



AT THE SIGN OF THE MAPLE

The New Era Brings Changes at Court.

POSSIBLY it is somewhat early to speculate on the important changes that will take place at Court now that the new era has begun, nevertheless it is without a doubt that they will occur. The new Queen, who is known to be of a very loyal disposition, will naturally desire to



The Countess of Shaftesbury.

surround herself with those friends who have served her faithfully as Princess of Wales. It is natural also, that being very studious and serious-minded, the new members of her Court will incline in that direction, therefore it may be surmised that the social ideal will trend more to domesticity and philanthropy, rather

than to the brilliancy that has existed during the past.

All the ladies of the new Court are aristocrats in the older sense, representatives of what may be called the higher domesticity. First on the list and highest comes, I suppose, the Duchess of Devonshire, who is to be Mistress of the Robes; a great lady, refined, exclusive almost to a fault, one to whom the social side of life is uncongenial, the domestic side the only one worth cultivating. Then Lady Shaftesbury, bright and always beaming, yet a woman, like her sister, Lady Beauchamp, of wide religious and intellectual interests, the sister of the Duke of Westminster, and wife of the Queen's Chamberlain; and in their turn Lady Bradford, a quiet and kindly, simply arrayed little lady whom the Queen is glad to number among her most valued friends; Lady Powis, as exclusive as the Duchess of Devonshire; Lady Airlie, born the Lady Mabel Gore, whose husband fell at Diamond Hill; Lady Stradbroke, a grand-daughter of that Madame de Falbe whom Queen Alexandra honoured with her friendship; Mrs. Derek Keppel, Lady Eva Dugdale and Lady Katherine Coke.

It is a well-known fact that the Queen is very devoted to her three brothers—the Duke of Teck, whose portrait and that of his wife and children appear on this page—Prince Francis of Teck, and Prince Alexander of Teck, and that very shortly the title of Royal Highness will be conferred upon them in place of their present title of Serene Highness by which they have hitherto been known. A more united and affectionate family than the Queen and her brothers could scarcely exist—a characteristic which has served to strengthen the admiration and respect in which she is held by many loyal subjects.

The social world, not within the immediate circle of the Court will likewise be seriously affected. There will be no royal balls for at least another year. The second Spring Meeting at Newmarket was abandoned. In June, however, there will be a certain amount going on. The Derby and Oaks will be run for, and it is understood that the Ascot meeting will take place, but the royal pavilion will be closed, as it was after the death of Queen Victoria. All those who are favoured with vouchers for the Royal Enclosure—should it be open—will have to appear in deep mourning, and it will be the blackest Ascot ever remembered. The July meetings will, of course, take place, but here the late King will be missed as much as anywhere, for His Majesty was never absent from these meetings if he could help it. Goodwood will not be very "glorious" this year, and Cowes will have a very gloomy Regatta week.

Unconscious Poetry.

By "SERANUS."

IN this year of grace, or disgrace, as the case may be, it is amusing to look back and see what Charles Dickens said of Toronto when he visited it many years ago, and when Canada was evidently a small place indeed by comparison with the United States. Quite in the style of too many modern writers the illustrious novelist rushed across the country, jotting down with characteristic terseness his impressions of men and things. Here is what

he said of Toronto. The church, I suppose, is the original Cathedral of St. James, on King Street East. "The country round this town being very flat, is bare of scenic interest, but the town itself is full of life and motion, bustle, business, and improvement. The streets are well paved and lighted with gas; the houses are large and good; the shops excellent. Many of them have a display of goods in their windows such as may be seen in thriving country towns in England, and there are some which would do no discredit to the metropolis itself. There is a good stone prison here, a handsome church, a courthouse, and an observatory for noting and recording the magnetic variations."

Dickens has left behind him a singularly beautiful passage descriptive of Niagara which possesses



QUEEN MARY.

A favourite portrait of her Gracious Majesty.

the interesting feature of being very nearly poetry, not quite, though apparently couched in prose.

I think in every quiet season now,
Still do those waters roll and leap and roar
And tumble all day long;
Still are the rainbows spanning them,
A hundred feet below.

Still when the sun is on them
Do they shine and glow;
Still when the day is gloomy
Do they fall like snow.

But always does the mighty stream appear
To die as it comes down,

And always from its unfathomable grave
Arises that tremendous ghost of spray
And mist, which is never laid.

Might this not pass for very creditable verse? Unconscious poetry is found in many pages of Blackmore. Lorna Doone, loveliest and most truly romantic of bygone novels, contains several beautiful specimens of an artistic digression which should never be attempted by second-rate authors. The result in the latter case might be something like the following, which is an attempt to convert a bit of prose from the *Delincator* fashion book into verse. It scans, too. The iambic pentameter is all right, all right, whatever may be our opinion of the ideas expressed.



Lady Eva Dugdale.

This ladies' skirt in medium sweep or round, Consisting of a five-gored upper part, Is lengthened by a straight and gathered flounce. Stitched to long hip depth, Fashion's closest fit. This graceful skirt has tucks around the hips: A very charming semi-princesse dress, In net, or voile, or any summer silk, It would be dainty; at the lower edge, In medium size, the skirt will measure four Yards and three quarters. It might be combined With blouse waist as below—a pretty style. The waist, that closes in the back, is trimmed Effectively with tucks to match the skirt. The Dutch low neck, and sleeves with deep full cuff Are new and most attractive. For the skirt, Five yards at forty inches wide required; For twenty inches waist and forty hip. Three yards of same for forty inches bust.

A good elocutionist could make something of that.

The Women's Aerial League.

IN London there has recently been formed a Women's Aerial League of Great Britain, an association that does not mean to let the grass grow under its feet. The *Tatler* records the progress they have already made. "There is a charming *r union* on the first Thursday of each month, at which during tea there is always an excellent musical programme followed by speeches on the subject of aviation by some authorities on the new sport. These are both smart and interesting affairs.

There are some 700 members now on the roll, and the president of the league is Lady O'Hagan. Just now it has a great scheme on foot to buy a piece of land somewhere in the vicinity of London for the practise of aviation, and also, if possible, to raise enough money among themselves and their friends to build an airship and present it to the nation. At a recent at home Sir Percy Scott made a racy speech on the future of aerial warfare and on the necessity for the motto, "Wake up, England," to be impressed upon us as a nation. He congratulated the league on its energy and enterprise."



The Duchess of Teck and her Children.



The Duke of Teck.



H. R. H. the Princess Alexander of Teck.
—The Bystander.