

that it is those terrible ceremonies and preparations wherewith we set death out, that more terrify us than the thing itself. Children are afraid even of those they love best, and are best acquainted with, when disguised in a visor, and so are we. The visor must be removed from things as well as persons, which being taken away, we shall find nothing underneath but the very same death a mean servant or a poor chambermaid died a day or two ago without any manner of apprehension or concern. Happy, therefore, is the death that deprives us of the leisure for such grand preparations."

That sweet religious poet, Mrs. BARBAULD, sings:

"Life! we've been long together,
Through pleasant and through cloudy weather,
'Tis hard to part when friends are dear;
Perhaps 'twill cost a sigh, a tear;
Then steal away. Give little warning,
Choose thy own time;
Say not 'good-night!' but in some brighter clime
Bid me 'good-morning.'"

THE PRINCESS ALICE.

HER BIRTH, CAREER, AND LAST ILLNESS—REMINISCENCES OF THE ROYAL FAMILY OF ENGLAND.

The grand duchess of Hesse-Darmstadt, better known as the Princess Alice of Great Britain, was the second daughter of Queen Victoria. It will be remembered that the Grand Duke Louis and nearly the whole of his family were prostrated by this disease, from which the youngest child of the late grand duchess, the Princess Marie Victoria, died a few days ago, aged four years and six months. The condition of the grand duchess first became critical about the 10th., since which date the bulletins of her health became daily more and more alarming. The Queen whose own health inspired anxiety, was very much affected by the loss of the little princess, who was one of her chief favorites among her grandchildren, and upon the news of the critical condition of her daughter would have hastened to her bedside but that her medical adviser deemed it dangerous to take such a step. She, however, despatched to Darmstadt Sir William Jenner, the eminent physician, to whose skill the recovery of the Prince of Wales in 1872 was attributed, and thus procured for her dying daughter all the alleviation possible under the circumstances. She had expressed an ardent wish to see her mother, to whom she was fondly and devotedly attached, but that comfort was, unfortunately, impracticable.

The deceased princess, Alice Maud Mary, was the second daughter and third child of the late Prince Consort Albert (Albrecht) of Saxe-Coburg, Gotha, and of Alexandria Victoria, queen of Great Britain and Ireland and empress of India. She was born at Windsor estate April 25, 1843, and a few days later the happy mother wrote as follows to her uncle, King Leopold.

"Our little baby is to be called Alice, (an old English name), and the other names are to be Maud (another old English name) and Mary, as she was born on Aunt Gloucester's birthday. The sponsors are to be the King of Hanover, Ernestus Primus, poor Princess Sophia Matilda, and Feodore, and the christening is to be on the 2nd of June."

The King of Hanover, it is chronicled, arrived too late to be present at the ceremony, which nevertheless, as the queen duly reported to her uncle, "went off very brilliantly." Nothing could be more *anstandig*, and little Alice behaved extremely well. The Princess Alice seems to have been devoted from her cradle to the especial affection of the people of England, as her elder brother was to the principality of Wales, the duke of Edinburgh to Scotland. At all events, she soon became especially dear to the English subjects of her majesty, and her fair sweet face was familiar in nearly every village in England.

The late princess was perhaps the best known and loved of all the daughters of the empress-queen from the tender care which she lavished upon her father during his last illness, "her name becoming synonymous with a father's farewell and a mother's consolation." She was also of all the royal children the one who most resembled her mother, both in person and character. Her eldest sister, now the crown princess of Germany, having been early destined and trained for her brilliant marriage, and the Prince of Wales being notably the nation's ward, Princess Alice was the first of the children of the empress-queen in whom the royal mother could fully realize a sense of personal maternal ownership, and it was, perhaps, for this reason, aided by an especially affectionate disposition, that she became the favorite of both her parents, and ultimately of the whole British public, in so far as personal qualities were ever allowed to outweigh the claims of primogeniture. The "Memoirs of the Prince Consort," so large a portion of which is made up of the private correspondence and journals of the royal parents, bear ample testimony to the affectionate fondness with which Princess Alice was regarded by them from her infancy. Of the particulars of her education we have no accurate information, but it is known that she was an apt scholar in all the usual branches of princely study, and was particularly accomplished in instrumental music.

