



Gatherings Upon Coronation Topics.

SOME SIDE-LIGHTS.

II.

Hardly a day passes now that the great event of the Coronation is drawing so near, without some mention in the public press of incidents past or present in the lives not only of our Sovereigns themselves, but of those to whose wise care in their upbringing our nation is so indebted.

We are told of the vigorous personality of the Duchess of Teck, the mother of our Queen; of her happy, sunny nature, her directness of purpose, her transparent sincerity, her raciness of speech, her keen sense of humor and unflinching tact, and, above all, of her most heroic personal devotion in the cause of philanthropy. No wonder that, so trained, the greatest lady in the land should prove herself to be no mere theorist, but a living exponent of what a true woman should be.

It was said of the Duchess of Teck that she "apprenticed her daughter early to the service of the poor." The story goes that on one occasion she intended to send a dinner to a destitute family, and, calling her young daughter to her, she said: "I wish you, my child, to go yourself with your governess to the house of these unfortunate but respectable people, so that you may learn what it means to have a meal when one has been starving." And this is but one of the many object-lessons learnt by Queen Mary in her early childhood.

Nor were her lessons only those of religion and philanthropy. She had a training in practical common sense and in all the useful arts of housewifery, and was kept well abreast of the social and political problems of the age.

The Duchess of Teck had sound ideas, too, in regard to the mistakes so often made by parents in permitting their young daughters to enter into the whirlpool of society too soon. "A child," she said, "has quite enough to do to learn obedience, to attend to her lessons, and to 'grow,' without many parties and late hours which take away the freshness of childhood and the brightness and beauty from girlhood." So "the little Princess grew up a healthy, energetic girl who luxuriated in the free and open life she was able to enjoy in Richmond Park, where many remain who can remember her, with her fair hair streaming in the wind, galloping joyously on her favorite pony down the avenue, often alone, but as often with her father, the Duke of Teck, who was in the fullest accord with the wise methods of his wife, and believed, as she did, in the value of a careful training in a sheltered home, especially for one whose later life might largely have to be spent in the fuller brilliance of an unblinking limelight.

Amongst the many home memories which must always be dear to our Queen's heart will surely be those of the happy hours spent with her father at the White Lodge, where the two, amidst pleasant talk, and in the comparing of notes on topics of kindred interest, personally tended the flowers for which that place was so celebrated. It would not be fair, in speaking of the valuable lessons learnt in her very young days, to overlook the marked influence of her father in the development of the

young Princess whose great destiny it has been to become the Queen of England, although, perhaps most of all, from her mother's lips and through her example, the daughter imbibed the love of order, the sense of the value of time, the crystalizing of sympathetic intentions into definite and helpful deeds of kindness, which are such marked features of her maturer years.

To her father, the Duke of Teck, as well as to her mother, the young Princess was indebted for the cultured surrounding of those early days when the White Lodge was the center of wide and varied literary interests, men of literature, science,

Teck spent so many hours in trying to do something to make others happier. No pains were spared by either to obtain accurate information by which they might be guided in the wise arrangement of their charities, so we need not be surprised to hear of a lady caller at the White Lodge "finding the daughter of the house engaged in marking passages in a Blue Book, issued on that saddest of all subjects, the State Care of the Young Mentally Afflicted," or that, "during the time that the House of Lords' Sweating Committee was sitting, the Princess carefully read over the whole evidence and evinced the greatest sympathy with the hard

of which the Duchess of Teck obtained the loan. It was just large enough to accommodate two persons, and it was the Princess's practice to invite certain deserving old women to stay at the cottage for a fortnight at a time during the summer months. She used constantly to go over to the cottage to visit them, to minister to their simple needs, and to cheer them by her bright and sympathetic nature."

With such an upbringing, we need not be surprised to learn that our Queen's sympathies are practical, rather than idealistic, and that now, as in her girlhood, facts, rather than fancies, the real world, with all its deeds and needs, rather than the world of romance and fiction, should so touchingly appeal to her. To the gay young English or Canadian girl, whose chief aim, until she has sobered down into the realities of married life, may be to have a "good time," the girlhood of Queen Mary may sound somewhat gray and colorless, but we have many assurances that it was otherwise. Never was a merrier child, never a happier girl, never was a home more full of sunshine, than that of Princess May. All the unselfish deeds of herself and mother, the hustling, busy, energetic "Duchess of Teck, were done, as it were, to a gay and tuneful melody." We will take the following anecdote as an illustration:

"It was the habit every year of the Duchess of Teck to give the old soldiers' widows at the Royal Cambridge Asylum at Kingston a supply of fresh vegetables from the gardens of White Lodge, and Princess May helped in the distribution. The old women would stand holding their aprons, which Princess May filled with vegetables as her mother handed them to her. 'Now, May,' the Duchess would say, 'give that dear old soul these cabbages, and then come back for the cauliflower. Be quick, or I shall not recommend you for a stall in Covent Garden.' And the Princess, entering into the occasion with girlish fun, would run to and fro as busily as if the stall in Covent Garden were a reality. If she slackened her speed, the Duchess would recall her with: 'Attend to business, May, and bring me those onions—you don't like the smell of onions? Then you won't do for a greengrocer's wife' and so on, until each old lady had her apron filled. 'Whatever thy hand findeth to do, do it with thy might,' was the motto of the mother at the White Lodge, and it has become, in due course, and will probably always remain as the motto lived up to, of the Mother on the Throne. H. A. B.



Her Majesty the Queen.

art and drama being welcomed there as visitors, thus bringing with them an atmosphere of culture which has never lost its influence upon the intellectual tastes of the royal lady who is so soon to be crowned at Westminster. In languages the Queen is proficient, and she has a thorough musical education, and it is a source of her as a girl, "You will find her neat and dusty books upon her shelves, but neatly re-edged and well-bound pages."

It is told that Princess May became her mother's constant and private secretary in all the many and varied ways in which the Duchess of

lives of poor seamstresses and nail and chain workers."

When still in her teens, Princess May took a keen interest in the promotion of seaside holiday funds, and was a zealous promoter of Children's Happy Evening Associations and Girls' Clubs in London.

A writer in the Times gives us the following: "Her care for the old may be illustrated by a single example. While still at the White Lodge, she concerned herself with the welfare of a number of old women in the East End of London. There was, on the Duke of Cambridge's estate at Coombe, a keeper's cottage,

From "The Shoemaker."

[Tolstoi; Translated by Nathan Haskell Dole.]

Martin Avdeitch, a shoemaker, lived in a basement with a window on a level with the sidewalk, through which he could see the feet of passers-by, often recognizing their owners by the shoes which had been mended in his shop. When his little son, the last of his family, died, he became bitter, and left off going to church. Then, one day, a little old man visited him, who advised him to live for God and read the Testament. Martin took life at his word, and from that day his life changed. He left off going to the saloons and tried to lead a better life. Every evening he would read his Testament, then, one evening, when he was reading the parables of the Gospel