

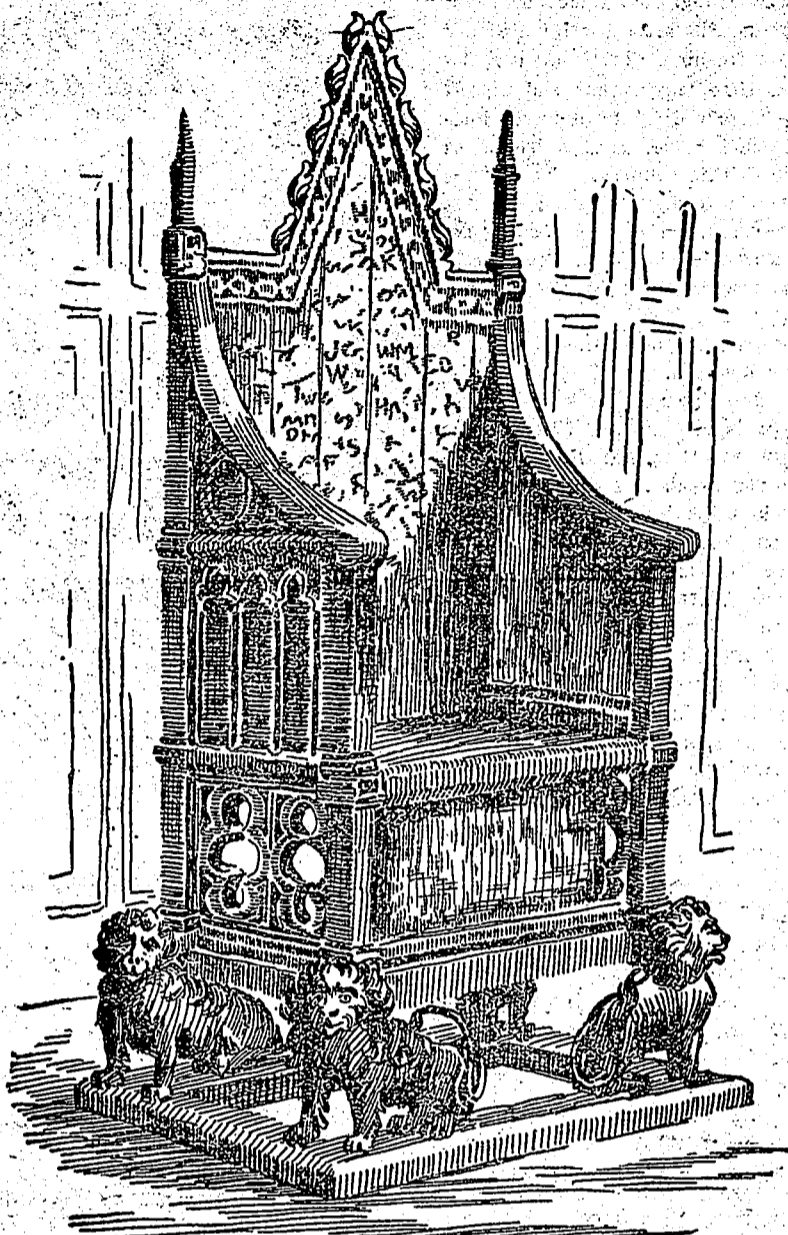
The Duke was perhaps more highly esteemed than any other son of George III. His public conduct was judicious and self-sacrificing. In the army he brought in many healthful reforms; after he ceased from active service in it he interested himself in humanitarian movements of all kinds, especially devoting himself to the cause of the widow and the orphan. The result was that he became known as the 'Popular Duke.' He was of regular and temperate habits, kind to all, and the firm friend of those who trusted him. He was also exceedingly generous. It was auspicious that the Queen should have had such a father, for many of his traits with the gentleness and uprightness which distinguished the mother descended in large measure upon the child.

Two days after the death of the Duke, the Duchess of Kent, with her baby and her brother, Prince Leopold, set out for London, and on June 29 the Duchess reached Kensington Palace—the day the Prince Regent became King.

Interesting stories are told of the times when Princess Victoria appeared at fifteen months' old, in a child's phaeton, tied safely to the vehicle with a broad ribbon round her waist. Her half-sister, Princess Feodore, some years her senior, would draw the child in this carriage. The baby liked to be noticed and answered all who spoke to her. She would say 'lady' and 'good morning,' and when told would hold out her soft dimpled hand to be kissed with an arch expression on her face. 'Her large blue eyes, beautiful bloom, and fair complexion, made her a model of infantine beauty.'

RESCUED BY AN IRISH SOLDIER.

On one occasion she was nearly killed by the upsetting of the pony carriage. A private soldier, named Maloney, claimed the honor of having saved England's future Sovereign on this occasion. He was walking



THE CORONATION CHAIR.



IN CORONATION ROBES.

through Kensington Gardens when he saw a very small pony-carriage in which was seated a child. The pony was led by a page, a lady walked on one side, and a young woman beside the chaise. A large water dog having got between the pony's legs, the startled pony made a plunge on one side and brought the wheels of the carriage on to the sidewalk. The child was thrown out head downwards, and would in a moment have been crushed beneath the weight of the carriage, then toppling over, had not Maloney grasped her dress before she came to the ground, and swung her into his arms. He restored her to the lady, and was praised by a number of persons, who speedily collected, for rescuing 'the little Drina,' as the child was called. He was told to follow the carriage to the Palace, where he received a guinea from the Duchess of Kent for 'saving the life of her dear child, the Princess Alexandrina.' Such was the statement of Maloney made late in life and published in the daily journals.

William Wilberforce had a very early introduction to the Princess Victoria, and the way in which he records it shows the childlike simplicity of his nature. Writing to Hannah More, July 21, 1820, he says: 'In consequence of a very civil message from the Duchess of Kent I waited on her this morning. She received me with her fine, animated child on the floor by her side with its playthings, of which I soon became one.'

REGULARITY OF LIFE.

The widowed Duchess resolved that the