

THE DUKE AND DUCHESS OF CORNWALL AND YORK.

In view of the preparations being made for giving a royal welcome in this and other cities of Canada to the Duke and Duchess of Cornwall and York, it will be interesting to glance over the history of these titles, as well as the personal record of those who now bear them. Although the title runs, "Duke of Cornwall and York," we find many English papers, as well as Colonial ones, speak of the Prince as "Duke of York." Probably this is owing to that title being so familiar to English people, who cling tenaciously to old names, and seem averse to recognising new titles, or titles hitherto in abeyance or only used on ceremonial occasions, like that of "Duke of Cornwall." There are numerous old inns in Great Britain which carry the sign "Duke of York," while the other title has never been adopted as a sign for hosteleries. Indeed, until it was given to the present King, the title "Duke of Cornwall" was not created, Cornwall, up to the birth of King Edward VII., having been only known as an Earldom, not a Dukedom, as it was made soon after the birth of the late Queen's first son, who was the first "Duke of Cornwall," our coming visitor being the second of that title. The first Earl of Cornwall who was elected King of the Romans, was a brother of Henry III.; the next was son of Edward II., then the title was in abeyance, until it became extinct. The first Duke of York, a descendant of Edward III., bore the titles, "Regent of France and Protector of England," a title which makes Oliver Cromwell, "Protector II." His name is associated with the terrible civil strife, "The Wars of the Roses" in 15th Century, the York emblem being a white rose. He was slain at Wakefield, Yorkshire. A later Duke of York, son of Edward IV., was murdered in the Tower, when a boy. In Shakespeare's "King Richard III." is the most pathetic lamentation in literature uttered by the Duchess of York over her childless widowhood. Another Duke of York was slain at the battle of Agincourt. In the play, "King Henry V.," one character is "Duke of York, Cousin of the King," whom His Majesty styles, "Brave York;" whose name heads the list of the slain read out after the battle. In 1492 an imposter appeared who claimed to be Duke of York, having, he asserted, escaped from the Tower. After giving trouble he was hanged, though many regarded him as by right, "King Richard IV. of England." After this the title is not heard of until we read a mysterious allusion to the "Duke of York," in a letter by Cromwell to Cardinal Mazzarin. It was this Duke who became James II., of unhappy memory. Now comes another gap, until we hear of Frederick, Duke

of York, son of George III. He was commander of the British forces in a futile attack on Holland, where he capitulated. This Duke is satirized in lines given in Jesse's Memoirs, beginning:

"Here lies Fred
Who was alive and is dead."

He died in 1827 when the title "Duke of York" remained in abeyance until conferred upon Prince George, who, with the Duchess, is to honour this city with a visit in the Autumn. The above shows that "Duke of York" as a title is four centuries older than "Duke of Cornwall." It has become familiar by its association with stirring events in English History, such as the battle of Agincourt, the Wars of the Roses, the murder of the boy Princes in the Tower; the abdication of James II., the reigns of Queen Mary and Queen Anne, who were both daughters of a Duke of York; by the last appearance of a Royal Commander in Chief on the field of battle, and by familiar Shakespearean allusions.

The Duke is a sailor to the core. Before his 12th birthday he joined the Britannia training ship. At the age of 14 he became Midshipman on the Bacchante. Twenty-one years ago he sailed round the world. A few years later, when an officer of the North American squadron, he visited Canada. His strict attention to duty, however disagreeable, is the theme of several anecdotes. He is known to have refused to be recognized as holding any rank except that of a naval officer. The Duchess had much the same early experiences as her august grandmother, Victoria, of blessed memory. Her training was for the home, not the Court. Her most pronounced taste is a love of flowers, which she inherits, as her father, the Duke of Teck, was a famous horticulturalist. She loves the domestic more than the ceremonial side of life. She is on record as having shown her nurseries as "the most attractive rooms" in their residence. When the Duchess was bidding a tearful "good-bye" to the children, the little Princess Victoria said, "I will take care of us!" The Duke and Duchess carried the hearts of Australians by storm by their charming manners, unaffected naturalness, absence of hauteur, thoughtful consideration for others, and gift of saying the right word at the right time. The Duke's speeches have been characterized by frank, manly common sense, keen appreciation of what was called for by His eminent dignity and posit on as the King's son and representative, and by the historic opportunity of doing service to the Empire in knitting more closely the new Commonwealth to the Crown in loyal affection.