

the Royal mother was that they "should be brought up as simply as possible, and in as domestic a way as possible; that, not interfering with their lessons, they should be as much as possible with their parents, and learn to place their greatest confidence in them in all things; and," added the Queen, "religious training is best given to a child at its mother's knee."

Next to his parents, those who exercised the greatest influence over the King's opening years were Lady Lytton, the daughter of the late Lord Spencer, a woman of much charm of character, whom the Queen appointed to the supervision of the Royal nursery, and Baron Stockmar, on whose judgment both the Queen and the Prince Consort greatly relied. The "Baron" was an important personage in the background of the Court, called by irreverent wits the "Old Original." He was permitted to sit down to the Royal dinner-table in trousers, while other elderly men shivered in "shorts," and was in many ways a privileged person. The King must have many humorous recollections of the "Baron," to whom he and the Princess Royal carried their childish joys and sorrows, and from whom they at times received admonition. He had been an army physician in the service of Queen Victoria's uncle, the King of the Belgians, who particularly commended him to her confidence. The "Baron" was an eminently wise and sagacious person, and watched the health and the mental development of the Royal children with devoted care. "The nursery," he wrote at this period, "gives me more trouble than the government of a kingdom would do."



So anxious were the Queen and the Prince Consort to give the very best education to their son, that it must be admitted that he was put through rather rigorous discipline, and the sympathetic verses which the trials of "dear little Wales" elicited from *Punch* were not without reason. The Prince's early tutor, Mr. Birch, was succeeded

by Mr. Gibbs, and later by the Rev. Charles Tarver; but his lessons were overlooked even from his earliest years by that strict disciplinarian and cultured scholar, the Prince Consort. Although the Prince of Wales proved an apt learner, he was not by nature a studious boy, and certainly had not the precocious brain of the Princess Royal. He acquired an early fluency in French and German, to which later was added Italian. The King, who takes a great interest in educational questions, has often urged the study of foreign languages upon the modern youth. He mastered an undergraduate's share of Greek, Latin, and mathematics, could play and draw, and his mind was well stored with quotations from standard authors. But the true bent of his powers early shewed itself in his quick interest in the life around him. With his tutors he visited the great towns of the country, went over manufactories and workshops, and even descended into the mines. He also shewed a keen interest in science, and attended Professor Faraday's lectures in London and Dr. Lyon Playfair's chemistry classes at Edinburgh University. A story of this period shews the young Prince's *sang froid*. Dr. Playfair, to impress upon his pupil's mind the harmless action of a certain stage of heat, told him that he might safely thrust his hand into a cauldron of burning lead.

"If you tell me to do it, I will," said the Prince.

"Your Royal Highness may do it with safety," said Dr. Playfair.

Upon this the Prince bared his arm to the elbow, boldly thrust it deep into the white-hot mass, and triumphantly withdrew it unscathed.

At an early age the King received the education which extended travel affords. He accompanied his parents to Ireland, and frequently to Scotland. He knew France and Germany while a mere child, and as a growing youth travelled with his tutors in Italy, Spain and Portugal, and resided for a time in the vicinity of the University of Bonn. He entered Oxford as an under-