

of other men. The same passions stimulate him; he feels the keenness of the same appetites; so far he is on a level with the rest of his fellow creatures. But go a step farther; add to the temptations, common to all, the ample means of gratification that are within the reach of the heir apparent to a throne; add to this the personal qualifications so highly possessed by our Prince; add to this the croud of flatterers, adulators, sycophants and obsequious dependents whose interest is to encourage indulgence and enjoyment; add, in fine, all the allurements and snates that are constantly laid in his way; and tell us frankly, whether such a youth ought not to be endowed with supernatural powers to be able to resist; and consequently whether he is more intitled to indulgence than open to the severity of censure.

From this it might appear that we take as proved all the deviations from mere morality laid at the door of the Prince; but far be it from us to entertain that idea. We dare on the contrary affirm that their number as well as their nature have been exaggerated and grossly misrepresented. Here is again one of those peculiarities attending the great. Always surrounded by a great number of persons who profess the most unbounded devotion to him, yet unexperienced, he looks upon them as his bosom friends and as such not only his actions but even his very thoughts are intrusted to them. He makes them the companions of his youthful frolics and they impelled by the vanity of publishing their intimacy with the great man, relate perhaps with amplification the particulars of scenes that ought never to have been divulged. Then we all know how such tales rapidly increase in bulk and circumstances on passing from mouth to mouth, and thus that youthful frolic that would hardly have been noticed from a private individual acquires a degree of importance and of aggravation calling for public censure.

These pretended friends, who may very well be ranked among those whom Sheridan calls "d——n good friends," are not the only propagators of the actions of a great man. His servants and menials always prone to pry in the conduct of those whose bread they eat, are in fact nothing else but spies who from a malignity, too often natural in dependents, always delight, not in divulging goodness but in disseminating frailties and tricks certainly if not justifiable, at least excusable in the prime of life, with all the rancour and malice of envy. Very few, perhaps, of those who may happen to read these lines, could conscientiously affirm that they are altogether free of similar deviation from strict morality, at that age when passions yet forcibly rule and when pleasure is the principal pursuit. We will therefore leave the youthful days of our beloved Sovereign to be scrutinized with candour and censure, and pass to his more mature years.

*To be continued.*