

ancestor. "Your Majesty's predecessor," he said, "not your ancestor." One is glad to know that the great historian and essayist was not of those who never make a blunder and never make anything else. But it is a pity that he forgot his Shakespeare just then. In King Henry V the poet makes the Archbishop of Canterbury use the word "ancestor" of the king's "great-uncle" as well as that of his "great-grandsire." In the same play the great king says that "Nice customs curtsy to great kings," and we commend this saying to all sorts of priggish verbal critics.

Incidents of The Queen.

It is said that Victoria used to consider herself really at home in but one place, and that her private garden at Osborne, on the Isle of Wight. There she had a plot of ground—her own private property—on which no stranger was ever allowed to intrude. A Swiss chalet has been built there and fitted up as a sort of family museum, and in the grounds themselves the Queen has exploited her personal taste in the matter of tree-planting. Royal marriages were commemorated by planting slips from a myrtle bush. Not far from this row of trees is the mourning row, all planted by her Majesty. Of late years the younger members of the Queen's army of descendants have done much of the tree-planting, and the place is full of all sorts of trees in commemoration of all sorts of events.

When the daughter of Sir Henry Ponsonby, the Queen's private secretary, was married, the Queen asked Lady Ponsonby if there were to be many present at the ceremony. "Far from it," was the reply. "The house in Ambassador's court will not permit a crowd. It is to be very select." "In that case," said the Queen, "perhaps there will be room for an old lady among the guests—an old lady like me!" And then Lady Ponsonby went nearly mad with joy because of the distinction vouchsafed her daughter's nuptials.

The Queen wrote much, but published little. The two volumes, "My Life in the Highlands" and its sequel, published shortly after John Brown's death, were singular productions. The first was intended as a vent to her feelings on the death of Prince Albert, and the other filled the same purpose after the decease of Brown. Both are dull, and both disclose as far as may be the daily life of an exalted personage, who was, after all, but a woman, and in some ways but a very weak and foolish woman, but one who was of good heart, possessed of many noble qualities, and of unquestionable purity of life.

The Queen hated tobacco smoke with all her strength, and it was forbidden to every one to indulge in the fragrant weed within the walls of Windsor. It is not recorded that this rule was ever relaxed but once, and that was on the occasion of the visit of King Charles of

Roumania to her Majesty in 1892. Then the smell of havanas was observable everywhere save in the apartments of the Queen herself and the adjacent corridors.

Queen Victoria was small in stature and during the latter part of her life very stout. This, however, did not prevent her from retaining a most remarkable grace and majesty of deportment. It was impossible to conceive anything more captivating and winning than her smile.

A very commendable trait of Queen Victoria's character was her loyalty to her servants. Though exacting, even to the point of severity, in her demands upon them, few mistresses, royal or otherwise, have ever been as considerate of those who served her as was her Majesty of England.

Her Majesty Queen Victoria was older than her grandfather was, and consequently she was older than any previous English sovereign. In the length of her reign the Queen surpassed any present ruler, though she was not the oldest in years. The oldest ruler of an independent state at present is the Grand Duke Adolphus of Luxemburg, who is in his 84th year. Among monarchs next to the Grand Duke of Luxemburg, in point of age, stands King Christian IX of Denmark. He is more than a year older than the deceased British sovereign. But Queen Victoria ascended the throne eleven years before any other ruler, whose life has extended into the new century, attained his present rank and position.

Giving expression to her thoughts on the British Empire to one of her maids of honor, the Queen is reported as having recently said:

"My influence has ever been for peace. There have been wars, but only to establish peace, and to give the people security. Wars for that end are justifiable, but for no other.

"If, when I am dead, they honour me enough to think of what I would wish and what I would pray for on their behalf, I would have them always associate my name with the peace and amity that promote the ends of justice and of right.

"I have confidence to believe that this is England's destiny, and nothing would give me so much pleasure as to be assured that my spirit could in any way watch over and aid the accomplishment of that noble work."

Encourage reading at home. Suggest something for the children to read aloud to their parents or brothers and sisters. If this custom can be established, the teacher will feel the good effect of it in the schoolroom. If the pupils do not own the necessary books, they may be loaned from the school library or taken from the public library. Common interests in some good book is an important factor in the home and indeed anywhere. If there is no public library or even school library, the teacher can soon form a small circulating library by lending out his books, and asking some of the reading people in the neighborhood to do the same.