

**HOW A PRINCE STUDIES TO PLEASE.**—The Prince of Wales' visit to Ireland gives plenty of food for the newspapers. There is not a man in England more popular than His Royal Highness. There is not an individual who has less pride, nor one who is more courteous than the Heir Apparent to the Throne. In 1882, I was one of the privileged reporters who had notice given to them to attend when the Prince of Wales visited the Smoke Exhibition at South Kensington. Punctual to the moment, 12 o'clock (noon), a private carriage drove up to the door of the side entrance, having within the Prince and a secretary. The secretary of the Exhibition was there and a few of the committee of management were also present to meet his Royal Highness. No guard of honour, no protective body. Out of his carriage the Prince leaped, and passing rapidly into the balcony, gave a hearty shake of the hand to the Exhibition Chairman and Managing Secretary, whom he at once recognised; then passing from one to another he gave each of the reporters, of whom there were six present, a hearty grip, perhaps believing they were in some way connected with the committee. In any way that friendly grip somewhat endeared the Prince to the reporter's heart. How different this to what I have seen on the Continent, particularly Germany and Russia, where the sacred person of any member of the Royal Family has to be guarded at every step. On to business went the Prince in a moment, on the occasion I allude to, and viewed coal, coke, and gas stoves, coal, coke, and gas ovens and furnaces, and seeming deeply interested. His good humoured countenance placed all exhibitors on a level with himself. The reporters were asked to do more than they dared, for when book and pencil betrayed their profession, the exhibitor would follow and ask that the words "very good," "very ingenious," as emanating from his Royal Highness's lips, should be given in the report. Of course this could not be done. There were two or three instances of the *bon homme* manner of His Royal Highness that may be recorded here. A man had one little solitary stove, an invention very futile and making little display. The Prince passed his exhibit, when the exhibitor followed His Royal Highness, plucked him by the coat, and said "You have not seen mine, the best invention in the whole exhibition." The Prince turned back, heard the man's wanderings about the value of his patent—shook him by the hand, and wished him success. Another instance was that of a huge machine for economising coal in furnaces. The surrounding space was terrifically hot and his conductors would have spared the Prince the trouble of inspecting it, but the exhibitor threw himself before His Royal Highness and pressed his case so much, that, with merciful consideration for the exhibitor, he watched the process of a limited supply of coals giving great motive power, though the perspiration poured down His Royal Highness's cheeks, he expressed himself grateful for the information afforded. Very little of this appeared in the newspapers. It was sufficient to say that the Prince of Wales, through his secretary, expressed gratification on seeing the improved models of abating smoke nuisances in manufacturing districts, and in densely populated cities and towns.



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