

Biographies of Their Royal Highnesses.

THE DUKE OF CORNWALL AND YORK.

George Frederick Ernest Albert, Duke of Cornwall and York, first saw the light of day at Marlborough House, on June 3, 1865. At the early age of 12 his Royal father placed him on board H.M.S. "Britannia" at Dartmouth, where, as a cadet, he took great pains to fit himself for a career in the Navy. In 1879 it was resolved that the Prince and his brother should take a trip round the world in H.M.S. "Bacchante," accompanied by their tutor, the Rev. J. N. Dalton, and the two young "noddies" sailed on September 19 of that year, after taking leave of their Royal parents on board the "Osborne." It served to open the eyes of both boys as to the real value and importance of the British possessions beyond the seas and, young as they were, the loyalty shown to her Majesty's throne and person in every colony and dependency they visited struck them as being most remarkable. On the return of the "Bacchante" to

THE DUCHESS OF CORNWALL AND YORK.

On her father's side Princess Victoria Mary of Teck (Duchess of Cornwall and York), is a direct descendant from King George II., while her mother, the late Duchess of Teck, was the daughter of Adolphus Frederick, Duke of Cambridge, the seventh son of George III., whose father was Frederick, Prince of Wales, the eldest son of George II. and Caroline of Anspach. She was educated under the personal direction of the Duke and Duchess of Teck, who took her to Florence, when she was between sixteen and seventeen years of age, where she gained a practical knowledge of the fine arts. About this time her parents were offered White Lodge as a residence, and it was in this most beautiful of suburban Royal dwellings that the Princess grew up to womanhood, becoming in due course her mother's dearest companion and the kindest of friends and playmates to her three brothers, one of whom,



KING EDWARD AND HIS FAMILY INCLUDING THE LATE DUKE OF CLARENCE.

England Prince George continued his naval studies, being promoted to the rank of lieutenant in 1885, commander in 1891, captain in 1893, and on the first day of the present century he was made rear-admiral. In 1891 he had command of the gunboat "Thrush," and in 1898 he hoisted his pennant on H.M.S. "Crescent," one of the Mediterranean first-class cruisers. It was in 1892 that Prince George was created Duke of York, and on May 4 of the following year his betrothal to Princess Victoria Mary of Teck was announced, and consented to by the Queen. The marriage took place in the Chapel Royal, St. James's, in the presence of a brilliant company, including many English and Foreign Royalties, and the fervour of enthusiasm with which their Royal Highnesses were received as they drove through the Metropolis of the Empire will not readily be forgotten. About a year later the Duchess gave birth to a son at White Lodge, Richmond, and their family now consists of three boys and a girl.

Although this is not the first visit of His Royal Highness to Canada it will be his first trip through the great Canadian West and across the American continent. He will see for himself the extent of this Dominion.

the youngest, Prince Alexander, is a prominent member of the Duke of Cornwall and York's travelling suite. The Duchess is distinctly clever. She has had a very thorough musical education, her voice having been trained by Signor Fidi. She plays the pianoforte and harp like a professor, and speaks German and French fluently. She rides and drives well, and plays an excellent game of lawn tennis. Her favourite authors are Tennyson, Carlyle, Emerson and George Eliot, and on her bookshelves, occupying prominent positions, and no doubt also on board the "Ophir" may be seen the works of Macanlay, Lamb, Froide, Motley, John Morley, Molière, Goethe, Dante and others. Princess May was confirmed by Dr. Cloughton, Bishop of St. Albans, and in 1886, ever memorable as the year of the Colonial and Indian Exhibition, she went to her first drawing-room, and during the season attended two state functions. It was while on a visit to Madame de Falbe at Luton that the engagement between the Princess and the Duke took place, and she will have been married eight years in May next. It may be added that the Princess's wedding ring and keeper are rather exceptional, the former being made of Welsh gold, while the latter is made of Scotch gold.