

OUR SOVEREIGN LADY.

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

CHAPTER I.—(Continued).

The lesson of exact truthfulness was also constantly brought before the royal child by her mother, who was herself remarkable for this root of all virtues; and that the child sought carefully to practise it was noted by all around her.

One morning the Duchess, coming into the school-room, asked her governess how the Princess had behaved at her lessons. "Once she was rather troublesome," was the reply; but scarcely was the sentence finished when the little girl gently touched her arm, and said, "No, Lehen, twice, don't you remember?"

Princess Victoria had been placed under the teaching of Baroness Lehen, who proved herself a wise and kind governess, and who quickly secured, and ever retained the warm affection of her royal pupil.

A pleasant glimpse of these early days is given in "Passages of a Working Life."

"The sun was scarcely high enough to have dried up the dews of Kensington's green alleys, and, as I passed along, I saw a group on the lawn before the palace which, to my mind, was a vision of exquisite loveliness. The Duchess of Kent and her daughter, whose years then had numbered nine, are breakfasting in the open air; the mother looking on her child with eyes of love, the fair soft English face bright with smiles."

A love of nature, and love of life in the open air, which the habits of her childhood implanted in the Princess Victoria's mind, provided her with a simple source of pleasure which has stood her in good stead, when, in later years, her mind has been weary with the cares inseparable from royalty.

By the Duchess of Kent's wise arrangement her daughter was twelve years old before she became aware of the great destiny that might await her. The following letter, written by Baroness Lehen to our gracious Queen, best describes the remarkable spirit in which this intelligence was received:—

"I ask your Majesty's leave to cite some remarkable words of your Majesty when only twelve years old, while the Regency Bill was in progress. I then said to the Duchess of Kent that now, for the first time, your Majesty ought to know your place in the succession. Her Royal Highness agreed with me, and I put the genealogical table into the historical book. When Mr. Davys (the Queen's instructor, afterwards Bishop of Peterborough) was gone, the Princess Victoria opened the book again and said, on seeing the additional papers, 'I never saw that before.'

"It was not thought necessary that you should, Princess," I answered.

"I see I am nearer the throne than I thought."

"So it is, Madam," I said.

"After some moments the Princess resumed, 'Now, many a child would boast, but they don't know the difficulty. There is much splendor, but there is much responsibility!'

"The Princess, having lifted up the forefinger of her right hand while she spoke, gave me that little hand, saying, 'I will be good! I understand now why you urged me much to learn even Latin. My cousins, Augusta and Mary, never did; but you told me Latin is the foundation of English grammar, and of all the elegant expressions, and I learnt it as you wished it; but I understand it all better now!' And the little Princess gave me her hand again, repeating, 'I will be good!'

"I then said, 'But your Aunt Adelaide is still young, and may have children, and of course they would ascend the throne after their father, William IV., and not you, Princess.'

"The Princess answered, 'And if it were so, I should never feel disappointed, for I know by the love Aunt Adelaide bears me, how fond she is of children!'

After the Princess Victoria had become Queen of England, had married, and was a young mother, in the midst of all the pressure of the business of the State, and the varied duties of domestic life, she invariably found time to write to her old governess every week for many years, and then Her Majesty was only induced to change the plan to once a month by Baroness Lehen's special request; and this correspondence continued, and was the Baroness's greatest pleasure to the end of her long life.

The Duchess of Kent, as part of the education of her young daughter, sought to give her an acquaintance with various places of interest in the country over which she might be called to reign. They visited several of the great centres of the manufacturing industries, such as Birmingham, Nottingham, and other busy towns. They also went to the ancient University of Oxford, where they had a State entrance, attended by a guard of yeomanry; and the beautiful grey city with its classic buildings appeared in holiday garb to greet the young princess.

At different times they also visited the venerable cathedrals of Worcester and Chester, and were entertained by the Archbishop of York when they attended the musical festival in York Minster.

Sometimes the Duchess of Kent and the Princess Victoria were honored guests in such "stately homes of England" as Chatsworth, Eastnor Castle, Eaton Hall, and Alton Towers. At other times they went to various seaside places on the pleasant English coast. The summer of 1831 was spent

ing. It was the work of a moment for Saunders, the pilot, to rush towards the Princess, and to lift her into a place of safety, as the mast came thundering down, over the very spot where she had just been sitting. Happy pilot, to have saved that precious life! He was promoted to be master; and in later years it was to him that the honor was entrusted of bringing to the shores of England the young Prince Albert, when he was coming to be the chosen husband of our Sovereign Lady. After the death of Saunders, the widow and children were provided for by the grateful Queen.

