

Queen Louise inherited a taste and aptitude for music and the needle. A favourite and well-known photograph shows the late Queen Louise and her three daughters playing quartettes together at two pianos.

No happier family circle ever existed than that of the King and Queen of Denmark and their children, and their affection for one another forms a beautiful page in their history.

The lovely old castles of Bernstorff and Fredensborg were homes at which the Danish Royal family spent a good deal of time in a thoroughly unconventional manner. A story is told of how the three young Princesses once insisted on climbing on to a cart that was dragging stones to a dumping-place, and coaxed the driver to let them sit in his homely vehicle each time that it was unloaded and taken back to be recharged. They were perfectly happy in such simple pleasures as picking wild flowers in the country around and chatting with the peasants.

Princess Alexandra was scarcely seventeen when she first met the Prince of Wales, and the event is stated to have taken place at Worms.

The romantic story of how the Prince fell in love with the Princess will bear retelling. His Royal Highness, whilst out shooting with a party of friends, fell in love with a photograph which one of his companions drew from his pocket—a photograph of a girl in a simple white muslin gown and loose white jacket, with a black velvet ribbon round her throat, and hair smoothed back from the brow. "And who may this beautiful girl be?" asked the Prince. "The daughter of the Prince of Denmark," was the reply. A few days later the Prince of Wales again encountered the same lovely face at the house of a certain duchess. Then and there he imparted the secret of his admiration to a confidential friend, and despatched him with credentials to the Court of Denmark to judge if the Princess were as fair as her portrait presented her. Needless to say, the answer was in the affirmative. Soon afterwards the Prince made arrangements

to visit the Continent, intending to become acquainted with Princess Alexandra. His introduction came about unexpectedly in the Cathedral at Worms.

The Princess's wedding took place at St. George's Chapel, Windsor, on March 10th, 1863, the bride being attended by eight bridesmaids. The honeymoon was spent at Osborne House.

The early years of Her Majesty's married life were much taken up with her children—Prince Albert Victor, Prince George, and the three Princesses—Louise (the Duchess of Fife), Victoria, and Maud (Princess Charles of Denmark). A third son, born in the spring of 1871, lived only a few hours, and his death was the first sorrow that married life brought her.

The next came with the illness of the King, who, attacked with typhoid fever, lay at death's door for days and weeks. That was in the winter of 1871-2, and on February 27th a Thanksgiving Service was held at St. Paul's.

Other great troubles of Queen Alexandra's life have been the loss of her eldest son, the Duke of Clarence, and of her mother, Queen Louise—crushing blows from which it took her long to recover.

Her life since her marriage has been passed chiefly between Sandringham, Marlborough House, and Denmark. With the utmost regularity she has paid periodical visits to the home of her girlhood, usually spending several weeks in the spring and autumn of the year at Fredensborg. She used to stay a good deal at Abergeldie at one time, but of late years has paid only brief visits to Scotland.

One of the most memorable of her travels was the tour in Egypt in 1869, when she paid amusing visits to "bazaars" and enjoyed the fun of making her purchases under the name of "Mrs. Williams," driving her bargains with all the air of a person in humble birth, riding donkeys and camels, and painting her face Egyptian fashion.

Queen Alexandra has been an enthusiastic patron of hospitals, and has