THE QUEEN'S ROYAL DESCENT THROUGH FEMALE LINE.

THOSE of our girl readers who are fond of history, and we hope they are many, may find it interesting to trace some of the many cases in which it has been through female ancestors that the crown has descended to our own beloved Queen.

We have in an old volume entitled "George III., His Court and Family," written early in this century, and now very scarce, this statement :—

"It is worthy of being generally known that our late venerable monarch, George III., was descended in the female line from Cerdic, founder of the kingdom of Wessex, and the Royal family of England have possessed the throne for considerably more than a thousand years. Cerdic, our chronologers tell us, landed in England in the year 495, and having founded a kingdom, left it to his descendants, who in succeeding generations reduced all the other kingdoms of the Heptarchy under their own power, and became sole monarch. It is true that there have been periods in our national history when kings, not of this line, have sat on the throne; but in the course of time the crown has always reverted again to the same dynasty.

"Very often it has not descended to the next in succession; but still, the crown has continued upon the head of one in the same family."

This interesting fact in our national history must be attributed to the opposition our early sovereigns made to the principles of the Salique law, and their determination to maintain the right of female succession to the throne.

The history of Boadicea shows that the principle is an ancient British one. Though we had no Saxon queens either before or after the Heptarchy, history tells us that William Duke of Normandy founded his claim, although other circumstances connected with his birth proved it to be an invalid one, on his descent from Matilda of Brunswick, who was descended from Elfrida, daughter of Alfred the Great, and grandson of Egbert, the first Saxon monarch over the whole kingdom of England.

This claim was strengthened by his son, Henry I., marrying Maud, daughter of Malcolm III. of Scotland, by his wife, Margaret, sister of Edgar Atheling, the last of the Saxon princes, and who was the undoubted heiress of the English crown. Henry's daughter, Maud, was twice married—first to Henry V., Emperor of Germany, and secondly to Geoffrey Plantagenet, by whom she had Henry II. Both he and his rival, Stephen, laid claim to the throne through their female progenitors.

In the feuds between the rival houses of York and Lancaster in the fifteenth century, Henry VII. founded his right on his descent from his mother, Margaret, Countess of Richmond, great grand-daughter of John of Gaunt, Duke of Lancaster, fourth son of Edward III., though he prudently strengthened that claim by his marriage with the heiress of the hostile house of York. James I. claimed the crown of Scotland as well as of England in right of his mother, Mary, and thus secured the union of the two kingdoms.

On the abdication of James II., the crown was offered to Mary, as well as to her consort, William III., both having female claims to it—the one as the daughter of James, and the other as son of Mary, the eldest daughter of Charles I.; and on King William's death it fell to Queen Anne, in right of her progenitors, as well as to Protestant laws of descent founded on the Revolution.

In 1701 an Act was passed by which it was settled that after the death of King William and Queen Anne, without heirs, the succession should revert to the Princess Sophia, Duchess Dowager of Hanover. Had she lived only seven weeks longer, we should have had in her a Queen Sophia of England restored to the throne from which her ancestor had been driven. Queen Anne survived her only that short time, and dying on the 1st August, 1714, George was proclaimed Elector of Hanover and King of England, being the first of that name.

He was son of Ernest Augustus, first Elector of Hanover and his wife, the Princess Sophia of Bohemia, grand-daughter of James I. of England. His birth united the whole royal line of British blood with the Brunswick pedigree. He, in his turn, married Sophia Dorothy, heiress of her uncle, the Duke of Zell, and the unfortunate mother of George II.