At fifteen years of age the Princess Victoria was confirmed in the Chapel Royal at St. James's. The sacred service was witnessed only by the King and Queen, and a few other members of the Royal family. The Archbishop of Canterbury, in a solemn and earnest address, placed before the young Princess the manifold duties of her high position. She listened with earnest attention; but presently tears filled her eyes, and leaning her head upon her mother's shoul-

seventeenth birthday drew near. It was springtime, and in the gardens round Kensington Palace lilacs and laburnums filled the air with fragrance and beauty, whilst pink and white hawthorns and chestnuts, robed and crowned with their clusters of delicate blossoms, made the surrounding park seem decked for a festival. Preparations were being made to receive some royal guests. The Duchess of Kent had invited her brother, the Duke of Saxe-Coburg, to come and stay with her, and bring his sons, Prince Ernest and Prince Albert. The young cousins—then meeting for the first time—were yet well known to each other through their parents, and to Prince Albert this first sight of his fair cousin was fraught with interest, for the wise and charming old lady, the Duchess of Saxe-Coburg, his grandmother and hers, who had brought up her grandson from his infancy, dwelt often in the hearing of the young Prince Albert upon her cherished hope of his future union with the little Mayflower of England.

From his early childhood Prince Albert had given promise of the noble character which, in his after life, won for him from the heart of this nation his title of honor "Albert the Good."

"Gentleness and firmness, warmth of feeling and benevolence," were the qualities which distinguished him. "It was only what he thought unjust or dishonest that could make him angry," said a cousin who had been one of the companions of his childhood. "His nature seemed incapable of meanness. Even in his play he was a hero."

The same cousin, Count Arthur Mensdorff, tells that once, when he and his cousins, Ernest and Albert, with some other boys, were, in mimic warfare, storming the ruined tower at The Rosenau, one of the number suggested that it would be easy to take the tower by getting in at the back. But young Albert refused any part in such an enterprise, saying it would be unbecoming a Saxon knight, who should always attack his enemy in the front; and his resolution carried the day.

The brothers were highly educated in classical and in general knowledge, as well as in such accomplishments as music and drawing. They lived much in the open air, and shared with their father in many exercises and sports. Together the brothers studied natural history, and their collections, made in boyhood, formed the beginning of the excellent "Ernest-Albert" museum in Coburg.

How many tastes and interests the young cousins would have in common, making the pleasant month pass only too quickly away!

"For lightly falls the foot of Time
Which only treads on flowers!"

There were public amusements and ceremonies, such as the king's levee, a dinner at court, a state concert, and the drawing-room on the king's birthday. There were sights to be seen in London, one of which seemed to have exceeded all the others in interest to them—the gathering in St. Paul's Cathedral of all the children of the various charitable schools in London. At this great service the whole of the royal party attended, and to the sermon preached to the children it was noticed that Prince Albert listened most intently.

When at home in Kensington Palace the cousins were learning to know and appreciate each other. Then, the visit over, they parted on most happy terms, although no words had been spoken of definite hopes for the future.

(To be Continued.)

BISHOP BOWMAN, senior bishop of the M. E. Church, says:—

"I have been twice through Maine lately. I was in just such towns where you would most likely find evasions of the prohibitory law—Portland, Bangor, and others. I don't care what the enemies of prohibition say. To my observation, and all that I heard and experienced, temperance in Maine—more than that, prohibition—is a decided success. Drunkenness and rowdiness, with all their attendant disgrace, are nowhere visible."

THERE ARE TIMES when God asks nothing of his children except silence, patience, and tears. He lets them go aside, away from interruption, in order to weep till nature is relieved of the heaviest burden; then he gives "a season of clear shining that cometh after rain."



"I SEE I AM NEARER THE THRONE THAN I THOUGHT."

at Norris Castle, in the neighborhood of Arreton, in the Isle of Wight. In Arreton churchyard is still to be seen the grave of "the Dairyman's Daughter,"—unknown during her humble life, but well known after her death, through the little sketch of her clear faith and joyful departure, written by the Rev. Legh Richmond, Vicar of Bradling. A tourist passing by this quiet spot saw a lady and a young girl sitting by that lowly grave; and, pausing for a moment, he heard a few words of that true and simple story read aloud to the elder by the younger; little thinking that he was hearing the voice which should afterwards, with its rich, melodious tones, charm the listening senate of this vast nation!

The Princess Victoria was in her fourteenth year when she went with her mother on a yachting expedition along the Southern Coast. One day a sudden gale sprang up, and the "Esmeralda" flew before it. As the young girl sat on the deck, fearlessly enjoying the exciting scene, a crashing sound was heard; it was the top-mast fall-

der, she seemed to seek in the shelter of that mother's love, a support under the weight of the coming responsibilities of a monarch's life.

Shortly after her confirmation, the Princess Victoria, while staying at Tunbridge Wells, happened to hear about a young woman just plunged into the deepest distress and poverty by the sudden death of her husband. The Princess at once decided to give £10 from her own purse, and the Duchess of Kent added the same sum. The charitable aid was of double worth, because the Princess herself was the bearer of the gift, and spoke words of comfort and hope to the heart-stricken widow. Nor was this a mere passing interest; the Princess did not forget the mourner she had befriended, and after she became Queen of England she gave £40 a year to the poor woman for her life.

Thus, in earnest study, in varied and useful employments, and in gentle and generous deeds, the years of childhood and girlhood glided quickly by, and the Princess's