

when he ascended the throne. The following is an instance of the ready wit with which in gentle terms he rebuked an attempt to presume upon his good-nature. At a great gathering at Marlborough House a celebrated London tailor was one of the guests. Observing the nature of the assembly a certain person remarked to the Prince that his guests were not of a very exclusive character. "Well, Mr. P.," the Prince replied, "you know they could not all be tailors!"

At his country house at Sandringham, the King was a plain country gentleman, interested in his crops and his cattle, competing on even terms with other farmers at the shows, pleased when his sheep or his cattle were prize-winners, but ready to congratulate his fellow competitors when they were successful. He was there known as a good neighbour and a liberal landlord.

When staying abroad, or visiting, as he frequently did, those of his subjects with whom he was on terms of personal intimacy, he was a fine gentleman in the truest sense of the term—better qualified, indeed, to be called the "first gentleman in Europe" than was one of his predecessors to whom that title was given. Free from ostentation,—as a true gentleman is,—dignified, courteous, and self-respecting, he took an interest in whatever was going on, but never forgetting, in pursuing his own amusements, the claims which his subjects had upon his time, his sympathy and assistance.

Upon all state occasions he was "every inch a King." No personal inconvenience prevented him from upholding the dignity of the Crown, and representing in the fullest degree the grandeur of the state of which he was the titular head.

Not the least among his titles to respect was the decorum of his domestic life, and the care with which his children were so brought up as to fit them for the high positions to which they were born—a care for which the nation has now much reason to be thankful.

To his love for, and participation in racing, that form of sport so popular among all classes of Englishmen, to his reputa-