviews*. We regret the cynical manner in which Mr. Stead refers to his sovereign, and

the tremendous "If" with which he prefaces his qualified commendation. We think that both bad taste and bad manners are shown in the following extract:

"'God Save the Queen,' say all of us, including some of those who either sing 'God Save the King' with wry faces, or not at all."

We have no difficulty in singing this prayer without making any wry face. We accept without question the apostolic injunction, "Fear God and honour the king," and earnestly pray that God's guidance and blessing may rest upon our rightful sovereign.

With much better taste Mr. Stead writes thus of Queen Alexandra:

"During all the thirty-eight years of her sojourn amongst us, she has never on a single occasion given rise to ill-natured gossip or unkind criticism. In the midst of the eagles, the hawks, and even the vultures of society, she has lived and lives unharmed in their midst, like a beautiful white dove, whose plumage was neither soiled nor marred by the wires of its gilded cage. A dutiful daughter, brought up, if not in penury, at least in severe economy practised by the frugal court of Copenhagen, she passed as if to the manner born to be the wife of the heir to the English throne."

The Princess of Wales resented strongly the rapacious policy of Bismarck in wresting the little province of Schleswig-Holstein from her native country and annexing it to Germany, and burst into tears when a telegram announced an Austro-Prussian victory. When a royal visitor at Windsor asked the Princess Beatrice what she would like for a present the child begged the Princess of Wales to advise her.

"The result of a whispered conversation between the two was that the little Princess declared aloud that she would like to have Bismarck's head on a charger."

After the serious illness of the Princess in 1867 she, with the