At the time of the death of her father, the Prince Consort Albert, which occurred on Saturday, December 14, 1861, just seventeen years before her own death and on the same day of the week, Princess Alice was the member of the royal family who, next to the queen, herself, excited universal sympathy, mixed with respect and admiration. During the long, weary days of watching at her father's bed-side she was his chosen companion and confidant, and seemed to be endowed with a preternatural calmness and fortitude. Her father used to speak to her openly of his dying condition and of his desires for the future, even when he did not deem it expedient to speak with the same certitude of impending death to the queen herself. Day after day she sat at his bedside nursing herself to look cheerful, and whenever the agitation of the moment proved too strong for her emotions she would repress her tears until she could gain the quietude of her own apartments. All this time it was her trying task to display her usual cheerfulness to her royal mother, to brothers and sisters, and when all was over it fell to her lot to be the chief stay and consolation to the widowed queen. These circumstances became well known and were not readily forgotten by the loyal people of Great Britain, who knew, moreover, that that dark winter of mourning was the period of all others which ought naturally to have been filled with joy as the crowning season of her life. It was, in fact, no secret that for some months before the death of Prince Albert she had become engaged to her second cousin, Prince Friedrich Wilhelm Ludwig Karl generally known in England as Prince Louis of Hesse, now the grand duke of Hesse-Darmstadt under the rule of Ludwig IV. The marriage was one highly approved by both her parents, and though not uninfluenced by the usual political considerations, was chiefly of affection. Her intended husband was six years her senior, having been born September 12, 1837, and was the eldest son and heir-apparent of Grand Duke Karl Ludwig Wilhelm, who died last year (June 13, 1877), his mother being a Catholic princess, Mathilde, daughter of King Ludwig I, of Bavaria. The marriage first postponed in consequence of the death of Prince Albert, was a second time postponed on account of the death of Prince Louis' mother which occurred in April, 1862, and still further delayed by the dangerous illness of the king of the Belgians. But four years previously her sister Victoria Adelaide, princess royal, "the rose of England," as she was called, wedded in royal state, her father giving her away and the holiday cheers of merry crowds bidding her God-speed. How different was the Princess Alice's bridal day. The ceremony was privately performed at her majesty's marine residence, Osborne, Isle of Wight, by the archbishop of York, on a day snatched from mourning, with not a color and scarce a shade of brighter hue to mark the exception to the uniform gloom. There was no crowd of privileged spectators, no long train of bridesmaids, but such moderate and needful attendants as would be thought fit for the most retiring couple in some private walk of life.

There, was, however, one bright side. There was not that utter separation which struck all so painfully when the princess royal left her home for the society of strangers and foreigners. The position of the prince was not such as to compel his residence in his paternal dominions, and it was with general satisfaction that it was found that the happy couple would take up their abode in England. They had a villa residence on the Isle of Wight, not far from the favorite dwelling place of the princess in earlier life, and there they passed much of their time for several years in the society of the queen. The Princess thus remained fully identified with the land of her birth, led a happy married life, and was blessed with seven children, five girls and two boys. The eldest son, Prince Ernest Ludwig Karl Albrecht, was born November 25, 1868, and is consequently now ten years of age. The younger son, Prince Friedrich Wilhelm August Victor Leopold Ludwig, born October 7, 1870, was accidentally killed by falling from a window May 27, 1873. The surviving princesses are Victoria Elizabeth Mathilde Alberte Marie, born at Windsor castle, April 5, 1863; Elizabeth Alexandra Louise Alice, born at Bestingen, Nov. 11, 1864; Irene Marie Louise Anna, born at Darmstadt July 11, 1866, and Victoria Alice Helene Louise, born, June 5, 1872; the youngest of all Marie Victoria Feodore Leopoldine, born May 24, 1874, having died of diphtheria a few days before her mother, as before mentioned.

The Princess Alice made herself popular in Germany by her activity in promoting hospital arrangements during the Franco-German war, when she was a constant visitor at the "Alice hospital" at Darmstadt, and president of the "Alice Frauenverein," or woman's association for charitable purposes, affiliated to the Berlin "Vaterlandischen Verein." Her husband, now the grand duke, was a titular lieutenant-general in the German army and colonel of a regiment of Prussian hussars, and served in the late Franco-German war with the actual rank of captain in the First regiment of the Prussian guard. He received the title of royal highness and the knighthood of the Garter from Queen Victoria on his marriage in 1862, along with a dowry of £30,000, and a parliamentary grant of £6,000 per annum was settled upon the princess. The coincidence of her death on the anniversary of the death of Prince Albert, when most of the royal family were assembled at Windsor castle for the customary memorial services, attracted much attention.

