

At college the young Prince had his undergraduate pranks, and shewed the same disposition as other young men to evade discipline on occasions. While at Oxford he wished to visit London without the knowledge of his tutor. He reached the station, procured his ticket and started on his journey unrecognized, as he thought. But there must have been vigilant eyes about, for when he reached London he found a Royal carriage in waiting to receive him. The attendant footman gravely asked where His Royal Highness wished to be driven. The Prince, equal to the situation, returned answer, "Drive me to Exeter Hall!" He did not specify whether it was a missionary meeting or a revival service which he desired to attend.

On his eighteenth birthday the King received a letter from his mother informing him that he was legally of age, and free from parental control. She spoke in impressive terms of the duty which she and his father had endeavoured to perform, and said that if their government had at times seemed to be severe they had been actuated with loving regard for his good, and had wished to strengthen his judgment against the flattery which would beset him when he took an independent position in the world. The Prince's warm heart was deeply affected by this letter, and he showed it to Gerald Wellesley with tears of emotion. He was now provided with a bachelor establishment at White Lodge, Richmond Park, where he had to live with him several gentlemen rather older than himself, and selected by the Prince Consort.

A few months later he made his memorable journey to Canada and the United States, sailing in the *Hero* with a distinguished retinue, including the Duke of Newcastle, Secretary of State for the Colonies. He landed at St. John's, Newfoundland, on July 24th, 1860, and from the rugged coast of that then almost unknown island of his future dominions, made a veritable

regal progress through the chief cities of Canada and British North America. It was the first time that an Heir-Apparent to the British Empire had taken a colonial tour, and tumultuous crowds, garlanded streets and loyal addresses met him at every stopping-place. Ladies threw bouquets into his carriage and were ecstatic over his charming smiles and bows. The Prince Consort, writing of the success of the tour, said facetiously that "Bertie was generally pronounced to be the most perfect product of Nature."

The attentions of the ladies sometimes proved embarrassing. At Brantford, on the way to Niagara, while the Prince and his suite were stopping for lunch, his fair admirers managed to get into the Royal dressing-room, with the intention of obtaining the Prince's hat-band. They had noticed that he wore a white hat, but great was their consternation at finding five hats answering to the same description. With woman's wit they disbanded all the hats. When the gentlemen returned to the room the Prince was the first to discover the work wrought by the fair depredators, who had the pleasure of seeing him don his bandless hat with blushing smiles. The two most important public duties performed by the Royal visitor were the opening of the Victoria Tubular Bridge over the St. Lawrence and the laying of the first stone of the Parliament Buildings at Ottawa.

In response to the cordial invitation of President Buchanan the Prince extended his tour to the United States. He assumed the *incognito* of Baron Renfrew, but our Republican cousins ignored the Baron and insisted on fêting the Prince. His dancing attracted lively interest, especially as at balls given in his honour he stood up in every dance with a new partner each time. The belles of New York were wild with delight—at least, those who were fortunate enough to secure a dance with the Prince. Apart from all this youthful exuberance and gaiety, there can be little doubt that the visit