

paid by the Heir-Apparent greatly increased the good-fellowship between the respective countries. All America honoured the young man who stood bare-headed by the grave of Washington, especially when it was remembered that he was the great-grandson of George III. The President, writing to Queen Victoria, spoke enthusiastically of the good impression created both in public and private by the Prince. That impression has never been effaced, and the many distinguished Americans who will come to see Edward VII crowned will not be unmindful of the gracious part he played in their country when a youth ; and it should augur well for the future friendship of the two countries.

“God bless his pretty face and send him a good wife,” was the homely wish expressed by a fisherwoman of Newfoundland when the Prince was there. Shortly after his return home events occurred which brought that wish to fulfilment. Accounts of the exceeding charm and loveliness of the Princess Alexandra of Denmark had reached this country, and a portrait of her having been shown to the young Prince of Wales when he was whiling away a summer’s afternoon in company with members of his bachelor establishment at White Lodge, he came to the decision that, if she was as amiable and beautiful as her portrait indicated, she among the Princesses of Europe should be his bride ; and from that time he took no interest in the other matrimonial projects which were being discussed by his family. His great-aunt, the late Duchess of Cambridge, was very favourable to the Danish match, the Princess Alexandra being related to her. Queen Victoria’s uncle, Leopold I of Belgium, was also in favour of such an alliance. The Prince’s parents were desirous that he should follow their excellent example, and marry for love ; accordingly it was arranged that he should meet the object of his admiration informally. The Prince went to visit his sister, the then

Crown Princess Frederick of Prussia, and continued his journey to places of interest in the Rhine district. The Princess Alexandra was also taken by her father on an “improving” tour amongst the old German cities. One day—September 24th, 1861—while she was studying the frescoes in the Cathedral of Spiers, the Prince of Wales, with his suite, entered the building with the same laudable intention, but the face of the Princess banished all thought of the frescoes. This chance meeting had the happiest result. Next day the respective travelling parties met again at Heidelberg, and the prospective lovers lunched together. The Prince Consort recorded at this period that, from the accounts he received, “the young people were much taken up with each other,” and that he heard “nothing but good of the Princess Alexandra.”

Had all the eligible Princesses of Europe been passed in review before Queen Victoria, she could not have found one whose upbringing coincided so exactly with her domestic ideal as that of her son’s chosen bride. Princess Alexandra was the eldest daughter of Prince Christian of Sonderburg-Glücksburg, who by the Treaty of 1852 was accepted by the Powers as heir to the Danish Throne. At the time of his daughter’s engagement he virtually held the position of Crown Prince of Denmark. He had been bred from his youth as a soldier, and was an officer in the Royal Guards. His upright and amiable character won universal respect. He married while quite a young man his pretty cousin the Princess Louise, daughter of the Landgrave of Hesse-Cassel and of the Princess Charlotte of Denmark. The young couple were established by their family in the modest Gûle Palais, Copenhagen, and there Princess Alexandra was born, December 1st, 1844.

She led a delightfully happy and simple childhood, and was reared in a thoroughly domestic manner by her wise and clever mother, who was