The fondness of this monarch for the land of his birth was not flattering to his English subjects. Many satirical poems and rhymes were composed on the subject, some clever, and some coarse. Several are preserved in "Nichol's Literary Anecdotes." One, especially, called "The Regency," contained a skit upon the persons entrusted with the Government during the King's absence, and was written by Samuel Wesley, elder brother of the celebrated John Wesley. The first verse runs thus :—

"As soon as the wind it came fairly about,
That kept the king in and his enemies out,
He determined no longer confinement to bear,
And thus to the duchess his mind did declare.
Quoth he, my dear Kenny, I've been tired a long while
With living obscure in this poor little isle,
And now Spain and Portugal haven't more mines to spring,
I'm resolved to go home and live like a king."

On this king's death, in 1727, he was succeeded by his son, George II., who reigned till 1760.

His eldest son, the Prince of Wales, dying in the lifetime of his father, the king's grandson inherited the throne, and at the early age of twenty-one became George III. His long reign lasted till 1820, after which his two sons, George IV. and William IV. succeeded, and dying without issue, in 1837 our own beloved Queen became sovereign of these realms, in right of her father, the Duke of Kent, who died when she was barely a year old. To her other titles has been added that of Empress of India. It is the devout wish of every one of her loyal subjects that God may long preserve a life so precious, and spare her still to set an example of every domestic virtue to the people committed to her charge.

VARIETIES.

Poetical Contributions.

"Fortunately," says a patient editor, "the greater part of the potential poets do not employ their gifts; but, even so, the magazines are fairly inundated with poetical contributions, whose numbers as compared with their merit may be seen from the following table :—

"Doggerel	1,000
Fair rocking-horse poetry	100
Paraphrases, translations, and very good original verse	10
True poetry	1"

The Chain Removed.

A slave had long worn a chain upon his ankle. By the order of the master it was removed.

"Why dost thou spring aloft and sing, O slave? Sure, the sun is as fierce and thy burden as heavy as before?"

The slave replied: "Ten times the sun and the burden would seem light now that the chain is removed."—*From the Arabic.*

To Althea, from Prison.

Stone walls do not a prison make,
Nor iron bars a cage;
Minds innocent and quiet take
That for an hermitage.

If I have freedom in my love,
And in my soul am free,
Angels alone, that soar above,
Enjoy such liberty.

—*Lovelace.*

Kindly Deeds.

It is not at every time and season that acts of beneficence are easily performed. When thou art able, then, hasten to do them, lest they should become difficult to execute.—*Arab Saying.*

Beauty and Dress.—Never teach false morality. How exquisitely absurd to teach a girl that beauty is of no value, dress of no use! Beauty is of value; her whole prospects and happiness in life may often depend on a new gown or a becoming bonnet. If she has five grains of common sense she will find this out. The great thing is to teach her their just value, and that there must be something better under the bonnet than a pretty face for real happiness. But never sacrifice truth.—*Sydney Smith.*

In Conversation.

When next you talk of what you view,
Think others see as well as you.

The Law of Kindness.

People know not what they lose by a surly and overbearing spirit. Kindness is the only way to soften the heart and make all those our friends who previously were our enemies. Here is an anecdote in illustration :—

The horse of a gentleman happening to stray into the road, a neighbour put him into the pound. Meeting the owner soon after, he told him what he had done, and added, "If ever I catch him in the road hereafter I'll do it again!"

"Neighbour," replied the other, "not long since I looked out of my window in the night and saw your cattle in my mowing ground. I drove them out and shut them in your yard, and I'll do it again!"

Struck with the reply, the man liberated the horse from the pound and paid the charges himself.

Our Actions.

Our acts our angels are, or good or ill,
Our fatal shadows that walk by us still.

during the hottest parts of the day, nor forget that night dews are now as deadly as they are in spring-time. Sleep with your windows well open, but cover up from draught. The air from the window should not blow directly in upon the bed, nor should the bed stand between the window and fireplace.

The diseases most prevalent during summer are those of the digestive organs, ranging from simple dyspepsia itself to typhus fever.

If any feverishness of body exists, with headache, chills, and a feeling of aching in bones and limbs, send at once for a medical man.

