

Lord Beaconsfield, "and that is the Queen." He took the first opportunity of asking the question. "The Duca di —?" replied Her Majesty. "Oh yes, I remember perfectly," and she forthwith gave a full history of his family. Prime Ministers of modern times have sometimes found the Queen's remarkable memory a little embarrassing, as in discussion on political questions she will confront them with the views of Peel or Palmerston, or with the advice given her by Lord Melbourne in the first year of her reign; and it is reported that Lord Salisbury was once driven to delicately hint that there was a difference between the state of affairs in '37 and '87.

Her Majesty has always been very strict with regard to regulations for Court dress. All ladies, of whatever age, are required to appear in bodices with low necks and short sleeves. Plumes must always be worn standing erect from the back of the head; no modification is permitted. When a lady who formerly reigned as a society beauty and is now a theatrical star was to be presented, she arranged her Court head-dress in quite an artistic manner, pinning down the feathers upon her lovely hair in a most becoming manner. All went well until she passed before the Court functionary preparatory to making the entrée; then she was ordered to remove the pins, as no lady was permitted to enter the Presence except with her plumes erect.

It had always been the practice to forbid the attendance at drawing-rooms of ladies divorced, even though it was for no fault of their own; but the Queen, with her admirable sense of justice, came to the conclusion that this was scarcely fair, and decided that a lady of blameless life ought not to be excluded from Court by reason of her husband's misdeeds. The matter