

great reception, November 9th, it being the Prince's thirty-fourth birthday. Seated on a silver throne and surrounded by State magnificence which is unknown at St. James's, he received the resplendent Princes and Rajahs. During the four months of his tour the Prince travelled 8,000 miles by land and 2,500 by water, visiting the chief cities of India and many historic spots. Of the various receptions which he held the most brilliant was a Chapter of the Order of the Star of India, when he invested the chief native Princes and that great lady the Begum of Bhopal with the Order. The Begum looked like a ball enveloped in blue silk, it being against Hindoo etiquette for her face and form to be seen.

On his return from India the Prince is reported to have said that he had accomplished the "dream of his life." He has since shewn a keen interest in all Indian questions and is in sympathy with a liberal policy towards the natives of the vast country which now calls him Emperor. The gifts and memorials of the tour were arranged in the Indian room at Marlborough House, and in the *Serapis* room at Sandringham, which is furnished with the belongings of the King's rooms on board the vessel of that name which bore him to and from India. Queen Alexandra did not share this tour, as it was feared the long journeys under the burning heat of an Indian sun would be too trying for her strength.

When, in March, 1888, the King and Queen celebrated their silver wedding, it found them with an unbroken family circle. Prince "Eddy" was a young man of singular amiability of character, dignified and calm when before the public, but showing a good deal of vivacity in private life. He was his mother's son in every respect—strikingly like her in face, manner, and disposition; and the tie between them was exceptionally strong. From the day when his majority was celebrated in good old English style amongst the tenantry at Sandringham,

he had been earnestly endeavouring to fit himself for the great position which he expected one day to fill. He had received an excellent training as a boy on board the *Britannia*, had sailed far and wide in the *Bacchante*, visiting many parts of the Empire; and had finally, after a period at Cambridge, entered the 10th Hussars. He was beginning to take part in public affairs, and gave promise of much beneficent service to the country. When he accompanied his parents on their memorable visit to Ireland in 1885, he won golden opinions by his affability and by the fearless courage he displayed in visiting some of the slums of Dublin. His untimely death at Sandringham, January, 1892, on the eve of his marriage, caused the one bitter drop in the cup of their Majesties' family happiness.

Prince George, to call our popular Prince of Wales by his early title, was cast in a different mould from his elder brother. Though equally well-intentioned, he was beset by the spirit of mischief. Stories still survive in quiet Dartmouth of his pranks when a middy on the *Britannia*. Pleasure parties on the Dart would sometimes find their boat nearly capsized by a smart little craft suddenly darting across their path. Tableau: Infuriated action on the part of nervous old gentlemen, and profuse apologies from a young middy with laughing face and mischievous blue eyes! The Prince of Wales is a born sailor, with all the "handy man's" adroitness and good spirits. He can tell a yarn, play the banjo, and is very easy and affable in manner. Wild-duck shooting is his favourite sport, and he spends long days on the Norfolk marshes, where he has a decoy, lunching in the simplest style at one of the cottages near. He is a good man of business, and while Duke of York kept a strict eye on the expenditure of his households at York Cottage, Sandringham, and York House, St. James's. When shortly after his marriage he found that he was being charged on the "liberal" scale which pertained to his father's establishments, he, with commendable