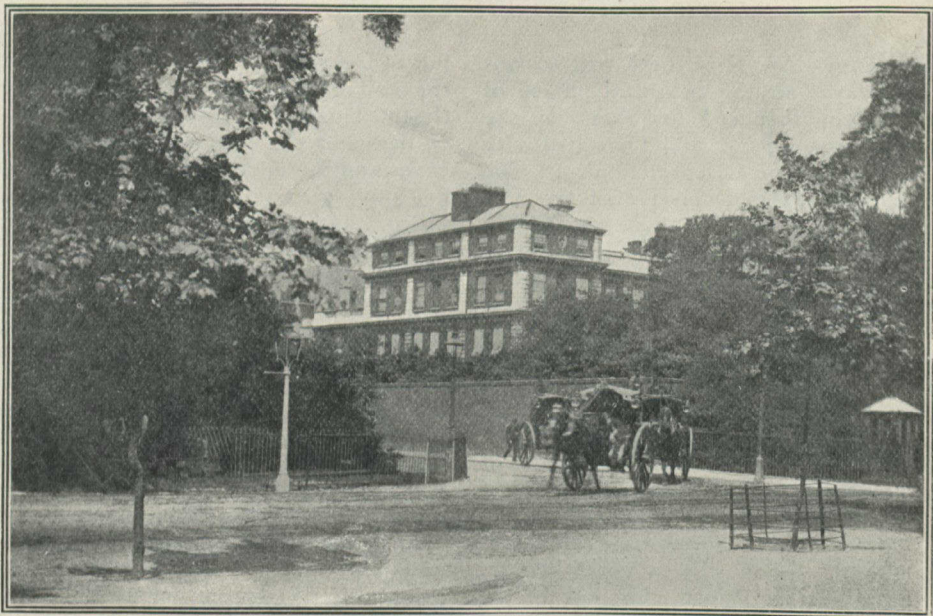




MARLBOROUGH HOUSE, THE KING'S LONDON RESIDENCE WHILE HE WAS PRINCE OF WALES

Meanwhile at Sandringham his mother and wife, and his sister, Princess Alice, kept watch. Prayers were offered up in all the churches. Protestant and Roman Catholic, Greek, Jew, Mohammedan, and Hindu joined in the universal supplication. In the village church at Sandringham the Princess, snatching a brief interval from the sick-room, bowed her head in prayer along with her humble neighbours. By Christmas the Prince was sufficiently recovered for the Princess to make her usual distribution to the schoolchildren, and to himself dictate a message to the people on the estate. A young groom of the household had been attacked with the same disease as his master, and as he lay in his room over the stables a sweet vision came to his bedside. It was the Princess, who had climbed the steep steps bearing some nourishing delicacies. She subsequently attended the poor lad's funeral, and caused to be inscribed on his tomb the words, "The one was taken and the other left."

A day of Public Thanksgiving for the Prince's recovery was observed on February 27th, 1872, when an impressive service, attended by Queen Vic-

toria and all the members of the Royal Family, together with representatives of various national bodies, was held. A few days previous the happy Princess had driven her dear convalescent for his first outing in the Park.

The Prince had long entertained a wish to visit India, and Queen Victoria was equally anxious that he should represent her in that vast country which owned her as ruler. Accordingly the Prince sailed in the *Serapis*, with a distinguished retinue and a veritable cargo of presents for the native Princes. He landed at Bombay, October, 1875, and was received by the Viceroy, Lord Northbrook. A more charming welcome was given him by Hindu young ladies from the Alexandra School, dressed in flowing bright-coloured robes, who strewed flowers before him and advanced bearing garlands of jessamine and singing a loyal anthem. They greeted him with the picturesque words, "I would gladly give up my life for your safety"; and one lovely Parsee, in a robe of pink satin, placed a garland round his neck.

The tour was inaugurated with a