

A peasant from the neighbouring village of Sospel, who supplied hay and straw for the royal stables, hearing, the following year, that the Duke of Connaught was staying at the Hôtel Bellevue, called there and said to the proprietor: "Just put in a good word for me to the Duke. Tell him I supplied his mother with hay and straw last year, and I'd like to do the same

thanks for the loan of the villa to the owner's wife in person. The lady in question was staying at the Hôtel d'Italie, and was in a rather weak state of health. The Queen, knowing this, and hearing of the excitement the prospect of the royal visit was causing her hostess, said with womanly tact: "I will go alone one day, quite unattended and unannounced." She chose a

morning when the invalid was feeling a little stronger, and, going quietly into the room, went up to her couch, bent down and kissed her.

The fête that was given by the town, in honour of its royal and imperial guest, still lives in the memory of the Mentonnais. It took place in the harbour soon after night-fall. The east bay was illuminated with triple festoons of Chinese lanterns, and over two hundred boats of all descriptions, tastefully decorated and brilliantly lighted up, sailed by while the Queen watched the proceedings, with Prince Leopold by her side, from the Hôtel Bellevue. The whole scene, with the innumerable dancing lights reflected in the rippling waters was enchanting; H M.S. *Inflexible*, which was in the harbour, added greatly to the effect and success of the fête.

During her stay in Mentone the Queen expressed her wish to see the

Good Friday procession. I must explain to those of my readers who are unacquainted with Mentone and its religious ceremonies, that on Good Friday eve the effigy of our Lord's dead body is carried in solemn procession from the parish church (cathedral the English wrongly call it, for there is no Bishop of Mentone), through the nar-



PHOTO BY BUSIN, GRASSE

QUEEN VICTORIA AT MENTONE

by him." I can vouch for the accuracy of this story, for I had it from the lips of the proprietor's son, the present American vice-consul.

The following touching little incident was told me some time ago as I was picnicking with friends in the woods just in view of the Châlet des Rosiers. The Queen wished to express her