The London correspondent of the *Newcastle*

Daily Chronicle, on the authority of "an eminent Member of Parliament who has had probably more to do with the Royal Family than any other man in the House of Commons," thus speaks of the late Grand Duchess of Hesse-Darmstadt:—

Although the Princess Alice had not the force of character of her elder sister, she was equally intelligent. Her philosophical and political views were advanced if not peculiar. She had been a student of Voltaire, Diderot, and other French speculative writers. She was a constant correspondent with some eminent Positivists, and is understood to have entertained a high regard for M. Littré. Renan, when at Darmstadt, was warmly entertained by her, and she never concealed her admiration for his ability as a critic and a scholar. She did not confine her reading to courtly papers, but received regularly the *Republique Française* and the journal issued by the disciples of Comte. She had a special leaning for France and the French people, and during the Franco-German war made herself conspicuous for the attention which she paid to the wounded prisoners. She received a very flattering address signed by those who had come under her care at the conclusion of peace. The Princess Alice had less of an exclusive and haughty bearing towards dependents than any members of the Queen's family, and her intercourse with literary men and artists in her little palace at Darmstadt had tended even in her case to soften some of the strictness that it was only natural for her to have imbibed from her early training.

REVIEW AND CRITICISM.

By some misarrangement of our manuscript, we have been unable hitherto to give due notice of the appearance of a series of new compositions entitled "The Dusketha Waltzes," by Mr. W. E. Aitkin, of this city. The author, although quite a young man, is not unknown to the musical public, as he has already produced several pieces which we had the pleasure of reviewing in these columns. Why the present waltzes were christened with the name which they bear, belonging to a language unknown to us, is a mystery, but certainly we believe that their merits would have become more speedily known to the public, if they had some more intelligent and attractive denomination. The compositions themselves we can sincerely recommend as an improvement in the talent of the author and an earnest of future excellence. The pieces will be found to suit well together. The first part is in one flat and is very soft and gentle as becomes a lullaby which the author doubtless wished to express. The melody is in the bass, while the treble consists of beautiful chords. The second part is in three flats and very rich in chords. On the fifth page there is a change to a pleasant undulating melody in the treble while the bass still remains in chords. In the middle of this, however, as if in parenthesis, a change is introduced. After this there are moderate variations with a prevalence of octaves. The whole has the advantage of being easy to play, while it is more charming than many elaborate pieces that require great mechanical skill.

We have to acknowledge the receipt of a pocket song-book, compiled for the use of the students and graduates of McGill College by a student in arts. We are not, as a rule, hypercritical in the review of Canadian productions, but, inasmuch as this is a university volume, however unpretending, we may be pardoned for noticing several essential blunders *quos natura parum cavet*, doubtless. In the first song—"Health to Old McGill," we notice the problematic word "festial board," which, we hope, is a typographical error. The word "ipsus factus," occurring in Alma Mater, is unknown to us, and in "Alouette," the terminale is accented, whereas it should be mute. In the "Boar's Head" we read, "Caput abri deferro vedens," being treated to as many mistakes as there are words. In the time-honoured "Gaudemus Igitur," we find "Mæcenatam caritas." We trust our McGill friend will pardon us these little remarks in consideration of the favour with which we receive his book, inasmuch as

"Dulce scribentem Chaffven amabo,
Dulce canentem."

ECHOES FROM LONDON.

THE old-established institution called Lloyd's is about to remove to Leadenhall-street, and a wholesale eviction of city tenants is contemplated.

BRIEF reports of Parliamentary debates are good for printers. Lord Halifax is rarely reported. He is generally inaudible. This was the case recently when he made a speech in the House of Lords. So he is publishing his speech in pamphlet form. By the time that it is issued the Afghan question will be stale.

THE Midland Company have recently introduced a number of new carriages on their system, which should gratify the most exacting member of the travelling public. These carriages are all third class, and run on "bogies" wheels, and they have a continuous footboard. The seats and backs are cushioned, and altogether these third-class "bogies" are as comfortable as the first-class carriages of some other lines.

