

## The Princess of Wales.

WE have great pleasure in presenting to our readers a worthy companion picture to Marie Stuart, in a beautiful portrait of the Princess of Wales—one of the most interesting women of the present time, one who bears well the light that beats upon and near a throne, and who is probably destined to occupy a most important place in the annals of the future.

The Princess of Wales, daughter of Christian III., King of Denmark, was born at Copenhagen, December 1st, 1844, and was baptized under the name of Alexandra Caroline Marie Charlotte Louise Julie. Her education was conducted under the watchful eye of her mother, and she grew up lovely in person, winning in manner, and highly cultured in mind.

The King of Denmark, though ruling over a very insignificant kingdom, and a poor man in purse, has, to his honor be it told, so trained his daughters that they have all made noble alliances—the Princess Dagmar having become Czarovna of Russia, Alexandra, Queen in prospective of Great Britain and Empress of India, and Thyra, Duchess of Cumberland.

The story is told of Alexandra that on one occasion, before her marriage, she had been reading Shakespeare to the Prince of Wales, and he, charmed by her voice and manner, remarked that he would be glad to have her read to him frequently; whereupon she piquantly replied: "My terms are twenty-five shillings—a sovereign and a crown!"

The Princess was married November 10th, 1863, by a curious coincidence both her birthday and wedding day falling on a Monday. The ceremony was performed at St. George's Chapel, Windsor, and the splendid old church has rarely witnessed a more stately or magnificent spectacle.

She has had six children, one of whom, Prince John, died in early infancy. Her living children are: Prince Albert Edward Victor Christian, Duke of Cornwall, who was born at Frogmore, January 8th, 1864.

Prince George Frederick Ernest Albert, born at Marlborough House, June 3d, 1865.

Princess Louise Victoria Alexandra Dagmar, born at Marlborough House, February 20th, 1867.

Princess Victoria Alexandra Olga Mary, born July, 1868; and the Princess Maud Charlotte Mary Victoria Augusta, born November 26, 1869.

The Princess is most devoted to her husband and children, and is regarded by the English people, high and low, by whom she is known as "Our Princess," with a love falling little short of idolatry, Tennyson having been almost prophetic in the closing lines of his "Ode of Welcome:"

"O joy to the people, and joy to the throne,  
Come to us, love us, and make us your own;  
For Saxon, or Dane, or Norman we,  
Teuton, or Celt, or whatever we be,  
We are each all Dane in our welcome of thee,  
Alexandra!"

She is greatly beloved, too, by her royal mother-in-law, and the following pretty story is told of her winning way toward the noble dame. The Queen, for long after the Prince Consort's death, persisted in wearing the heaviest of mourning, and no one, even her own daughters, dared to remonstrate or urge a change. But one day, the Princess, being quite a skillful milliner, took her cumbersome crape hat, and removing some of its heaviest folds, returned it to the Queen. She observed the change, but made no remark save a quiet "Thank you, my dear," accompanied by a kiss. The amateur milliner afterward confessed to inward quakings as to what the result of her temerity might be.

The London home of the Princess is Marlborough House, but her favorite residence is Sandringham Hall, in the north-west corner of England. Sandringham is not a stately palace reared for ostentatious show, but a real English home designed to be lived in, its home savor beginning at the outer door. Just above the inner hall door is placed this inscription: This house was built by Albert Edward, Prince of Wales, and Alexandra, his wife, in the year of our Lord 1870.

It was there that, eight years ago, the Prince had that sore struggle for life which awoke the sympathy of the world, Christian and Pagan. Dearly loved as the Princess had been since she left her Danish home, this trial only endeared her the more tenderly to the English nation by the proofs she gave in those dark days of wifely devotion and of simple, unaffected piety and childlike dependence on that One in whose hands are the issues of life and of death. But out of darkness came light, and we, Americans though we be, fondly wish that only brightness may be the portion through the years which remain to her of one who is in so many regards an almost ideal woman. L. P. L.

## Evenings with the Poets.

A WELL-KNOWN lady of high literary attainments and real culture has made a feature of a charming series of entertainments this season, announced as "Evenings with the Poets." The first one celebrated was Moore, the second Burns, and the entertainment consists of selections admirably read from the works of the poet, short, pertinent addresses by able men, and sometimes women, and songs selected also from the author celebrated upon the occasion, and sung by first-class artists. The gatherings have been composed of the most cultivated people in the city, and the "evenings" the most interesting and successful form of entertainment that has been introduced for a long time. After all, the dearth is great of social enjoyment which is stimulating to the intellect as well as the senses, and this idea has been so well thought out and so ably seconded as to have had the effect of decided novelty.

