

soon be almost forgotten, and his career regarded only with curiosity and pity.

George Bryan Brummell, the Beau, was the son of a worthy man, who by his intelligence and integrity rose from a humble station to hold lucrative appointments under Government, which enabled him to amass a handsome fortune. With this fortune he retired to the country, and there he bore a high character for benevolence and hospitality. In 1778, George was born, the younger of two sons, and when twelve years of age was placed at Eton. Here he soon became a universal favorite with the boys, and was remarkable for the neatness of his dress, his quick wit, and engaging manners,—qualities for which he afterwards became famous, and which, even at this early age, he had begun to display.

After remaining three years at Eton, he entered at Oriel College, Oxford. During the few months he spent at College, he made rapid progress in his studies, for his abilities were good. He also progressed in the career which he seems even then to have marked out for himself, by cultivating the friendship of his titled fellow-students, continually adding to his stock of comic songs and good stories, and by increased attention to elegance of dress and manners.

His fame, however, had reached the Prince of Wales (afterwards George the Fourth), and a presentation was soon followed by the gift of a commission as Cornet in the Prince's own regiment, the Tenth Hussars, one of the most dashing regiments in the service. In this position he found himself introduced into the highest society in the country; for many of his brother-officers were noblemen, and the partiality of his royal patron gained him admittance into the most fashionable circles. He had thus made immense advances towards attaining the object of his ambition,—the leadership of the world of fashion,—and really the position he now held was an extraordinary one. Though only a youth of seventeen, he was the intimate friend of the Prince (who was then two and thirty), and was celebrated for his wit, conversational powers, and refined manners, a great favorite with the fair sex, and possessed of an assurance and quiet impudence which never deserted him. Some laughable anecdotes are

told of him at this time by his biographer,\* illustrative of the last-named qualities. One of the most characteristic of these refers to his retirement from the army. The novelty had worn off, and Brummell had begun to chafe under the restraints of military life, when, one evening, orders came for the regiment to march to Manchester. Early next morning he made his way to the Prince, who expressed some surprise at being favored with such an unseasonable visit, when the Beau, after due apology, said, "Why the fact is, your Royal Highness, I have heard that we are ordered to Manchester. Now you must be aware how disagreeable this would be for me; I really could not go; *think*, your Royal Highness, *Manchester!* Besides" (and here was an instance of his tact), "*you would not be there.*" And so Brummell, with the greatest indifference, resigned his commission in the Tenth, on the plea that it was to be stationed in a manufacturing town.

Mr. Brummell was now free; and, shortly afterwards (in 1799), coming into possession of his fortune, which during his minority had accumulated to thirty thousand pounds, he established himself in Chesterfield street, and began the career of a man of pleasure. His elegant little dinners were often honored by the presence of the Heir Apparent, and he kept two horses to enable him to drive in the Park. And now commenced that intense devotion to the pursuit of elegance in dress, which made him ridiculous as well as famous. The stories about his neck-cloths are too well known to be quoted here, but perhaps a few particulars respecting the other arrangements of his toilet may not be uninteresting. Three hair-dressers were engaged to dress his hair,—one for the temples, one for the front, and the third for his occiput; his boots were *cirées au vin de Champagne*, and the ties of his cravats designed by the first portrait-painter in London. It was at this time, also, that the famous pair of gloves were made, on which two glovers were employed,—one being entrusted with the thumbs, and the other making the fingers and the rest of the hand. The duties of the toilet engaged him for several hours daily,—a ceremony at which

\* Captain Jesse. The particulars of this sketch have been gathered from his "Life of Beau Brummell."