

princess, the name of Princess Beatrice is most familiar to the public. From her childhood she has been the constant companion of the Queen, not even her marriage with a foreign prince was allowed to sever the bond which always existed between mother and daughter. The Princess lost her husband, who died in Africa in the service of his adopted country; and ever after the royal widows lived side by side in the solitude of the palace. Forty-six years have passed since



PRINCESS ALICE.

the Princess was born, on an April morning in 1857. She was "prettier than babies usually are," Prince Albert wrote to a friend; and he added that she was to be given the "historical, romantic, euphonious, and melodious names of Beatrice Mary Victoria Feodora." She was a favourite child. At fifteen she was the only unmarried English princess, and was rarely absent from home. She made her first public appearance in St. Paul's Cathedral, at the thanksgiving service on the recovery of the Prince

of Wales, and from that time onward she accompanied Her Majesty on most occasions when she appeared in public. She was well in the twenties when she first saw Prince Henry of Battenberg, whom she met at the wedding of her niece at Hesse-Darmstadt; and on the New Year's Eve of 1884 the engagement was announced.

But not even a husband's love could come between the Queen and her favourite daughter, and Her Majesty consented to the marriage only on condition that the Prince became a naturalized British subject and made his home in England. There was no difficulty in that, and in due course the royal lovers were married in the little church, designed by Prince Albert, at Whippingham, in the Isle of Wight. The rooms which Her Majesty and Prince Albert had occupied at Windsor were set aside for the royal pair, who thus settled down to housekeeping without being separated from the Queen. The picture of the Princess remaining with her mother, faithful wife and daughter too, moved Tennyson to write:

"But thou,
True daughter, whose all-faithful, filial eyes
Have seen the loneliness of earthly thrones,
Wilt neither quit the widow'd crown nor let
This later light of love have risen in vain."

And never after did Princess Beatrice leave "the widow'd crown." The tragic death of Prince Henry, who died of fever in Ashantee, when his wife was about to go out to nurse him, is well remembered still. Four children had been born to the Prince and Princess when Prince Henry died a soldier's death in Africa, and to these Princess Beatrice now devotes her life.

It was a kindly act of Lord Salisbury to appoint the Princess Governor of the Isle of Wight—a post