Sudden changes in the weather are very apt to disarrange the digestive organs, and produce sicknesses in the d licate. In autumn we have usually the ailments common to both spring and summer.

It is during this season that the holiday should be taken. I have only to say here that a person who intends taking change of air, whether it be to the seaside, into the country, or among the hills, ought to live very carefully for at least a fortnight before she starts. Now would be the time to take some simple efficient tonic, such as that invaluable medicine, quinine and iron. Do not take it for more than a fortnight or three weeks at the outside. In autumn we ought to take more exercise than usual, and those who dread the cold should take a course of cod-liver oil.

Chest diseases and rheumatism prevail most in winter. We cannot, therefore, dress too carefully out of doors, nor take too much pains to keep the blood pure and the skin in working order. Remember it is the quality, not the quantity, of the clothes we wear that tells. Most people wear too much clothing, positively making their bodies a burden to themselves by it. Let it be soft and warm, then, but not heavy. Chest protectors may be worn by the delicate, by *night* as well as by *day*.

Keep up the strength in winter by good food and healthful exercise, and do not forget that soups, sugar, and even fatty meat, the oilier kinds of fish, such as salmon, &c., can be well borne in winter, though they produce indigestion in warm weather.

The temperature of the bedroom in winter should be about 55 or 60 degrees, never much below and certainly never above that.

THE QUEEN'S ROYAL SCOTTISH DESCENT THROUGH FEMALE LINE.

By the Author of "The Princesses of Wales."

Perhaps some of our girl readers, especially those who dwell or derive their origin from beyond the classic Tweed, would feel aggrieved that in the little sketch on p. 87, regarding the Queen's descent through female line, the writer glanced only at the English side. I shall, therefore, in a paragraph or two, endeavour to go back into the Scottish succession before the time of Mary Stuart, Queen of Scots, and point out how that beautiful lady—herself descended on the father's side from an English stock—came to be the representative, not merely of the great Alfred of England, but of the ancient Celtic sovereigns of Scotland, a far more ancient dynasty than that of the Saxon rulers of South Britain. For we must not forget that our fellow-citizens to the north of the Tweed grow indignant at times when the word "England" is used, as if it were equivalent to Britain. We would not willingly offend national sentiment, and we are afraid that the genial Professor Blackie would wax exceeding wroth if we taught English girls or Scottish lasses to think that Queen Victoria is sovereign of Scotland by reason of her descent from Alfred, and what Mr. Freeman calls "the Imperial House of Wessex."

When King James V. of Scotland, dying of a broken heart at Falkland Palace, received the news that his wife, Mary of Lorraine, had given birth to an infant daughter, he is reported to have said with sorrow, feeling that his own end was nigh, "It came with a lass, and it will go with a lass." His two sons had died in childhood, within a few days of each other, and the Stuart (or Stewart) line closed with the new-born Princess, Mary, who almost immediately after being ushered into the world became the Queen of Scots.

The House of Stuart, which derived its name from the hereditary office of High Steward, had sat on the throne of Scotland from the year 1371, when David Bruce, the unworthy son of the renowned champion of Scottish independence, died childless. The crown, which had rested on the brows of the Norman family of Bruce for less than seventy years, then devolved on Robert Stuart, the son of Walter Stuart, by his wife Marjory, the eldest daughter of King Robert Bruce. Marjory was the "lass" through whom the Stuarts had come by the crown of Alban.

