

child should be brought up under her own eye. 'A few months after the birth of my child,' said the Duchess, describing her situation at this time 'my infant and myself were awfully deprived of father and husband. We stood alone, almost friendless and unknown in this country. I could not even speak the language of it. I did not hesitate how to act. I gave up my home, my kindred, and other duties to devote myself to a duty which was to be the sole object of my future life.'

And an admirable home-training was the result of this devotion.

The life at Kensington was very simple. 'The family party met at breakfast at eight o'clock in summer time, the Princess Victoria having her bread and milk and fruit put on a little table by her mother's side. After breakfast the Princess Feodora studied with the governess Baroness Lehzen, and the Princess Victoria went for an hour's walk or drive. From ten to twelve her mother taught her; after which she would amuse herself by running through the suite of rooms which extended round two sides of the palace, and in which were many of her toys. Her nurse was a Mrs. Brock, whom the Princess used to call her 'dear, dear Boppy.' At two came a plain dinner while the Duchess took her luncheon. After this, lessons again till four; then would come a visit or drive; and after that the Princess would ride or walk in the gardens; or occasionally, on very fine evenings, the whole party would sit out on the lawn under the trees. At the time of her mother's dinner the Princess had her supper laid at her side; then, after playing with her nurse, she would join the party at dessert and at nine she would retire to her bed, which was placed by the side of her mother's.'

#### HER EDUCATION.

When the Princess was five years old, in response to a message from her uncle King George IV., Parliament voted an annual grant of £6,000 to the Duchess of Kent for the education of the young Princess. A suitable preceptor was now sought for and the Duchess chose the Rev. George Davys, afterwards Bishop of Peterborough. She made it a rule that the Bible should be daily read to the young Princess. The Duchess confided fully in Dr. Davys, and he retained his post for years.

The Baroness Lehzen was also retained through the whole term of the Princess's education and proved an excellent teacher. After six years spent under the care of her tutors, the Princess could claim many accomplishments. Owing to the exercise of unusual natural abilities she could speak French and German with fluency and was acquainted with Italian. She had made some progress in Latin, being able to read Virgil and Horace with ease. She had commenced Greek and studied mathematics in which she showed proficiency; and she had likewise made great progress in music and drawing.

Occasionally the child longed for companions of her own age, and the following anecdote is related: As the Princess took much delight in music her mother sent for a noted child performer of the day, called Lyra, to amuse her with her performances on the harp. On one occasion while the young musician was playing one of her favorite airs the Duchess of Kent left the room for a few minutes. When she returned she found the harp deserted. The heiress of England had beguiled the little minstrel from her instrument by the display of some of her costly toys and the

*Sturbridge Wells*  
*16<sup>th</sup> August.*  
*1828*

*My dear Uncle*

*I offer you many affectionate congratulations on your birthday - very many with my best love for all your kindness to me - and it has been a great pleasure to me to be able to write this year to my Uncle the King and to you*

*We hope to hear that Brighton does you a great deal of good*

*Believe me, my dear Uncle, your very affectionate Niece*

*Victoria*

#### A LETTER FROM PRINCESS VICTORIA WHEN SEVEN YEARS OLD.

children were discovered 'seated side by side on the hearthrug in a state of high enjoyment surrounded by the Princess's playthings from which she was making the most liberal selections for the acceptance of poor little Lyra.'

Charles Knight, in his 'Passages of a Working Life,' gives a glimpse of the Princess as he saw her in 1827. 'I delighted to walk in Kensington Gardens,' he says. 'As I passed along the broad central walk I saw a group on the lawn before the palace, which to my mind was a vision of exquisite loveliness. The Duchess of Kent and her daughter whose years then numbered nine, are breakfasting in the open air—a single page attending them at a respectful distance: the matron looking on with eyes of love, whilst the fair, soft English face is bright with smiles. What a beautiful characteristic it seemed to me of the training of this royal girl that she should not have been taught to shrink from the public eye; that she should not have been burdened with a premature conception of her probable high destiny; that she should enjoy the freedom and simplicity of a child's nature; that she should not be restrained when she starts up from the breakfast table and runs to gather a flower in the adjoining parterre; that her merry laugh should be as fearless as the notes of the thrush in the groves around her.' I passed on and bless-

ed her and I thank God that I have lived to see the golden fruits of such training.'

#### SHE DID NOT FORGET.

An illustration of the Princess's kindness of heart and of her filial-solicitude in carrying out the wishes of her parents occurred in connection with the family of a soldier named Hillman. It appears that Hillman was with the Duke of Kent when he was at Gibraltar. The Duke's regiment were inclined to mutiny, but Hillman remained faithful. Upon his return to England the Duke provided a cottage for Hillman near his palace at Kensington. Just before his death His Royal Highness begged his wife to look after the soldier and his family. This wish the Duchess faithfully observed, taking her daughter with her on her visits. Hillman at length died leaving one son and a daughter. The boy was very ill, and the Princess Victoria visited him at frequent intervals until his death. The daughter also suffered from a complication of diseases. Two days after the Princess's accession to the throne the child's regular pastor visited her and found her unusually bright and cheerful. Being questioned as to the cause of this, she drew forth from under her pillow a book of Psalms. 'Look there,' she said, 'look what the new Queen has sent me to-day by one of her ladies, with the message that "though now Queen of England, as she had to leave