

sarily became more formal after His Majesty's accession, and much time had to be given to receiving Ambassadors and Ministers. Before the Coronation the King will have left the House in Pall Mall, so long associated with him, for Buckingham Palace, where elaborate arrangements have been made for the most prompt and efficient means of transacting business, and also for the keeping of a brilliant Court.

Although very exact on matters of etiquette, the King is jovial with his friends, and likes to know clever and successful men in the world of finance as well as in art and letters. Many stories are told of his unassuming kindness. I have heard a gentleman relate that one Sunday afternoon, when strolling in the Zoological Gardens, he was searching his pockets and lamenting to a friend that he feared he had left his cigar-case at home. "Pray take one from my case," said a friendly voice at his elbow. The offer was gratefully accepted, and not until afterwards did the gentleman discover that the doer of the courteous act was the then Prince of Wales.

The Queen is thoroughly artistic in her taste. She loves music, flowers, statuary, quaint ornaments, embroidery, and all things which appeal to a refined sense of beauty. She is not at all bookish, and relies for information as to what is going on largely upon conversation in the family circle. The opera is her favourite amusement. Her pastimes consist of sketching, photography and pianoforte playing. She is extremely fond of country life, and when at Sandringham rides her new horse "Violet," drives her ponies "Beau" and "Belle," or goes walking with her dogs. Her love of pet animals amounts to a passion, and her Japanese spaniel "Billy" goes everywhere with her; while in her dressing-room are singing birds and a pet dove. She visits the stables and kennels once a week, generally on Sunday afternoon, accompanied by members of her family, and feeds and pets the horses and dogs, all of whom know her voice and footstep. The Queen has a won-

derful power over animals. Golf and croquet are amongst Her Majesty's recent out-of-door games, but she has never cared for tennis.

The Queen's interest in philanthropy is well known, but few realize perhaps the personal interest she will take in cases which have aroused her sympathy. She is lavish in her generosity, and very impulsive when her feelings are touched. To the cottagers around her Norfolk home she has been for long years a true fairy godmother, especially to the old people and little children. Ever since she came as a bride she has entertained the school-children from Sandringham and the neighbouring parishes of the King's estate at the Hall on her birthday. On these occasions she and the Princesses wait on the little guests, and play with them, and often the Queen may have been seen tying up cake in a child's handkerchief for it to carry home. She is a great advocate for technical education in the rural districts, and takes a personal interest in each of the girls and boys attending the schools which she has established at Sandringham, and which she visits almost daily when at home.

Hospitals and kindred institutions have had good friends in the King and Queen. Numberless instances are on record of the personal interest taken by Her Majesty in patients who have specially attracted her sympathy. Not long since, when visiting the London Hospital, she heard that a young girl in one of the wards was grieving because she could not attend a concert being held. The Queen went with the matron to the side of the girl's cot, spoke some cheery words, gently stroked her forehead, and ere she left stooped and kissed the sad young face. Deeds like these, simple in themselves, sink deep into the nation's heart, and are a happy augury for the reign just begun, when beside the throne is ever this sweet, womanly influence. Never before has the role of Queen Consort possessed greater possibilities.

"And so these twain, upon the skirts of time,
Sit side by side, full-summ'd in all their
powers."