

and Empress themselves love their little daughters just as dearly as if they had been heirs to the Crown, though, no doubt, they too would like to secure the throne for a child of their own. On the birth of the Grand Duchess Olga the Czar is reported to have said that he was glad the child was a girl, "because," said he, "had our child been a boy he would have belonged to the people; being a girl, she belongs to us." This little girl bears a strong resemblance to her mother, while her sister Tatiana is totally different in lineament, and is more like the Czar.

One of the most beautiful of the Royal country palaces is that of Peterhof, in the grounds of which are innum-

erable waterfalls and fountains. The Czarkoë Seloe is another perfect palace, where the Czar and his family spend the summer months.

The Czarina, although surrounded with the most luxurious homes of any European Queen, remains perfectly simple in her tastes. She used to be almost Puritanical in her love of simplicity so far as it affects dress, and it was with the utmost difficulty that she could be persuaded so choose a *trousseau* befitting an Empress of Russia. Even now she despises over-elaborateness in dress; and although her own wardrobe is necessarily carried out on a magnificent scale, she sets no extravagant fashions to those about her.



III—QUEEN SOPHIE OF SWEDEN

OWING to delicate health, Queen Sophie of Sweden has for several years past been compelled to forego active participation in many of the social entertainments in which she would otherwise have taken part, and to live a quiet, retired life.

She is one of the most amiable of Sovereign ladies, and bears her sufferings with a fortitude and patience that speak much for her unselfishness, resignation, and sweetness of disposition.

Queen Sophie was born at Biebrich on July 9th, 1836, being the daughter of the Duke of Nassau. She was brought up unostentatiously, but great attention was paid to the selection of her teachers and to her general education. She was extremely clever, and soon displayed a special gift for languages; before she was twenty she could speak three or four tongues fluently. As a girl she was rather shy and studious, and her parents little thought that their reserved, unambitious little Sophie would one day make a marriage that would place her on one of the thrones of Europe. But such was the fate in store for her.

Prince Charming came in the person of Prince Oscar of Sweden, the third

son of King Oscar I. At the time of Prince Oscar's birth his father was only the Crown Prince, and his grandfather, King Charles John, occupied the throne. The chances, therefore, that this third son of the then Crown Prince would be called upon to reign were somewhat remote, and he was allowed to follow his own inclination as regards a career. He chose a sailor's life, and at the age of eleven entered the Swedish navy, and later made some interesting voyages. At the same time he wrote a good deal of poetry, and has continued a poet to this day.

Scorning to gain prejudiced success on account of rank rather than merit, the Sailor-Prince sent in anonymously to the Swedish Academy of Science a poem for competition. It was called "Memoirs of the Swedish Fleet," and it won the prize.

It was the sudden death of his brother Gustav, in 1852, that caused Prince Oscar to come more into prominence as a possible Swedish King, his brother Charles's marriage having, up to that period, proved childless. Prince Oscar, Duke of Ostro-Gotha, as he was called, was heartwhole, and his father, in order to give him the opportunity of choosing a bride to