

Ambassadors' Court, St. James's Palace, a beautiful suite of rooms, so named because it is situated at the palace entrance through which the *Corps Diplomatique*, and others whom the Lord Chamberlain has upon his list, make their way to the State apartments. Ambassadors' Court is reached through a passage just beyond the Chapel Royal. Passing through the Gothic doorway one enters through a vestibule into a spacious waiting-room;

lotted to the Duke of Clarence, and they were being put in order under his own supervision at the time of the melancholy death of that Prince in 1892.

It is a singular thing that the Duchess of York (*née* Princess May of Teck) succeeds her own grandmother in the occupation of this suite; and perhaps more singular still is the fact that but for his death she would have lived there as the consort of the Duke of Clarence, to whom she was once betrothed.



PHOTO BY RALPH DERSINGHAM

PRINCE EDWARD OF YORK
PRINCESS VICTORIA OF YORK PRINCE ALBERT OF YORK
PRINCE HENRY OF YORK

the library and dining-rooms are also upon the ground floor. Upstairs are the beautiful drawing-rooms where the Duke and Duchess privately entertain.

This suite of apartments has had some distinguished occupants during the last hundred years. The Duke of Cumberland vacated Ambassadors' Court to sit upon the throne of Hanover; and the Duchess of Cambridge lived here from 1851 till her death in 1889. Then the apartments were al-

St. James's Palace itself is one of the most historic castles of England. Away back beyond the Norman Conquest the site was occupied by an "ancient spittel for mayden lepers." In the sixteenth century this convent still stood alone on the borders of the City of Westminster; and as he looked across the park, Henry VIII was struck with the sylvan beauty of its situation. He forthwith acquired the convent. By extensive rebuilding it was transform-