

# HAPPY DAYS

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## THE NEW KING.

BY LOUISE S. HOUGHTON.

Albert Edward, the oldest son of Queen Victoria, is now a man well on in mature life, and for years he has set himself seriously to fit himself for the great responsibilities which devolve upon a sovereign. The most essential thing and the most difficult is to know the people, and so Prince Albert Edward went about, not, indeed, like the eastern Caliph, Haroun Al Raschid, in disguise, but wearing the plain habit and the simple manner of an unostentatious gentleman, without retinue or pomp of any kind. His great purpose is to know thoroughly all classes of the people whom he is now to govern, and he permits himself nothing which will hinder the accomplishment of this purpose.

Thus it was that in 1885, when all Ireland was in a ferment, apparently on the very verge of rebellion, the Prince of Wales crossed over to Dublin, accompanied only by his eldest son, and spent days going about that excited city, mingling with all classes of people, listening to their conversation, and putting himself, as nearly as possible, at their point of view. A man who has the courage and the good sense to take such a step at a time so dangerous will not be likely to make grave mistakes when his hour for action arrives. In every way the King has most carefully prepared himself for his duties, and he seems never to forget that his high position has conferred upon him duties rather than



THE PRINCE OF WALES, NOW KING EDWARD VII., AT THE AGE OF SIX.

privileges. For example, he never breaks an engagement; yet one would suppose that he might be pardoned if he simply did

what he liked best to do, whatever might be his engagements. So in the matter of public speaking. To speak well in public is particularly necessary for a man in his position. But not only was the King, as a young man, not a good speaker, but the art of public speaking is peculiarly difficult for one who, by the very nature of his position, may not speak on politics or religion, or discuss public men, or touch upon any one of three-quarters of the topics which are open to most speakers. . . .

Difficult as the task was, he conquered it. He is now one of the finest public speakers of his day, graceful, tactful, forceful; the delight and the model of every one who is permitted to hear him.

Such a man in such a position is an inspiration to every one who knows or who knows of him. It must be a source of power to any young man to know that such a one as a royal prince looks upon his high position merely as a summons to a more determined and courageous discharge of duty than is required of other men. The great lesson that opportunity is obligation taught thus by King Edward is a lesson for every one to whom opportunity comes, whether on a large or a smaller scale.—*Forward.*

Little kittens learn from their plays just as little boys and girls learn by their kindergarten plays. When kittens chase a ball, or play with the mouse which the mother cat has caught, they are learning to hunt for themselves.