

suffering. At Cairo the Royal travellers stayed at the beautiful palace of Esbekieh, prepared for them by the Viceroy of Egypt, and furnished with every device of Oriental luxury. The bedsteads were of massive silver. The accounts of their life there read like a chapter from the "Arabian Nights." Slaves in picturesque dress attended their slightest wish. The Princess, with great tact and no little quiet merriment, conformed to the exigencies of the occasion, sipping her black coffee after dinner, and pretending to use the long jewelled pipe prepared for her. She dined in state with the ladies of the harem on two occasions, sitting gracefully upon the floor and eating with her fingers and the aid of a tortoiseshell spoon with a coral handle. She and the Prince shopped in the bazaars, and enjoyed many adventures like ordinary travellers. From Cairo they proceeded on a six weeks' voyage down the Nile, visiting the Cataracts, the most famous Pyramids, the Tombs of the Kings, and other places of interest. The most romantic expedition was to the Temple of Karnak by moonlight. The Princess, dressed in a white flannel costume, rode a white ass caparisoned in red and gold velvet, and the Prince was similarly mounted. They were followed by a cavalcade of fifty persons, consisting of their suites and a company of natives fantastically dressed in loose flowing robes and gay turbans. As they rode up the avenue of Sphinxes to the Temple the wonderful ruin was suddenly illuminated by myriads of magnesium lights, while in the background rockets and fireworks made a grand display. This exhibition had been planned by the Prince as a surprise for his wife. The Nile journey afforded the Prince some good sport, and he had the luck to kill a fine crocodile; while to the Princess it brought great exhilaration. She was the life of the party—riding on a donkey sometimes with only a cushion tied on for a saddle, when nothing else could be procured, and once in the cleverest manner without a saddle at all, and seemed insensible to fatigue and

full of the spirit of adventure. Neither the sand of the Great Nubian Desert, nor the full blaze of an Egyptian sun daunted her, and she explored the mummy-caves and the dark catacombs with unflagging spirit. The party returned to Cairo, and after another sojourn in their Oriental palace left the land of the Pharaohs and proceeded to Constantinople, where the Sultan entertained them in his palace on the Bosphorus. They spent ten days seeing the sights of the beautiful city, and derived much amusement from shopping *incognito* in the bazaars as "Mr. and Mrs. Williams." On the homeward journey the Prince and Princess passed through the Crimea and paid a visit to the tombs of our brave officers and men in Cathcart Cemetery; and proceeded to Greece, where they explored Athens and its neighbourhood along with the Princess's brother, King George. They reached Marlborough House May 12th, 1869, after an absence of six months, and had a happy reunion with their four little children. In the following November their Majesties' fifth and youngest living child, Princess Maud, was born.



The almost fatal illness from typhoid fever which the King suffered just as he attained his 29th year is regarded as marking a turning-point in his career. After his recovery he assumed a more serious role as Heir-Apparent; and, in grateful memory of the universal outburst of affection and loyalty shewn not only at home but throughout every portion of the Empire, devoted himself very assiduously to the promotion of the civic and philanthropic side of the nation's life. The seizure took place at Sandringham in November, 1871, and the crisis was reached on the anniversary of his father's death. For three days previous, hope of his recovery had been almost abandoned, and indescribable excitement prevailed in London. Business was almost suspended, except in the news shops, where people jostled each other to see the latest bulletins.