

they left Windsor, as those do with their religion who are said to leave it in church on Sabbath till they come back. In a book which she has published Her Majesty tells us a good deal about the happy days which she spent in her Highland homewith her husband and children. Prince Albert, at first, was distrusted by the people of Britain, but ere long he won their high esteem. In different ways he was a means of good. He helped very much to abolish duelling in the army, and to bring into being the World's Exhibition in the Crystal Palace in 1851. He desired all nations to enjoy the blessings of peace and liberty. It was very much owing to his influence that war did not take place between Britain and the United States on the occasion of "The Trent Difficulty"—as it is called—in 1861. But to-day our Queen is a widow. On the 14th of December, 1861, death separated her and the Prince for ever in this world, when they had lived scarcely twenty-two years together. For many a day the one left wept for the other, and would not be comforted, because he was not. At last, many of her people felt towards her as Joab did towards David when the latter mourned for his dead son Absalom. She is now beginning to come out from her retirement, to the joy of her people. She has their love, an infinitely better protection than a strong armed guard. Twice she has suffered bereavement as a mother. The Princess Alice, the wife of the Grand Duke of Hesse-Darmstadt, died on the 14th of December, 1878, exactly seventeen years after her father, to whom she was specially dear. The people among whom she spent her married life, still speak of her in loving terms. On the 28th

of March, 1884, Prince Leopold Duke of Albany, the Queen's youngest son, died. He was the most scholarly of all her sons. As his health was always weak he was unfit for either the army or the navy, and, therefore, he betook himself to books. For the same reason he was more with his mother than any of his brothers were.

All the Queen's children married, and, with only one exception, all had children. The royal maiden of eighteen in 1838 is to-day the mother of seven living children, the grandmother of thirty-one, and the great grandmother of six. Her eldest child will, according to the course of nature, be the next Empress of Germany. Her second, the Prince of Wales, will in the same way succeed his mother as Edward VII.

All her sons have visited Canada. Her second Prince Alfred, Duke of Edinburgh, has visited it twice. Her third, Prince Arthur, Duke of Connaught, stayed here nearly a year. One of her grandsons, a son of the Prince of Wales, visited Canada in company with his uncle, the late Prince Leopold. The only one of her daughters who has been here is the Princess Louise, the wife of the Marquis of Lorne, our late Governor-General. Their marriage is the first instance, during several hundred years, of the union of a member of the Royal Family of Britain and a subject. They are the only ones of her family by whom Her Majesty has no grandchildren.

Ten years ago last New Year's day the Queen of Britain had a new title—"Empress of India"—publicly bestowed on her. She received from Parliament a proof of the strong Republican element in

the British Constitution. For this she was very much indebted to the late Lord Beaconsfield, who was then Prime Minister. It is believed that she was anxious to be made an Empress, that she might not even seem to be inferior in rank to the Emperor of Russia, the father-in-law of her son, the Duke of Edinburgh. Parliament limited the application of the new title to India. In several cities in that country she was on the day above mentioned proclaimed Empress with great ceremony.

Though she be now so much accustomed to the splendour of royalty, she can truly say,—“My heart's in the Highlands.” Every year, she and those of her family who are with her, spend some time at Balmoral. While there, she regularly attends the parish church and partakes of the Communion when it is dispensed. She is much pleased with the simplicity of the Presbyterian service. One of our Canadian ministers, the Rev. Mr. Barclay of St. Paul's Presbyterian Church, Montreal, has twice had the honour of preaching before her there. To the late Dr. Norman McLeod, she showed great favour. She was very fond of hearing him read “Tam O' Shanter,” and “A Man's a Man for a' that”—the latter, a song which expresses no small measure of sturdy republican sentiment. But I must consider that I have not to write a book, but only a newspaper article which already, is not of very short length, and that I have to take up a most interesting subject before I lay down my pen. I must, therefore, say to myself regarding “Victoria in 1887”—“Hold! enough,” an act which I have little doubt will meet with the reader's warm approval.—*Extracts from an Article by T. F. in The Parkdale Times.*