

HOUSEHOLD.

The Kind-hearted Duchess.

Kind-hearted sympathy and philanthropic interest characterized the late Duchess of Teck; and these made her beloved wherever she was known, and she was known very widely. Homeliness was another marked feature of her life. Her mother's training was somewhat strict, but deep affection was always prominent. An amusing picture of Princess Mary at a very early age is given:—

'One day she had been naughty during her morning lesson, and the Duchess directed that she was to have bread and water for luncheon, a punishment Princess Mary particularly disliked. "But she was not going to let any one see it," said the old servant, "and when I went up to the schoolroom with the bread and water, Princess was sitting on the piano with her legs dangling in the air, and singing to herself as though she were quite happy."'

Whilst residing at Cambridge Cottage,

What the home life was we may gather from such an extract as the following from her diary. It might be the life of almost any English home:—

'Sunday.—At five o'clock I had May down and read the Psalms and the Lessons to her. Afterwards I gave the children their Scripture reading. Monday.—Francis and I joined the chicks at their lunch.

Wales's children came in the afternoon and I went up to the nursery to keep them in order. Wednesday.—Heard May her dates and Franky his French reading before lunch, and finally went to the schoolroom to assist at a grand wedding of the dolls. Tea in the nursery, and played at geographical Lotto. Dear old Frazer, who had arrived in her rooms, came to see us. She looked very ill. . . . Saturday.—Assisted at chick's music lesson, and then drove May, Baby, and Girdie, to Coombe, where we got out and picked primroses. Frank met us there on horseback.'

How very like English life with us all!

Mr. Cooke tells us that:—

'On a Sunday evening Princess Mary sometimes assembled the servants in the inner hall, when hymns were sung, the

old woman of ninety-four. "Ah! deary me," she exclaimed, "I wouldn't mind having another baby myself if I could have a petticoat made by the Duchess!" Princess Mary was so touched by the story that she sent the old woman a "hug-me-tight" of her own making. Great was the delight of the recipient, and holding the "hug-me-tight" at arm's length, she said, "It is much too good for tl. likes of me to wear. I shall keep it to look at." On hearing this, Her Royal Highness sent word that she was "by all means to wear it and enjoy it."—'Day of Days.'

The husband should trust the wife with the household expenditures. Let them decide together what style they will adopt, what weekly or monthly sum they can spend, only let it be within their means. Then it is for him to give her the money regularly, and for her to lay it out as carefully and judiciously as she knows how. She will do better if she is trusted than if he is constantly overhauling her methods and inspecting her accounts. Of course there should be accounts, and once a month they should inspect them together. Certainly she should have enough for dress, for little extras of taste, and for general house expenses. But there must be no debt; and there should be a little saved and put sacredly away against a time of illness, or the holidays, or the advent of the little babe. And she should be told how much he is making, and how the outlook is. If there be more, she will be glad; if less, she will brace herself to economize. All the payments should be in ready cash, no bills, no debts, no long running accounts. And the money should be in hand before the dress is ordered, or the new furniture procured for the house.—Rev. F. B. Myer.



THE DUCHESS OF TECK AND PRINCESS MAY.

the Princess records in her diary (1885), 'I read an address, by Mr. Ryle, to mama till dressing-time.' An incident which happened in 1853 will show that the Princess Mary did but follow in the steps of her mother in her consideration of the poor and afflicted:—

'One day' the Duchess and her daughter were taking their usual walk in the gardens, both clad in voluminous circular waterproof cloaks. When some distance from the Cottage, a heavy shower came on, and they turned their steps homewards, meeting two poorly-clad children. Without a moment's hesitation each child was given shelter under the folds of a "royal mantle," and brought back to Cambridge Cottage. Shoes and stockings were quickly taken off and dried, the little ones regaled with hot tea, and as soon as it was found that they lived at Brentford, a fly was fetched and they were sent home.'

The marriage of the Princess, at the age of thirty-three, was a marriage of affection.

Princess herself taking the leading part. "Jerusalem the Golden," "Nearer my God, to Thee," and "Lead kindly Light," were the hymns she liked best; and as the heartiness of the singing brought more vividly home to her the meaning of the familiar words, her Royal Highness was often affected.'

In her philanthropic work the Duchess was an admirable business helper. She was thoroughly practical, and knew exactly what to do. She could be 'at home' with the humble poor, and so gained their affection. We have seldom read a more amusing story of Royalty than one told by the Duchess of the Princess May and a mother's meeting in Whitechapel:—

'The Duchess of York had sent a little woollen petticoat made by herself as a present for the youngest baby in the room. Naturally the gift occasioned much excitement amongst the women, who came forward "to look" at and "touch" the Royal garment. Amongst the mothers was an

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