

The Princess of Wales and Her Daughters.

H. R. H. the Princess of Wales ranks as "second lady in the land" by order of precedence, but were the position one decided by order of popularity it would still be accorded to Her Royal Highness. Undoubtedly, the kindness, consideration, and universal popularity of the beautiful and esteemed wife of the Prince has



H. R. H. PRINCESS OF WALES.

earned for her the right to the distinction, for she has long since endeared herself to the nation, and gained a lasting place in the hearts of the people.

There is not sufficient space here to give anything like an adequate appreciation of the good qualities of the Princess or of her three daughters, who share so very largely in her popularity. It is thirty-six years ago now that the Princess Alexandra, the eldest daughter of the King of Denmark, was married to England's future King, and it took but a very little time for the people who welcomed her to realise that the Princess possessed all the good qualities beloved of the British nation.

As is well known, the Princess of Wales is the smartest and most neatly dressed woman in England. She never goes to any extreme in fashion, and always designs her dresses herself, making sketches of them either in pen and ink or pencil. These sketches have never been seen, however, for the dressmaker directly she has made use of them is commanded to return them, on receipt of which they are destroyed. As many as over 200,000 photographs of the Prin-

cess are sold during the course of a single year—one remarkable proof of her popularity, were such needed.

Sandringham, the favorite residence of the family, is a quiet and secluded spot, beautiful in its simplicity and attractive in its homeliness, though visitors cannot help but be impressed by the dignity inseparable from its owners and associations. It is in the home life spent here one realises what a typical happy English family is that of the heir to the throne. The Princess and her daughters are constantly engaged in charitable works and in looking after the poor and sick. Indeed, at Sandringham every child seems to know and to love the "beautiful lady," and every man and woman seems almost to worship her.

Upon one occasion the Princess was induced to write her "confessions" in one of the albums people used to be so fond of keeping for their own and their



H. R. H. DUCHESS OF FIFE.

friends' edification, and she recorded her favourite dish as being Yorkshire pudding; her favourite art, millinery; and her favourite occupation, minding her own business.

The Duchess of Fife, the eldest daughter of the Princess, started from her home on her wedding morning as Princess Louise; the ceremony at the altar made her Countess of Fife, and during the breakfast the ducal patent was handed