The ancient native line of sovereigns, which had sat in unbroken succession on the throne since the days of Malcolm, the husband of St. Margaret, came to an end in a most pathetic manner by the death of the little Maid of Norway, an uncrowned queen, towards the end of September in the year 1290. The body of the "sweet maiden," a child of eight, was carried back to her native land, and buried at Bergen, in the choir of Christ Church, and a long dispute arose between the various claimants to the throne. The case was laid by the Scottish nobles before the English King, Edward I., whose sister had been married to the last King of Scotland, and was the grandmother of the deceased maid. Besides, the infant queen had been bethrothed to his own son and heir, Edward Prince of Wales. He canvassed the opinion of the most learned lawyers of Paris, but in spite of their decision in favour of Robert Bruce—grandfather of King Robert—the ambitious and unscrupulous arbiter gave his award in favour of John Balliol. Both of these nobles were descended from David, Earl of Huntingdon, brother of King William the Lion; the latter was the grandson of David's eldest daughter, the former was the son of the second daughter. Robert Bruce, the grandson of the original claimant, rebelled against the usurper Edward I., and was crowned at Scone in 1306.

We have now to go back to the year 1057, when Macbeth was driven from the throne by Malcolm Canmore. And here let it be mentioned, by the way, that the story of Shakespeare about Macbeth and "Lady Macbeth" (whose name was Gruoch, and who was of the old royal line of Scotland) is almost entirely a sheer fable and a scandalous fiction. Malcolm himself was the son of King Duncan, who, however, was the only son of a daughter (Bethog) of Malcolm II., the wife of Crinan, lay abbot of Dunkeld. Thus we come once more on succession through a lady.

Beyond this period much is conjecture even with the most acute and learned investigators, but, so far as the keenest critical acumen can discern, the succession of the Scottish sovereigns — *i.e.*, of the Scots who came over from Ireland to the country of the Picts—was probably derived from the marriage, some time before the year 843, of Alpin, a chief of the intruding Scots of Ireland, to some Pictish princess who was the heiress to a throne which from times beyond the ken of human history was in the possession of a race known as the Picts, whose language was akin to that of the Scots from Ireland.

Our good Queen, it will thus be seen, holds her right to the sovereignty of Scotland by a far more ancient royal descent than that in virtue of which she sits upon the English throne.

VARIETIES.

Double Acrostic.

Two Towns of ancient fame command the strait
That oft was cross'd for love, more often still for glory,
And which receiv'd, old poets so relate,
Its name from one of those strange myths of classic story.

1. The young Sicilian Shepherd, who enjoys
The smiles of her who is the fairest nymph of all,
Till his gigantic rival's fingers poise
The massive, jagged rock to crush him with its fall.

2. The Queen, who vows to dedicate her hair
To Venus, when the king from battle safe returns;
Close shorn, the braids luxuriant and fair
Are laid upon the shrine when she his vict'ry learns.

3. When brave Ulysses, as a lover, seeks
The fair Penelope to be his wedded queen,
For all reply she hides her blushing cheeks
Amid her snowy veil—what Answer doth she mean?

4. In former ages, when the simple tribe
Cull'd roots or leaves approv'd to cool, or heal, or cure,
Wise Æsculapius often might prescribe
This Form of medicine—the same we now endure.

5. The wand'ring Hero, Homer's warlike theme,
Founded a City on a distant western coast,
High on three hills above a noble stream,
But in its modern name, his own is almost lost.

6. His verses were with so much sweetness fraught
That kings made him a friend among their courtly set,
And, language failing to express his thought,
He added four new letters to the alphabet.

Ximena.

Highland Music.

Some of the Gaelic airs of the Highlands of Scotland are very beautiful. They are simple, wild, and irregular, and before their beauty can be perceived they must be sung or hummed over again and again. Of the style of performance the Rev. Patrick Macdonald, who edited a collection of them, says:—"These airs are sung by the natives in a wild, artless, and irregular manner. Chiefly occupied with the sentiment and expression of the music, they dwell upon the long and pathetic notes, while they hurry over the inferior and connecting notes in such a manner as to render it exceedingly difficult for a hearer to trace the measure of them. They themselves, while singing them, seem to have little or no impression of measure." This is more particularly the case, remarks Mr. J. Muir Wood, with the very old melodies, which wander about without any attempt at rhythm, or making one part answer to another. The following air is an excellent example of the style:—

Wet is the Night and Cold.

Slow.