

to the newly consolidated German Empire she had a difficult rôle to play. She and her royal mother incurred the bitter hostility of Prince Bismarck, who justly feared the Christian influence of these peace-loving women on his stern and stormy war policy. During the short period when our Queen's eldest daughter held the high place of Empress of Germany, her dignity and force of character commanded the respect even of those who were jealous of her in-



THE DOWAGER EMPRESS FREDERICK.

fluence, and her years of widowhood and suffering have softened the asperities of even her enemies.

It was specially sad that through an incurable and painful malady she was unable to visit the old home at Osborne in the final illness of her beloved mother. The alacrity and filial duty with which her son, the Kaiser William II., hastened to the deathbed of the good Queen and showed his loving sympathy and reverence, have completely reinstated him in the affections of the English people, from which his impulsive telegram to Paul Kruger

five years ago had somewhat estranged him.

From the union of Victoria and Frederick III. sprang eight children, the eldest of whom, the present Kaiser, has a family of seven, of whom the eldest has just received, by the late Queen's request, from the hands of his uncle, Edward VII., the distinguished Order of the Garter.

The life-story of our new Sovereign has been lived so much in the public eye that it need not here be fully sketched. As Prince of Wales he travelled far and wide throughout the Queen's broad dominions and in foreign lands. The loyal enthusiasm called forth by his visit to Canada is still remembered with pleasure by many. The present writer can claim the Prince of Wales as a fellow-student, for he was enrolled as an undergraduate of Toronto University, at which function the writer loyally assisted by his presence and his cheers.

In the United States, where he travelled as Baron Renfrew, he was received with almost royal honours, and did much to cement the growing friendship of the two countries. He has had, as have few princes, the broadening influences of travel through Europe, the Holy Lands of the East, and the great Indian Dependency, where the Empress-Queen reigned so benignly over two hundred and forty millions of subjects. The following tribute to the new King by Lady Jeune is a discriminative estimate of his character:

"There is no position in an exalted rank in life that is more delicate or difficult to fill with dignity than that of the heir apparent. In England it has generally been one of opposition to the Crown. In