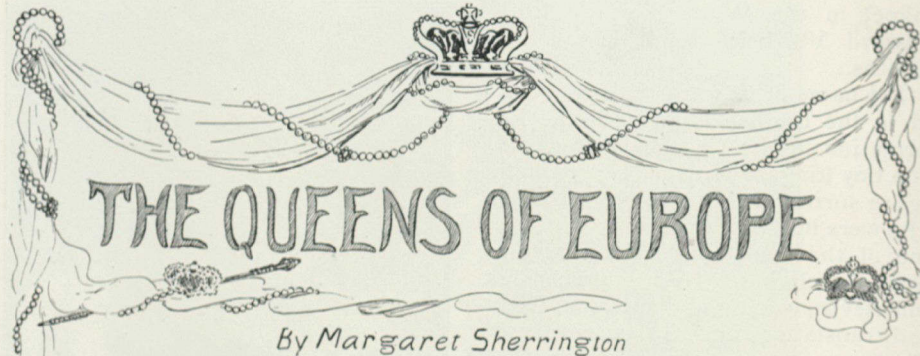




THE QUEENS OF EUROPE

By Margaret Sherrington

I—QUEEN ALEXANDRA

DURING the long years she has spent in England as Princess of Wales, Queen Alexandra has endeared herself in a thousand ways to the people over whom she now reigns as Queen-Consort; and since that eventful March day in 1863, when she came as the bride-elect of the Prince of Wales, all hearts have warmed towards her. The time that has elapsed since her arrival in England and her husband's accession, in the early days of 1901, has only served to make her more and more beloved. Such adoration as is felt for her has rarely been equalled, and never, surely, has a Queen come to the throne bearing with her deeper and more loyal affection than is showered upon the Consort of King Edward VII.

Queen Alexandra belongs to the ancient family of Holstein-Oldenburg, which for hundreds of years occupied the throne of Denmark. The families of the Dukes of Holstein date back to the beginning of German history.

On the maternal side Her Majesty is related to her husband's family, inasmuch as the late Duchess of Cambridge was her grandfather's sister. Remembering this, and the fact that the King of Denmark is not by birth a member of the Danish Royal family, it is a mistake to suppose that Queen Alexandra is essentially a Dane.

King Christian, her father, belongs to the House of Glucksburg, one of

the younger and collateral lines which have shared with the Kings of Denmark the rulership of Schleswig or Holstein. The full title of the branch to which he belongs is Schleswig-Holstein-Sonderburg-Glucksburg. He had no direct claim to the throne, but was elected by the voice of the people, and his election came about in this way. The Royal line of Denmark, which sprang from Frederick I, King of Denmark and Duke of Holstein (born in 1471), became extinct in the person of King Frederick VII. When the extinction of direct heirs to the throne from the eldest branch of the House of Holstein became evident, considerable curiosity was naturally felt regarding a probable successor. Claims came in from various pretenders, and from candidates with more or less right to election. The choice eventually fell upon Christian, third brother of Duke Charles of Schleswig-Holstein-Sonderburg-Glucksburg.

Born in 1818 (April 8th), he married at Copenhagen, on May 26th, 1842, Louise Wilhelmina Freidrike Caroline Auguste Julie, who was born on Sept. 7th, 1817, and was a daughter of the Landgrave Wilhelm of Hesse-Cassel. Prince Christian received the title of Prince of Denmark, and was appointed in May, 1852, successor to the Danish throne, receiving for himself and his heirs the title of Royal Highness.

Thus, then, did Princess Alexandra become a Royal Princess of Denmark. Christian IX ascended the throne on