

quiet, uneventful life—save for the birth of a baby boy—Prince Oscar devoting himself to literature, to schemes for the development of the navy, and to music, among other things. Then, in 1859, through his father's death, Prince Oscar's brother was on the throne, and he himself was drawn very near to the Crown by the new order of events. For thirteen years he acted the rôle of Crown Prince, and in 1872, by his brother's death, he became King.

His Majesty and the Queen have four sons. The eldest, the present Crown Prince (Gustav), is married to Princess Victoria of Baden, and has four sons; the second, Prince Oscar, contracted a morganatic marriage with Miss Ebba Munck, one of the Queen's Ladies-in-Waiting; the third, Prince Charles, is married to Princess Ingeborg of Denmark, and the youngest, Prince Eugene, is an artist of great talent.

All the Bernadottes are clever, and their house is also distinguished for good looks. The present King of Sweden is still a handsome, noble-looking man, and his sons bear out the traditions of the family.

Queen Sophie is an example of a happy, domesticated Royal Consort. Suffering may have drawn her face a little, but her features remain fine and well-carved, and delicate health cannot destroy the amiability of expression and gentle kindness which are characteristic of the woman. She is highly cultivated, and takes a keen interest in the affairs of her country. She reads and works a great deal, and is so charming and unaffected that all her ladies regard her as a friend as well as a Queen.

It is said that the Swedish Court is one of the most delightful of all European Courts to live at, because of the homeliness and simplicity of the King and Queen, who make everyone feel at their ease at once. They used to be "At Home" to any of their subjects who wished to see them on every alternate Tuesday, the only necessary introduction being a personal visiting-card, which was sent up to the audi-

ence-room. Any petitions or requests sent to their Majesties, even by the meanest of their subjects, received consideration, and the King and Queen would, on these Tuesday "At Homes," chat unostentatiously with their self-invited visitors.

The Palace at Stockholm is very beautiful, and the suite of rooms set apart for the Queen's private use bears some exquisite decorations. Here she receives her friends, and is the most sociable of hostesses.

Queen Sophie's chief concern is for the welfare of her husband's subjects. Being an invalid, she has plenty of time to think and plan, and she makes it her business to do such deeds as shall make her name blessed throughout the length and breadth of the land over which King Oscar reigns. Already, before she was Queen, during the years that elapsed between her marriage and her husband's accession, her manifold good deeds had endeared her to the hearts of the people; and since that time she has won their admiration and respect in a tenfold degree.

When her children were young she devoted herself, heart and soul, to their upbringing. She is proud of her sons, and although she may have regretted Prince Oscar's attachment to Miss Ebba Munck, she eventually championed the young lovers' cause, and was the means of gaining the King's consent to their union.

It came about in this way. Miss Munck was Queen Sophie's favourite maid-of-honour; and Prince Oscar, the Queen's second son, seeing a good deal of the young lady, fell in love with her, and vowed he would marry no one else. The King would not hear of the match, and one can easily imagine that there were some very distressing scenes over the matter. Prince Oscar pleaded, begged to be allowed to renounce his birthright, and pointed to his three sturdy brothers, intimating that he would never be missed so far as the Throne was concerned. But King Oscar was obdurate. He remembered the time when he himself was comparatively far removed from the Crown, and