

## OUR SOVEREIGN LADY.

(By the Author of "English Hearts and English Hands.")

## CHAPTER III—(Continued).

In this country home, as the years went by, and the elder children left the nurseries to their little successors, many pleasures were provided for them, but all were made to serve in their training for future usefulness. Each child had a flower garden, a vegetable garden, a little hot-house, a forcing frame; a carpenter's shop was prepared for the boys, a small building, with kitchen dairy, &c., for the girls; and the royal children, busy and happy, did real work in each department, and from the kitchen many comforts, made by skilful young fingers, found their way to the cottages in the neighborhood.

They had also a Museum of Natural History, and were ardent collectors of "specimens."

The royal parents watched over their training with constant care. On this subject the Queen wrote: "The greatest maxim of all is, that the children should be brought up as simply and in as domestic a way as possible; and that (not interfering with their lessons) they should be as much as possible with their parents, and learn to place the greatest confidence in them, in all things." The Prince was himself the chief instructor of his children. He furnished the plan for their education; appointed their different teachers; superintended the whole himself, and read every book before it was put into their hands.

They were brought up very simply, with no luxuries. Their usual dinner, a joint and a plain pudding; and on this homely fare they grew and thrived, and were the very picture of a happy English family. Meanwhile, the Prince, who delighted in landscape gardening and in farming, had various improvements carried out, which gave employment to many laborers, whom he treated with kind consideration. At harvest-time the men were dismissed, that they might work for others during that busy season; but directly their engagement was ended, they returned to the work which he always found for them.

There were times in which great anxieties and cares forced themselves upon the hearts of the royal wife and her husband; but they only served to draw them the closer to each other. On the fourteenth anniversary of their wedding day her Majesty thus wrote: "This blessed day is full of joyful and tender emotions. Fourteen happy and blessed years have passed, and I confidently trust many more will, and find us in old age as we are now—happily and devotedly united! Trials we must have; but what are they if we are together?"

Seven years after the purchase of Osborne, when the dry and bracing air of Deeside was strongly recommended by their medical adviser, for the health of both the Queen and the Prince, their choice fell upon the estate of Balmoral; and the Prince purchased it, delighted not only with the beautiful situation and the charms of seclusion, but also with the fresh opportunity of exercising his skill in agriculture and other country pursuits. Here, as at Osborne, the well-being of those around, was at once consulted by well-directed efforts to raise their social and moral condition. Schools were built, and teachers were supplied wherever they were needed. An excellent library was established at Balmoral, and was open, not only to the servants and the tenants, but to all the neighborhood. Blacksmiths, joiners, and other small tradesmen were encouraged to settle on the estate by comfortable houses with gardens and a field for a cow being let to them at a moderate rent. "No good man was displaced, no honest effort at improvement went unnoticed. The duties of property, indeed, were never more thoroughly recognized than by both the Queen and the Prince."

The year 1851 was marked by the opening of the Great Exhibition in Hyde Park, the forerunner as it has proved of numerous useful and beautiful successors. It was the achievement of Prince Albert himself—

"Far-sighted summoner of war and waste,  
To fruitful strife and rivalries of peace"—  
and the scheme was carried through to its brilliant accomplishment, in the face of many difficulties, and not a little opposition; but the ultimate success surpassed all expectation.

On that memorable May-day, although

thousands upon thousands assembled to witness and to share in the festival,—by God's goodness, not a single accident happened.

Our Sovereign Lady has allowed us to know her own thoughts of thankfulness, written in her journal that day:—"God bless my dearest Albert! God bless my dearest country, which has shown itself so great to-day! One felt so grateful to the great God, who seemed to pervade all, and to bless all! The only event which it in the slightest degree reminded me of was the coronation, but this day's festival was a thousand times superior. All the Commissioners who worked so hard, and to whom such immense praise is due, seemed truly happy, and no one more so than Paxton, who may be justly proud; he rose from being a gardener's boy." And the record of the day ends with these words, "I was rather tired; but we were both so happy, so full of thankfulness! God is indeed our kind and merciful Father."

"Behold her in her royal place,  
A gentle lady, and the hand  
That wields the sceptre of this land,  
How frail and weak!  
Soft is the voice, and fair the face;  
She breathes Amen to prayer and hymn;  
No wonder that her eyes are dim  
And pale her cheek."

The hope that had animated the Prince, that this great undertaking would tend to bind the nations of the world in peaceful federation, was alas, doomed to disappoint-

In the following year the Queen and Prince Albert, with some of their children, paid their second visit to Ireland, to see the Dublin Exhibition. On the last day of their stay the Queen drove slowly through the streets of Dublin, "unlined with soldiers,"—"feeling," as she has told us, "quite sorry that it was the last day of such a pleasant, gay and interesting time in Ireland."

Scotland was re-visited this same autumn, and as the old Castle of Balmoral was found to be too small for the needs of a royal residence, designs were chosen by the Prince, and a contract was entered into for the erection of a new house. Whilst the building was in progress, troublous days began, for the Crimean War broke out. The general excitement caused by the announcement of the first great European war witnessed by this generation, was shared in by every class throughout the country. The consequent rise in prices brought injury to many contractors, and amongst them to the builder who had taken the contract for Balmoral, as the price of his materials was so much raised as to make the undertaking an unfortunate one for him.

