

## THE EARLY HOMES OF OUR PRINCESS.

### *ROYALTY IN DENMARK.*

DENMARK is not so much the happy hunting-ground of the English and American tourist as would be the case were it situated on the mainland; the day's steam-boat journey from Kiel to Korsör deters many a one; but those who do get so far are fully repaid. Landing at the primitive little harbour, with its quaint Custom - House, very polite officials, and its queer restaurant, where you pay a fixed sum and eat as much or as little as you please, you are soon en route for Copenhagen in the well-warmed and cleanly furnished carriages of the Danish State Railway. Steaming into the principal station of the capital, you find yourself one of the population of a place which for fine thoroughfares, open spaces, and handsome buildings is vastly superior to many a vaunted city in the beaten track. And the people! What a healthy, well-set-up nation they appear! Somehow one cannot but be favourably impressed with them; they look so kindly, happy, honest, and content. I never saw a beggar within their streets, yet I have made two prolonged sojourns in their midst! 'Tis an ideal place, and its destinies are presided over by ideal monarchs.

The King and Queen of Denmark are essentially a homely couple, seldom leaving the shores of their own country, and living a life of simple unostentation in the midst of the people over whom they have reigned for upwards of thirty-four years. Many and great have been the changes during that period, not the least of them being the gradual and increasing relationship of their Majesties with the reigning families of Europe, owing to the various alliances

of their sons and daughters. Throughout it all, however—next, or on a level with their children—the Danish people and the Danish country have been the chief solicitude of both King and Queen, outside politics and interests occupying only a very minor share of their time or thoughts.

Few monarchs, perhaps, mingle so freely with their people as does King Christian. Not only does his Majesty walk about the streets alone and unattended, returning the respectful greetings which are accorded him on every hand, but it is no uncommon thing for him to stop and chat with any group of workmen he may be passing, entering with animation into any question they may be discussing. And the people like this freedom and close acquaintance with their King! The fact of it is, a man with less tact and minus the kindly good nature which distinguishes his Majesty would have found himself in a far more trying and difficult position than has he, for the Danes have strong Socialistic tendencies, and no one who had not gained and kept their respect could have maintained the supremacy.

Not for one moment, however, must one lose sight of the great assistance rendered to the King in all State matters by his consort. Queen Louise is gifted with a keen insight and a ready tact, and few momentous questions are settled save by the united counsel of husband and wife. Nearly every morning the aged couple (for they are each about eighty years old) confer together in their private sitting-rooms, cogitating upon this or that measure for the welfare of their subjects. What has actually been accomplished under their patronage is beyond all

compute; every branch of education is well to the fore, and agricultural pursuits—in which at least half the population are engaged—have received a more decided impetus than can be recorded for any other country. Small holdings of land have been much encouraged; indeed, in

consideration of their Majesties and been largely benefited by their encouragement.

When Christian IX. was proclaimed heir to the throne in 1852, he and his wife were residing in the Gûle Palace, a residence of quite moderate size, standing near to the Amalienborg group of palaces



THE THRONE OF DENMARK, ROSENBERG CASTLE.

1894 an Act was passed which made it prohibitory to engraft small farms upon large estates. The peasant farms now number upwards of 72,000. Cattle-raising has also been much encouraged by royal patronage, and the export of dairy produce reaches annually a magnificent total. There is scarcely any question appertaining to the advancements of arts and crafts which has not received the earnest

at present occupied by the King and the Crown Prince. As the future occupants of the Danish throne, the little palace was not considered sufficient for the dignity of the position of their Royal Highnesses; so the Château of Bernstorff was presented by the nation for a summer residence. Bernstorff has since occupied an important place, I might say, in the history of the world; for not only were



its gardens and woods the playground of a future Empress, a Queen, and a King—the two former destined to share two of the most important thrones of the world—but here, too, in later days, have assembled year by year the actual occupants of thrones; the King and Queen gathering around them children and children's children—an assemblage the members of which, by their various alliances, are in the nearest relationship to nearly every monarch in Europe. Thoroughly happy and informal have these annual meetings been, sometimes here and sometimes at Frederiksborg; a sojourn at either of these places being looked upon as a welcome break in a continual round of State duties and often wearisome social functions.

The everyday life of the Danish Court is reduced to the simplest proportions. Early rising, early meals, the fewest of State functions, and an early retirement is literally the prescribed rule of life. All



THE PRINCESS OF WALES'S MATERNAL GRANDFATHER, THE LANDGRAVE OF HESSE.



