



OSBORNE, THE ISLE OF WIGHT, WHERE THE QUEEN DIED.

### WHEN QUEEN VICTORIA WAS A LITTLE GIRL.

BY MRS. O. W. SCOTT.

The good Queen of England, whose reign of sixty-three years has been ended by her death, has lived so well that all nations mourn her loss. It means a very great deal to be a good queen, but to be a good queen and also a true and wise woman means much more. Victoria was both, and the history of her long reign will be full of lessons which will be useful not only to kings and queens, but to common people.

When she was a little child her mother, the Duchess of Kent, saw how near she was to the crown, and trained her with that thought in mind. She aimed, first of all, to educate her for usefulness, teaching her to be thoughtful for others, unselfish, industrious and economical. It is said that Victoria had very little money to spend in those early days, and that she kept account of every penny and shilling. These habits became fixed, so that even as Queen she did not forget them.

While she was a little girl Victoria was fond of all childish amusements, but was especially devoted to dolls, and had an extremely large family of them, numbering one hundred and thirty-two. Many of these are still preserved, and make an interesting collection, which, one writer says, the Queen sometimes looked over in her later years. These dolls were not like the elegant creations of to-day, but were "Dutch dolls" or "Flanders babies," made of wood. Their cheeks and lips were painted brightly, and they had clumsy joints and "spindle legs," but the future Queen loved them and made most of their clothes with her own fingers. She dressed them to represent ladies of the court and named them after those members of the royal household. More than twenty little dolls' cushions are still preserved, which Victoria made of bits of silk and satin, all sewed and stuffed with the greatest care, presumably for the benefit of her dolls' wooden joints.

The kind, loving heart of this "mother of dolls" seems to have drawn to her the

way to the Queen, who, while she did not send to "the other side of the world," did send a new doll to the writer of the letter.

Victoria's favourite picture-book is also preserved, and in an English magazine we find it fully described. It was printed in 1811. Its cover was blue and white, tied with pink ribbon, and its title, "Ellen, or the Naughty Girl Reclaimed." Each verse of the poem-story is illustrated with a cut-out figure, separate from the book, one head fitting the various bodies after the fashion of paper dolls. Ellen is introduced as a little girl in white, who has thrown her book upon the ground, and the description says:

"And though her face is fair and mild,  
You view a stubborn, naughty child;  
Nay, Ellen is so wayward grown,  
Her book upon the ground is thrown,  
And kind mamma, who loves so well,  
Can neither make her read or spell."

Ellen reforms only after being stolen by gipsies and passing through other trying experiences. It is interesting to know that Victoria made other faces for Ellen than the one furnished by the original artist, with her own pencil.

Among the other toys still in existence which were highly prized, are a small swing-mirror and a doll's chair.

In 1829, when Victoria was ten years old, King George IV., then king of England, gave her a piano. The case was of choice rosewood, and it was considered very elegant. Upon this she learned to play, so that in time she became a good pianist.

All this time her mother was careful not to give her the slightest idea that some day she might be Queen, and all the people around her were pledged to secrecy. But when Victoria was eleven, her uncle, King George, died, and William IV., who succeeded him, had no children. This made it very probable that she would be the next ruler, and she was told of the wonderful future which awaited her. The self-control and thoughtfulness which had marked her childhood did not desert her as she received the news. It is said that

hearts of her small English subjects in later years, for it is not so very long ago that a little girl wrote to her as follows:

"Dear Queen: I let my doll fall into a hole in the mountain, and as I know that the other side of the world belongs to you, I wish you would send someone there to find my doll." This request found its

tears filled her eyes as she tried to realize what it meant, and she finally said: "Now, many a child would boast, but they don't know the difficulty. There is much splendour, but there is much responsibility. Her good mother led her away, and together they knelt to ask God to protect and prepare this little girl for the life to which he might call her.

From that time Victoria was under special tutors, and was a diligent student, but always retained a gentle, considerate spirit. She was only eighteen when her uncle, William IV., died, and she was crowned Queen of Great Britain and Ireland.

### THE APRON PATTY MADE.

BY MARY B. FLORENCE.

Dolly's apron is finished  
And laid on the shelf  
I made it and sewed it,  
All by myself,  
I did.

Mamma measured and cut it,  
Sister folded the hem,  
Grandma put in the gathers,  
The strings—I made them,  
I did.

### DAVY'S BATTLES.

Davy was studying history, and as he read of the great generals and the battles that they had fought he longed to be a man and do some great thing himself. "O dear!" he said, "a boy has to wait so long and learn a lot before he can begin."

"You are mistaken, Davy," said his sister Ella; "there is a battle for boys and girls, as well as for men and women."

"How?" asked Davy.

"You must fight with yourself when you don't want to obey mother, and when you feel angry. Make yourself obey."

"I believe that I will try, sis," said Davy.

"Here is a verse that will help," said Ella: "He that ruleth his spirit is better than he that taketh a city."

### WHEN JESUS WAS A CHILD.

Jesus, when he was a child,  
Sought the temple holy:  
So do we, his children dear,  
With a spirit lowly.

Jesus, when he was a child,  
Loved the Bible truly:  
We would learn as Jesus did,  
God's dear Word most duly.

Jesus, when he was a child,  
Lived and loved divinely:  
We would, like him, winsome be  
Live our lives as finely.

Jesus, when he was a child,  
Was the Lord of Glory;  
In this house his children dear  
Learn his blessed story.