It is generally stated that Her Majesty's speeches are carefully written by a judicious adviser; but there are exceptions even to this rule. The Queen's address to the 4th King's Own, on the occasion of presenting new colours, was in the Queen's own writing. The original was the only copy of the address existing, and had not the Duke of Cambridge interested himself in procuring it for the newspaper correspondents, it would probably never have been published.

FOLLOWING up their own excellent idea of republishing in a compact volume the cartoons relating to Lord Beaconsfield published during the last twenty or thirty years in *Punch*, the proprietors of that paper have issued two similar volumes containing political cartoons of Mr. Gladstone and Mr. Bright. The Disraeli-Beaconsfield volume, although published at half-a-crown, sold enormously, but the other reproductions issued at one shilling have not thus far had nearly so good a sale.

SADLER'S Wells is being transformed indeed. Already it has passed beyond all recognition. The theatre which once was famous as being restored in very much the same sense that restorers in the late generation restored some of our parish churches. Nearly every portion of it is being newly constructed, from the roof to the front portico. Mrs. Bateman will have to wait some months before she enters upon possession of the new dramatic house for her daughters.

THE other evening the quietude of St. Paul's Cathedral was disturbed in a strange manner. As the priest was concluding the first prayer, a man was observed in the lectern. At first a confused muttering was heard, then in a loud clear voice, the man cried, "I am the Resurrection and the Life. I am Jesus Christ. I want to save you all." The poor fellow (obviously a lunatic) was soon secured by a verger, and, with the assistance of some of the congregation, was taken down the aisle, led out and delivered to a couple of policemen, who allowed him his liberty. As the police came up he called loudly:—"You mustn't lock me up. The people won't let you. I've given my brains to the people for years. They won't let you."

AN excellent method of reproducing pictures for general publication has been brought under notice. A scheme is being developed for issuing at such prices as will enable almost any person to purchase them copies of some of the finest old and modern paintings, English and foreign. These copies will be as far as possible obtained from the originals, and they will be published framed and unframed. In the former case ordinary paper will be used, but in the latter the copies will be taken on Japanese paper, which has the advantage of being soft as silk and strong, so that the picture may be crumpled up like a handkerchief. It may be put into the pocket or crushed in any way, and yet will open out again without the slightest crack or crease, which would inevitably result to the ordinary material from such treatment. This plan will enable purchasers of the pictures to keep them in portfolios or rolled up if they do not desire frames. Several of Hogarth's masterpieces have already been reproduced in this manner.

LITERARY.

Punch's Beaconsfield cartoons have cleared the publisher \$20,000.

"THE Almanach de Gotha" for 1879 has just been published. This is its 116th year.

"Contemporary Nightmares" is the striking title of a new volume of poems just published at Paris.

MR. FORBE'S letters from India cost the London *Daily News* a pretty penny. They are telegraphed to England at the rate of £1 12s a word.

MR. TENNYSON has a new play accepted at the Lyceum. The reading of it to a company the other evening, at the house of the laureate, occupied six hours. Mrs. Thistlethwaite has also a comedy ready to launch.

MR. HENRY MORLEY'S new volume of the "Library of English Literature" is out. This is the third of a series formed very much upon the model of "Chambers's Encyclopedia of English Literature," but more scientific, more modern, more complete.

THE autobiography of the Duke of Grafton, the Prime Minister of George III., from which Lord Edmund Fitzmaurice drew so largely in his "Life of Lord Shelburne," has been placed by the present Duke in the hands of Lord Cartington for publication.

MR. GEORGE Henry Lewes has left a considerable mass of MS., including the remainder of his work on theology in its philosophical relations. It is also said that a new and full edition of his works will shortly appear, under the editorship of Mrs. Lewes (George Eliot) and of a gentleman whose name has not yet transpired.

THERE is good news for literary men from the United States. The publishers of New York, Philadelphia, and Boston, and other cities in the Eastern States, are wonderful to relate, beginning to think they would like an international copyright. Not that their consciences are touched, but their pockets are beginning to suffer from competition on their own side of the Atlantic.

THE three highest salaried stock actors in America are Charles Coghlan, Charles R. Thorne, and Harry Becket. The former receives \$375 per week, Mr. Thorne, \$275, and Mr. Becket, \$250.

CLARA MORRIS is a native of Montreal. Her maiden name was Morrison, but in announcing her first appearance the last syllable was accidentally omitted, and she adopted the change from preference.