But Prince Albert generously took the contract off his hands, retaining him with a good salary to superintend the work; and himself paying full wages to the workmen. Moreover, when a fire broke out in the workshops, the Prince made good all losses sustained by the men, with expressions of



PRINCE ALBERT AT THE TIME OF HIS MARRIAGE.

ment! Even whilst the bells in that Fairy Palace were ringing their last chime, before the gorgeous pageant should pass away like a dream of splendor,—the knell of settled peace had begun to sound in the ears of thoughtful statesmen.

Signs of the coming storms, which were to convulse, in their turns, Europe, India, and the United States, were already to be seen and felt in the political atmosphere. In September, 1852, the great Duke of Wellington died in his sleep, at Walmer Castle. The Royal Family and the nation mourned together over their lost hero—"one that sought but duty's iron crown." The stately funeral voted for him by Parliament, can never be forgotten by those who witnessed it. Prince Albert followed with the mourners; and the Queen, surrounded by her children, looked down on the solemn procession from a balcony in Buckingham Palace, where the Royal Standard was floating half-mast high.

Throughout the dreary November day, a million and a half of spectators waited to do the last honor to the great soldier of whom England was so justly proud. Hardly was there a dry eye in that vast crowd when "the masterless steed," led by the aged groom, was seen following the funeral car, which was bearing to its last resting place the stalwart form of the "Iron Duke."

kindly sympathy; at the same time the Prince not only encouraged them in their efforts to extinguish the fire, but himself worked with them; whilst the Queen stood by, cheering them with her kind words, and hearty interest in their success.

The Royal Family attended the simple service in the Established Church of Scotland, and honored with their distinguished friendship some of its gifted ministers, the Rev. Norman Macleod, Principal Tulloch and others.

Of one Sunday Her Majesty writes in her journal—"Mr. Macleod showed in the sermon how we all tried to please self, and to live for that, and in so doing found no rest. Christ had come not only to die for us, but to show how we were to live." And again the Queen writes of a sermon by the Rev. J. Caird from Romans xii. 11, "Not slothful in business, fervent in spirit, serving the Lord." "He explained in the most beautiful and simple manner what real religion is; how it ought to pervade every action of our lives. Not a thing only for Sundays... but being good and doing good, letting everything be done in a Christian spirit."

The Queen took a lively interest in the people around her, visiting them in their cottages, bringing in her own hands gifts of warm clothing to the aged, and warming

their hearts by the gracious kindness of her words and ways. She sympathised in their joys and their sorrows. We read of her being present at the christening of the infants, and ministering beside the beds of the sick and the dying. She showed a true mother's heart for the children, who are often mentioned in her journal; and the promise of bringing a toy to a little one, made when the Court was leaving Balmoral, was, to the child's expectant delight, faithfully kept on the return; although many great events, including a visit to the Emperor of the French, had intervened to occupy the Sovereign's thoughts.

(To be Continued.)

## MR. HUDSON TAYLOR AND CHINESE MISSIONS.

Thirty-one years ago I was about leaving the shores of England for China. My beloved, honored and now sainted mother went to Liverpool. I shall never forget the day that we sailed for China, how that loved mother went with me into the cabin that was to be my home for nearly six months. With a mother's loving hand she smoothed the little bed. She sat down by my side and joined me in singing the last hymn we sang together before we separated. We knelt down and she prayed, the last mother's prayer I was to hear before I went to China.

Then the notice was given that we must part, and I had to say good-bye to that loving mother. Mainly for my sake she restrained her feelings as much as she could. She went on shore, giving me her blessing. I stood on deck, and she followed the ship as we moved towards the dock gates, and the ship was just leaving, I shall never forget the cry of anguish that was wrung from that mother's heart as she felt that I was gone. It went to my heart like a knife. I never knew so fully as then what "God so loved the world" meant, and I am quite sure my precious mother learned more of the love of God for the world in that hour than in all her life before.

Fourteen years later I was at work in China, and my own beloved first-born child was with me. She was not well, and I took her to a place some little distance from Hang Chow, hoping the change would benefit her health. When we went on shore my dear child and I took a walk into a wood near by, that we might have some quiet prayer together under the shade of trees.

While we were there my child, who was only eight years of age, for the first time saw a man making an idol. The sight grieved her to the heart. She looked up into my face and said, "Oh, papa, that man does not know Jesus! He would never make an ugly idol like that if he knew Jesus." I had not so much faith in the result of the message as my dear child had, but I went and told him the story of God's great love in the gift of His Son. Then we went away, and the man went on making the idol. After we had gone a little distance we sat down, and I said to my child, for I saw her heart was burdened, "What shall we sing?" she said, "Let us sing—'Rock of Ages, cleft for me.'" We sang that hymn, and then I said to her, "Will you pray first?" She prayed, I never heard such a prayer as she offered. For about fifteen minutes she went on pleading that God would have mercy on the poor Chinese, and strengthen her papa to preach Christ to them. My heart was bowed before God; I could not describe it to you.

Next morning I was summoned away to see a sick missionary at a distance, and had to leave my loved ones. When I came back she was unconscious and she never recognized me again. The prayer for the poor Chinese was the last conscious words I heard her speak. As I stood over her grave I praised God that He had permitted me to part with my dear child in His service in China. I knew then, as I never knew before, what "God so loved the world" meant.

That is how some of us have attained this knowledge of God. He has given us to have sympathy with Himself in His not withholding His only begotten Son, and in that Son giving Himself in order that the world might be saved.—Selected.

"FIVE HUNDRED percent, increase in the trade in women's and children's clothing" is reported as one result of Prohibition in some towns in the Southern States of America.