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The Empire's Sorrow

Continued from page 11

married the Princess May, daughter of the Duke of Teck, at the royal chapel, St. James, and their eldest child, Prince Edward, was born at York Lodge on June 23, 1894.

Unlike their father, King Edward's two sons had no experience of University life. When Prince Albert was only six and his brother, the present Prince of Wales, five, a tutor was provided for the two boys in the person of the Rev. J. Neale Dalton, under whose care they remained for years.

At the end of this time their royal father decided to give them a naval education himself, taking them to the Britannia, on which they were to spend some strenuous if happy years, and introducing them to Captain Fairfax, the ship's commander.

On the Britannia the young princes led the same life as their fellow cadets, attending the same classes, drilling, playing and messing with them, their only privilege being that their hammocks were slung behind a separate bulkhead. On July 15, 1879, they were gazetted to the Bacchante and started on their first long voyage as midshipmen, still leading practically the same life as their fellows, sleeping in hammocks, drilling, attending school and learning all the mysteries of navigation. How thoroughly they enjoyed their life and what fine educational use they made of it is proved by the journals in which the princes recorded their daily doings and experiences.

So high an opinion did the Prince of Wales form of his naval training that, with the king's approval he chose it above all others for his two elder sons who are already half sailors. For some years their most beloved toys have been model boats and their chief recreation mimic sea-fights.

Promoted to Midshipman

In January, 1880, Prince George was promoted to midshipman. In this capacity he crossed the equator, submitting good naturedly to the usual hazing by Neptune, lord of the seas. On this cruise the Bacchante visited the Canaries, the Falklands, Simon's Bay, Montevideo and Australia, where Prince George remained several months. The Bacchante went from Australia to China and returned to the Mediterranean via Singapore and the Suez Canal. A trip from Jaffa through Palestine completed the tour.

Prince George was made sub-lieutenant in 1884 and joined H.M.S. Canada on the North Atlantic station. In October of the following year he became a full lieutenant. Attached successively to various ships, he served with H.M.S. Dreadnought and H.M.S. Alexandra, flagship of the Mediterranean squadron, of which his uncle, the Duke of Edinburgh, was commander in chief.

In 1889 Prince George was presented with his first command, torpedo boat No. 79, during the naval manoeuvres. While in charge of this craft he gave valiant service to a vessel in distress.

On May 6, 1890, he commissioned the first gunboat, Thrust, and spent a year thereon at the North Atlantic station, visiting Canada and the West Indies. Upon his return to England in 1891 he was promoted to commander. His latest command was H.M.S. Crescent, in which, during 1898, he visited many seaport towns of Ireland and England. In the closing month of the year 1892, Prince George was taken ill with enteric fever, and for weeks his life was despaired of. He recovered, however, only a short time before his elder brother, the Duke of Clarence, became seriously ill from the after effects of influenza. After a few days of suspense the Duke of Clarence passed away and Prince George became the heir apparent.

The elevation of Prince George of Wales to the peerage as Duke of York took place several months after the event which had plunged the British Empire into universal mourning. Probably few are aware that not only the grandsons, but all the younger sons of the reigning British sovereign, are commoners until formally created peers. The heir apparent alone, in virtue of his being Duke of Cornwall, is, ipso facto, a member of the upper house.

His Marriage Popular

On July 6, 1893, the new sovereign married Princess Victoria May of Teck

in the Chapel Royal of St. James Palace. The marriage was not without a romantic element, for the Princess May, as she was popularly called, was the betrothed of the deceased Duke of Clarence, Prince George's elder brother. It seemed an inevitable, as it was certainly a popular match. The new queen is the granddaughter of the first Duke of Cambridge, Queen Victoria's uncle, and she is therefore a second cousin once removed of her husband. It is interesting to note that this relationship is also established through the now dowager Queen Alexandra, as the late Queen of Denmark was a niece of the first Duke of Cambridge's wife, Augusta of Hesse. The new queen's mother, the late Duchess of Teck was first cousin to Queen Victoria and a close friend of the latter.

To George V. and his queen, six children have been born as follows: Edward, born June 23, 1894, who entered the Royal Naval College as a cadet in 1907; Albert, born Dec. 14, 1895, who entered the Royal Naval College last year; Mary, born April 25, 1897; Henry, born March 31, 1900; George, born Dec. 20, 1902; and John, born July 12, 1905.

On March 16, 1901, the then Duke and Duchess of Cornwall and York began their journey around the world, said to have been the most luxurious trip ever taken even by royalty. In India, particularly, Britain's future rulers were received with oriental magnificence, twenty Durbars marking the progress of this pageant of state through his father's Asiatic dominions. The royal pair were conveyed to the Orient by the Ophir, a British battleship that had been converted into a magnificent yacht, so sumptuous that its like has rarely been seen. Equally splendid was the special train constructed for the purpose of carrying them upon the journey on land.

The first stop was made at Gibraltar. From this fortress at the entrance to the Mediterranean the Prince and Princess proceeded by way of Malta, Ceylon, and Singapore to Australia, arriving at Melbourne on May 5. The royal visit included every part of the commonwealth and every attention was paid to the man one day destined to rule over the continent in the South Pacific. From Australia the prince and princess went to New Zealand and Tasmania, arriving on June 11. On August 23 the prince reached South Africa and visited Durban and Cape Town. It was at the latter city that the DeBeers company presented him with 600 diamonds.

Landed in Canada

On September 10 the prince landed in Quebec. The tour of Canada occupied more than a month, the prince travelling across the continent to Victoria, B.C. He sailed for home on October 25. Shortly after his return home Prince George was created Prince of Wales by royal patent.

The new king is a crack shot and indefatigable collector of postage stamps and clippings relating to his wife and himself. But a review of his career indicates that he has had a careful preparation for regal duties and has a serious idea of their importance.

It is said to have been due to circumstances as much as to personality that there was a wide divergence in the characteristics of the king and his heir. But despite this there was an extraordinary sympathy existing between them. Like his father, who was the first heir apparent since the revolution not to be in open revolution against the monarch he seemed entirely to have interwoven his public duties and private interests with the views and wishes which emanated from the throne.

As an instance, he followed the precedent of his father in unremitting attendance at big charity meetings. The colonial journey of 1901 may, perhaps, be considered as the point of departure of his public career, while his famous "Wake Up England" speech was the wholly constitutional expression of sympathy with a premarital and far-reaching imperial policy. The new king is a martyr to dyspepsia and has been so ever since his recovery from that attack of typhoid fever which proved fatal in the case of his elder brother, the Duke of Clarence, who was stricken almost at the same time.

Abstemious in Habits

Owing to this he is compelled to be abstemious and careful in his habits.

Continued on Page 25



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