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THE PRINCE OF WALES.

On the 9th of November last the Prince of Wales celebrated his fiftieth birthday. By his special request no public demonstrations were held, but still much interest of a quieter nature has, of course, been manifested. Notwithstanding his faults, which cannot be ignored, the Prince of Wales is respected by many in the United Kingdom and loved by most of those whose love and respect are worth having. He has shown himself always affectionate, generous, kind and considerate both as a son, husband, father, and, more difficult still, as a public man in the most prominent position in the kingdom. Specially distinguished has he been in the wise and constitutional course which he has always taken in all matters of public welfare and he is distinguished as almost the only Prince of Wales who

has lived long "on the steps of the throne" without gathering about him numberless malcontents and entering into all sorts of political intrigue.

Perhaps the happiest public event of this generation was the marriage of the Prince of Wales to the beautiful Princess Alexandra of Denmark, on March 11, 1863. No woman in the kingdom is so loved as she. Accomplished, perfectly trained by a wise mother in the art of housekeeping, with a talent for dressmaking and millinery that would have been worth a fortune to her in some walks of life, gentle, womanly, and withal of rare beauty, what should the country do but rejoice from end to end that the heir to Britain's throne had won such a treasure. Looking at her now twenty-eight years after, it is hard to realize that she is the mother of five grown

up sons and daughters; she hardly looks a day older than the youngest. The eldest daughter, Princess Louise of Wales, is married to the Duke of Fife, and Prince Albert Victor, the heir to the throne, is engaged to the Princess Victoria Mary of Teck.

A recent writer in the *English Illustrated Magazine* gives an account of the Queen's gardens at Osborne, extracts of which, in this connection, will be read with interest.

These gardens, it seems, are zealously watched and kept strictly guarded from prying eyes. They contain a number of relics of the gardening practices of the present royal family when they were small children, and a number of curiosities collected by these same children, when they had grown up, from all parts of the world. Here are a few extracts:

On the right of the entrance gate stands

the children's tool house, built (as a strip of wood in the Queen's handwriting reports) by the hands of the Prince of Wales and the Duke of Edinburgh in 1857. It is still in splendid preservation, for the late Prince Consort always taught his children to do things well. Judging from the large tool house, the Prince of Wales and the Duke of Edinburgh were no mean adepts at carpentering, the boarding of the sides being substantially put together and the gables of the roof morticed in true form; frequently when the Prince of Wales visits the gardens, he looks critically round this shed to see that the joinings are secure. It is kept exactly as it was when the princes and princesses were young, the barrows and garden tools being in an excellent state of preservation.

Each child had a perfect set of tools, with



PRINCESS MAUD. PRINCESS OF WALES. PRINCE OF WALES. DUCHESS OF FIFE. PRINCE GEORGE. PRINCESS VICTORIA.
PRINCE ALBERT VICTOR. THE PRINCE OF WALES AND FAMILY.

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GALLION QUE
ALBERT