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KING EDWARD VII AND HIS CONSORT

By Mrs. Sarah Tooley, Author of "*The Personal Life of Queen Victoria*," etc.

KING EDWARD VII made his entrance into the world on November 9th, 1842, when the good citizens of London were thronging the streets to acclaim a new Lord Mayor. The birth took place at Buckingham Palace at ten minutes to eleven, and the sex of the Royal infant was announced by Sir James Clark to the Ministers waiting in the antechamber, among whom, it is interesting to note, were the Duke of Wellington and Sir Robert Peel. The infant was described as "a remarkably fine, full-grown, robust, well-proportioned, and healthy child." When the express-messenger reached the Guildhall with the news the outgoing and in-coming Lord Mayors were about to enter their carriages, and a discussion arose as to which of the two was entitled to the birthday honour of a baronetcy. It was ultimately conferred upon Lord Mayor Pirie, the new Chief Magistrate.



During the first months of his life the King was nursed by Mrs. Brough, a woman who had been attached to Queen Victoria's household at Claremont—used at this period as a residence by her late Majesty. Throughout her life Mrs. Brough received many marks of favour from the Royal Family, and was affectionately devoted to the Prince. The gratuity paid to Mrs. Brough for her special service was £1,000, exactly double that given a year previous to the wet-nurse of the

Princess Royal. Indeed, such was the elation at the birth of a male heir that all fees attendant on the Queen's *accouchement* were doubled.

The birth of a son and heir was the crowning joy of the happy marriage of Queen Victoria with Prince Albert of Saxe-Coburg, and the christening was celebrated at St. George's Chapel, Windsor, on January 25th, with great state and splendour. The King of Prussia, brother of the first German Emperor, was chief sponsor, and came on a visit for the occasion. The christening robe was a marvel of delicate lace and workmanship, and served in after years for the christening of the King's eldest son, the lamented Duke of Clarence. The infant Prince received the name of Albert, after his father, and Edward, after his maternal grandfather, the Duke of Kent; but "Bertie" he became and has always remained in the family circle. At the conclusion of the ceremony the "Hallelujah Chorus" was sung by the choir at the express wish of the overjoyed father. The same day the Queen held a special Chapter of the Garter to invest the illustrious godfather with the Order.

And so amid general public rejoicing and the delight of happy parents our gracious King made his *début* in this world. Afterwards he was drawn closer within the privacy of that simple, natural home-life with which Victoria surrounded her children. The rule laid down for their upbringing by