## Mr. Thomas Hardy's Story, "The Trumpet-Major."

THIS latest story of one of the foremost of English novelists increases in interest with its development, and will well repay attentive perusal. The *New York Herald*, in its literary notes of a recent date, says of this work:

"The advent of a new story from Mr. Thomas Hardy, author of 'Far from the Madding Crowd,' has become an interesting event. As a novelist he is second only to Mr. William Black, and would not be so considered, even to this brilliant author, except for a certain determined realism which deals with characters found in common life, and detracts from the apparent, rather than the real refinement and value of his work."

The "Trumpet-Major" is published simultaneously in this Magazine with its appearance in England. The advance sheets have been secured by us from the author at great expense, and give to our readers, in addition to all other attractions, the latest work of a first-class novelist, in advance of all competitors.

## An Error.

By a simple error, "to be continued" was placed at the end of the closing chapter of "Little Oddity," written by *Elizabeth Bigelow*, instead of "conclusion," or "end." The story had reached its termination all the same, and we offer this explanation in reply to inquiries.

## Scientific Items.

**Benzoate of Sodium.**—Professor Klebs of Prague announces that the benzoate of sodium is the best antiseptic in all infectious diseases. The action of it is very powerful. It is claimed that a daily dose of from thirty to fifty grammes to a full-grown man will render the poison of diphtheria inoperative. The benzoate is prepared by dissolving crystallized benzoic acid in water, neutralizing at a slight heat with a solution of caustic soda, drying, and then allowing the solution to crystallize over sulphuric acid under a bell-glass. Large doses do not appear to be absolutely necessary. Good results may be obtained by the daily administration of about twelve grammes.

**Pine Fodder.**—In Styria, in the spring, fir and pine tree boughs are cut off while the young leaves are soft and of a light green color. They are then spread out in barns on the threshing-floor, and left well exposed to light and air until the needles fall off. The boughs are then put to firing or other uses, while the needles are collected in heaps and dried in ovens or malt kilns, after which they are ground to powder, or stamped small in a bark mill. To every twenty-five pounds of such mixture one pound of salt is added, and in winter a portion of the mixture is fed to cattle along with chaff. The animals soon become very fond of their diet, and it agrees well with them. It is said to have also a medicinal effect, being a preventive against lung affections and generally "bracing up" the animals in winter-time.

**Ventilation of Closets and Cupboards.**—The ventilation of closets is one of those minor matters that are frequently overlooked in the erection of houses, while the want of a thorough draft is apt to make itself unpleasantly apparent to the smell. The remedy of the defect is however very simple, says a trade organ. If possible, have perforations made through the back wall of the closet, and a few in the door; when the wall of the closet cannot be perforated, bore holes freely in the door at the top and bottom. To prevent dampness, with the accompanying unpleasantness and injurious effects of mildew in cupboards, a tray of quicklime should be kept, and changed from time to time as the lime becomes slaked. This remedy will also be found useful in safes or muniment-rooms, the damp air of which is often destructive to valuable deeds and other contents.

**An Improved Flower Pot.**—Mr. Peter Henderson recommends a flower-pot with holes low down in the side instead of in the bottom. We have, he says, during the past six months tried about a thousand, of sizes ranging from three inches to six inches in diameter, and find they are all that we expected of them. All cultivators know the difficulty experienced when the ordinary flower-pot is placed on a bench covered with sand or soil; the outlet often becomes completely closed by the washing of the soil through the outlet, and, being closed by the sand, the drainage becomes stopped as completely as if there was no orifice at all in the bottom of the pot. Again, worms breed quickly in the sand or soil, and seem to take a special pleasure in crawling under and through the holes in the bottom of the pots, to get at the rich soil which they contain. This improved pot is safe from the first difficulty, as the holes, being on the sides of the pot, cannot be clogged by the sand; while it is far less tempting to the worm, as a special effort must be made before the hole can be reached. Still another advantage is that, as these orifices are placed above the bottom, air is admitted more freely to the roots, a matter which is very essential to the well-being of plants.