

# Methodist Magazine and Review.

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## THE ROYAL FAMILY.



FEW aspects of the life of our beloved Queen Victoria are so marked as the Providence of God whereby she became the root of so flourishing a family tree. The patriarchal promise, "I will multiply thee exceedingly," has been strikingly fulfilled in her case. Not seldom in the world's history has a royal line died out, and the decease of a monarch been followed by a war of disputed succession. But the throne of Great Britain seems established for many generations.

Queen Victoria has had eighty-five direct descendants, nine sons and daughters, forty grandchildren, and thirty-six great-grandchildren. Of these, all but twelve were alive at the time of her death. From the manner in which these have become connected with the ruling houses of the Continent the Queen might almost be called the "grandmother of Europe." It is an event of happiest augury that so many of the reigning or future sovereigns of Europe have been trained under the direct or transmitted influence of Albert the Wise and Victoria the Good. The children of this widespread family lovingly addressed the dear old lady as Grossmutterchen, or "Little Grandmother," a term of affectionate endearment.

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QUEEN VICTORIA WHEN 21.

In many ways the Queen was more fortunate than her grandfather George III. That king had fifteen children, whereas she has had only nine, but many of his died in infancy, whereas every one of the Queen's reached maturity, and only one is without a family.

The Queen's first child, Victoria, the "darling Vickie" of the Queen's *Journal*, the Princess Royal of England, was born 1840. She had a mind of unusual intelligence and vigour, carefully trained under the influence of her father and of the very best instructors. In her high place as wife of the heir apparent