



KENSINGTON PALACE.

Sixty-eight years ago, a baby was born at Kensington Palace, about whom the world thought very little at the time, although she brought great joy to the hearts of her loving father and mother. Her father was the Duke of Kent, fourth son of the reigning King, George III.

Of course the royal family took some interest in the arrival of the little stranger, and her grandfather, the King, wanted her to be named Georgiana. Her father wished her to be called Elizabeth, because it was a favorite name among English people, but her uncle, the Prince Regent, insisted that she should be called Alexandrina after the Emperor of Russia. Victoria was added as an afterthought, but little Drina was her name through all her early years.

She was not at her birth the recognized heiress of the crown. As we have said, her father, Edward, Duke of Kent, was the fourth (and the best) son of George the Third. George the Fourth, the eldest son and successor of that monarch, left but one child, the Princess Charlotte, who died about a year and a half after her marriage, her baby-boy dying with her. The Duke of York, second son of George the Third, died unmarried, without coming to the throne. The Duke of Clarence, his brother, reigned as William the Fourth, after the death of the Fourth George; he had two little daughters, but both died in infancy. It was not till these successive events had taken place, that it began to be clear that the daughter of the Duke of Kent would be the future Queen of England. Her father died in the year 1820, when she was only eight months old, leaving her to the charge of her widowed mother, by whom she was trained with a careful wisdom which has been the theme of universal admiration. To that good and self-sacrificing woman England owes much, for she devoted herself to the cultivation of her daughter's mind; inculcating not only the principles of religion and virtue by which the life of the Queen has been regulated, but all those "minor moralities" of method, exactness, punctuality, and faithfulness to engagements which have been of incalculable service