

SOME ASPECTS OF COURT LIFE.



It was a graceful act of King Edward to arrange for the continued celebration of the birthday of our late beloved Queen. To the people of Canada, especially, it has become a permanent institution under the name of Empire Day.

This must in time lose much of a personal element, but it strongly emphasizes that Imperial note which vibrates throughout the world-wide British possessions and dependencies. The King's own birthday, November 9th, comes at a season unsuitable for outdoor amusements, but that of the late beloved Queen was for over sixty years the most popular secular holiday of the year. It came when our spring was in its prime, when nature looked its loveliest. It was wise statesmanship to perpetuate this as one of the favourite outings of the people.

It is no mere vulgar curiosity, but a feeling of love and loyalty, which leads us to feel a deep interest in the members of the Royal Family. They, in a marked sense, belong to the nation. Their comings and goings, their habits and tastes, their public functions and private character are all of legitimate concern to all loyal subjects. We have pleasure, therefore, in presenting brief studies of some members of the Royal Family and noting other features of that court life from which we are so far removed.

What impresses one most on taking a survey of the royal families of Europe is the link which binds them together, and most of all the link which binds so many other



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royal households to our own. The influence of Queen Victoria on the world will never be quite fully known, but we may measure it to some extent by her relationship to royalties all over the world. There is hardly a royal house in Europe which is not in some way linked with the late good Queen; and if the woman behind the throne counts for anything in the world's affairs, the fact that so many royal princesses were related to the Queen is a fact full of promise for the future. The closer the bond between the world's rulers, the greater the guarantee of peace, and it is a happy thing that marriage and giving in marriage is gradually bringing the royal houses of the world into one great family. Who can exaggerate the influence of the women of this great family which is coming together?

Of Queen Victoria's daughters who still retain their title of