THE PRINCESS OF WALES'S MATERNAL GRANDMOTHER.

their days through the King and Queen have adhered to this simplicity of living: just as they did when Crown Prince and Princess, so they have continued to do as far as possible since they have been monarchs of the country. People have told the funniest and most romantic tales concerning the early life of their Majesties when their children were young about them. Everybody knows that Denmark, in comparison with some kingdoms, is poor, for it is a country of limited area and population; therefore, the State allowance to the royalties is not considerable. At the same time, even before the proclamation of Prince and Princess Christian as Crown Prince and Princess, it was generally understood that they were destined for that dignity, and their children were accordingly trained with all consideration for their future position. Often and again has it been romantically told how Prince Christian supplemented his income by giving drawing



lessons to the children of the wealthy. The Court of Denmark and Marlborough House can afford to smile at this assertion, although it is a little overstepping the bounds when one writer, more fanciful even than the others, draws a charming little word-picture of the youthful Princes and Princesses waiting at the gates of their residence on a summer evening for the home-coming of the father, tired from his lesson! Where the joke comes in is that

throughout her own country for the beautiful art-needlework which she from time to time executes, much of it being bestowed on churches and bazaars. Their Majesties are sufficiently familiar here for most people to be aware that they have both of them more than the usual share of good looks; and it would almost seem that until recently they have possessed the secret of perpetual youth; and even now few observers would credit



ROSENBORG CASTLE, COPENHAGEN.

the King of Denmark never went in for Art at all, and never painted a picture! Had these inventors said it of the Queen, they would at least have had something to go upon; for her Majesty is very clever with her brush and pencil, and has often painted and drawn not only for her friends and relatives, but also for contributions to bazaars which have been held for charitable causes. In addition to her artistic tastes, her Majesty is also a skilful musician, speaks several languages fluently, is a brilliant conversationalist, and is famed

them with the years which they really possess.

The number of officials at the Court of Denmark is small in comparison with our Court; and in the same way the Court ceremonies are far less in number. For instance, what is known as the "Queen's Drawing-Room" is conspicuous by its absence. When young ladies are to make their entrance into Society they are presented privately to her Majesty the Queen. Also there are no levées, gentlemen being presented in the same private manner to



the King. The Copenhagen season is a winter one, held during the time that the Houses of Parliament are sitting. During that period two or three State balls are given in the Palace of Amalienborg, and also there may be several official dinners and receptions by the King.

As their Majesties on one of my visits graciously permitted me to see the State rooms used for these purposes, I may perhaps include a few details concerning them. Judging from the very plain exteriors, one is hardly prepared to find the interiors so beautiful. I may say that the group of four palaces which were purchased from Danish noblemen after the destruction of the Palace of Christiansborg by fire are apportioned in this way: two of them are connected by a colonnade, and are used, one for the King and Queen's private residence, and one for State purposes; the third palace is occupied by the Crown Prince and Princess; and the fourth is the Foreign Office.



THE QUEEN OF DENMARK (ABOUT 1863).



THE PRINCESS OF WALES AS A GIRL.

To return to the State apartments. First note the very handsome dining-room. This is spacious and superbly decorated: the stucco ceiling in cream and gold with its beautiful figure casts, and the magnificent gold relief of the wall panellings with the Ionic supporting columns, the crystal and ormolu chandelier with the relief of the crimson hangings and upholstery of the gilded furniture, are all exceedingly fine and seen to great advantage under the brilliancy of the electric-light, which was introduced just previous to their Majesties' golden wedding. The saloon in which the State balls are held is—though not so large as the ball-rooms I have seen at some of the European Courts—certainly the most beautiful. The exquisitely wrought parqueterie floor, the rich colours of the painted frescoes, the crystal and gold of the chandeliers, the cream with gold relief of ceiling and walls, the marble-topped Console-tables and costly Sèvres china—combined with the rich crimson curtains and those of





FREDERIKSBORG PALACE, COPENHAGEN.



