

1863, that the Prince formally presented his bride to the aristocracy. The impression which she created was most favourable, and the extravagant expectations which had heralded her coming were quite fulfilled. The more people saw of her the more popular she became; and it was apparent, as the weeks of the brilliant season passed by, in which she held the Drawing-Rooms on behalf of the widowed Queen, visited the City in state, accompanied the Prince to numerous functions, including the famous Guards' Ball and the unveiling of the Albert Memorial, that she was, to quote the *Spectator*, rapidly becoming "the pet of the nation." Marlborough House, the town abode of the Prince and Princess, soon became a gay social centre. At Sandringham they enjoyed the freedom of country life, and established the cordial relations with the county of Norfolk which remain to-day. There, in the village church of St. Mary Magdalene, the Princess took her first sacrament according to the rites of the English Church on the Easter Sunday after her marriage. It was administered by Dean Stanley.

Frogmore, in the grounds of Windsor Castle, was also used by the Prince and Princess as a country home, and there, on January 8th, 1864, a son was born to them, the lamented Duke of Clarence. The Princess had been in a sleigh on the ice watching the Prince and his friends skating only a few hours before her son was born. The event had not been expected until March, and elaborate preparations had been made for it at Marlborough House. Lady Macclesfield, an experienced mother, was fortunately in attendance on the Princess at Frogmore, and she wrapped the infant Prince in her petticoat until the swathing flannel could be procured from the nearest draper's. The happy parents chose the anniversary of their wedding-day for the christening of their heir, which took place in the presence of Queen Victoria at Buckingham Palace. He received the names of Albert Victor Christian Edward. In the June of the

following year another son was added to the Royal nursery, being George, now Prince of Wales.

It was very pretty to see the Queen in those days going about the lanes at Sandringham, or at Abergeldie, where she went with the Prince for the shooting season, walking beside the pony which carried her "treasures," one on either side in a basket pannier. She was a devoted mother, and often would slip away from her guests and go to the nursery to give "Eddy" or "Georgie" his bath, putting on a large apron over her costly dress. There is little doubt that the King and Queen have been indulgent parents, but that their rule has also been wise is demonstrated in the perfect domestic love which has prevailed in their family. Even marriage has not alienated the present Prince of Wales from the companionship of his sisters. Unselfishness was the lesson which the Queen most strictly enforced on her children. The story is related by a visitor at Sandringham that at luncheon one day, which the young Princes and Princesses always took with their parents, the youngest of the group, who had a chair by her mother, had received a dainty morsel. The visitor, in fun, said, "Won't you give that to me?" The little one looked at her plate, then up at her mother, and finally said, half regretfully, "You may have it if you like." The lady was about to decline the proffered piece, when the Princess of Wales said, "Please take it; she must learn to be unselfish."

In 1868-9 the King and Queen made a long tour in the East, visiting Alexandria, Cairo, the Cataracts of the Nile, the Pyramids, and returning by way of Constantinople, the Crimea, and Athens. It ranks as the longest and most interesting holiday which they have ever undertaken together. It was planned with a view to re-establishing the health and spirits of the Princess of Wales after the protracted illness from acute rheumatism in the knee-joint from which she had been