THE RIDDESAAL AT FREDERIKSBORG.



costly fine lace, present a scene of really fairy-like splendour. The Throne-Room is small, the throne being surmounted with the ordinary crimson velvet canopy ornamented with gold crown, fringe, etc., the throne-chair, of course, to match. Some fine paintings on the wall lend additional interest to the room. The State drawing-rooms are very lovely: cream, gold, and crimson predominating in the

have said, the residence of the Crown Prince is next door, and just round the corner is the Gûle Palace, where live the younger son and his wife. Both their Majesties are very fond of children, and have some with them every day. Either walking or driving the King and Queen are continually met with; perhaps in the streets or boulevards, or more often on that favourite marine promenade, the



THE KING'S PALACE, AMALIENBORG, COPENHAGEN.

decorations and appointments. Sèvres and Dresden china, fine tapestry, splendidly executed paintings, cabinets in pebble and ormolu, and several valuable curios given by the members of the family as "golden wedding" presents, are some of the things which must prove of much interest to the visitor.

But even in the season the King and Queen find plenty of time for their favourite occupations and amusements, and plenty of time to devote to the large number of grandchildren living near them. As I

Langelinie. Here the élite of Copenhagen promenade or drive every afternoon, and the King will often saunter up and down, sometimes alone, sometimes accompanied by a son or grandson; or, maybe, he will stroll quietly through the streets, perhaps making one or two purchases if he should see an article which takes his fancy. His Majesty is exceedingly charitable, and in one way or another gives away a great deal of money: thus it is not at all uncommon for him to go out with a full purse and come home with an empty one.



It is said that on one such occasion he met an old courtier of uncertain temper. The King, in his homely, good-natured way, offered him some refreshment, and together they repaired to a restaurant and partook of it; but when presently the paying time came, his Majesty found himself in a predicament, for his purse was empty. Fortunately, just at the critical time the Crown Prince came along. Hurrying to him, the King whispered, "Lend me some money, my dear boy; I have been entertaining—and cannot pay." But it is not only during fashionable hours that the King may be met with, for he is very fond of early morning exercise, either walking or riding. He is an excellent horseman, and when mounted has a fine and remarkably youthful figure; sometimes he will take a long walk to a country village and back, and sometimes he will walk about the gardens of Castle Rosenborg. These gardens, by the way, are open to the public, so that King and



THE PRINCESS OF WALES, HER MOTHER,  
AND HER SISTER DAGMAR.



PRINCESS DAGMAR (THE CZAR'S MOTHER).

peasant take their constitutionals side by side. This old Castle has a history which space forbids my giving you, but in it are now kept the State regalia, the throne-chairs, and the silver lions, the latter used only for coronations and royal funerals.

Just a few words about Frederiksborg, the summer palace, already mentioned, where the Danish family with their numerous relatives were wont to assemble year by year previous to the death of the late Czar. It stands in the midst of the loveliest park in Denmark, a park containing some fine avenues and charming side-walks, and a large collection of beautiful statuary. Much of the interior is very homely and cosy-looking, the dining-saloon and library perhaps being the largest and most handsome of the apartments. The former occupies really the centre of the Castle, and has a roof of immense height, also a gallery. The special decoration consists of friezes



descriptive of the Trojan War. The surrounding gardens are especially fine, with their fountains, terraces, and statuary; and it is interesting to note that the whole of the statues in this garden—about seventy in number—were given by the people. The late Czar was particularly fond of Frederiksborg, so much so that he built himself a pretty Italian villa near to the Castle.

Just lately Bernstorff has been the place where the family have annually gathered together. English, Danish, Russian, Grecian, Swedish, and the Cumberland families meet at this small château and literally crowd it out. The accommodation afforded is really extremely limited, but as it is strictly a family gathering, even the most illustrious members not only do not mind the unwonted squeezing, but, on the contrary, seem to enjoy it. Charlottenlund, the



PRINCE WALDEMAR,  
BORN 1858; MARRIED MARIE OF ORLEANS.



PRINCESS THYRA,  
DUCHESS OF CUMBERLAND.

summer residence of the Crown Prince and Princess, is situated only a short distance away from Bernstorff, so that the younger members of the family are enabled to walk or cycle to and fro through the charming woods between the two residences.

Needless to say, the majority of the out-door functions for which royalty is so much sought devolve upon the Crown Prince and Princess. They are immense favourites with the people, and to all appearance will follow the traditions inaugurated by the present monarchs. The Crown Princess, it will be remembered, was the only child of the late King of Norway and Sweden, and is consequently a niece of the present King. Their Royal Highnesses have a family of eight children, the eldest of whom, Prince Christian, is twenty-eight years of age, an officer of the Guards, and unmarried. MARY SPENCER WARREN.





THE KING OF DENMARK.