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[PRICE ONE PENNY.]

WILHELMINA (ORANGE BLOSSOM).

THE LITTLE QUEEN OF HOLLAND.

CHAPTER I.

No child is so handicapped as a girl-queen; she has no equals, and as a rule no playmates; she has no opportunity of testing her talents or accomplishments with those of other children, and no means of individually getting at the hearts of the people among whom she lives and whom she is to rule. She stands above all, one by herself, hedged round by her royalty.

A girl-queen must give up everything that goes to make a happy childhood in exchange for the highest position. Is it worth it in these days when so much is expected of royal people, and for whom no excuse is made in case of any error of life or judgment?

"Uneasy lies the head that wears a crown" was never more true than now; and only by earnest preparation and setting aside every hindrance can this little Queen of Holland hope to perform the duties of her high position in such a way as to keep the hearts of her subjects closely bound to hers. Fortunately for her the one thing that stirs a Dutchman's enthusiasm is his loyalty.

Most girls at the age of fourteen are beginning to look forward with delight to their introduction to society and to their future as a Paradise, but this girl is oppressed by all that is expected of her in the time to come, and weighted by the knowledge of what is going on in the world to make the position of royal people more difficult than ever before. It is this view of the matter that causes English girls to open their hearts to this the only child-queen of our time, and makes them desire to learn something of her daily life and surroundings, and to value every scrap of reliable information concerning her.

Another reason for the affectionate interest felt for her is that she is the daughter of the sister of our Duchess of Albany, and a near neighbour. It is regarded as a sort of grievance that much less is known of her than of other royal people who live at a far greater

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HER MAJESTY THE QUEEN OF THE NETHERLANDS.

distance from us, simply because her doings are chronicled in a language so few outside Holland can understand.

The territory over which this little queen is to rule is quite unlike any other, and has such a very interesting origin that I cannot help saying a few words about it.

When in very early days people attempted to settle on it, they found that the land was not firm enough to bear the weight of the houses they built, and that the seed was no sooner scattered on the earth than it was washed away by rivers and sea. It was necessary then first of all to make the land solid enough to bear their dwellings if they intended to remain there, and this could only be done by resisting the power of the sea and the rivers. It was a wonderful work to attempt, but they succeeded up to a point, though even then they lived in a state of uncertainty, for it often happened that what was land on one day was water the next. The Roman soldiers who subsequently made their way there, said it was difficult to determine whether the country were land or water.

The first grand step towards making Holland what it is, was taken by the Romans, when they united the two great rivers, Rhine and old Ysel by means of a canal which prevented the former flooding the land. The next step forward was the making of a dyke or high bank along the shore of the Rhine in order that the waters should be kept in their place, and then gradually the inhabitants learned from the Romans how to build bridges over the swamps, how to make roads and to build towns.

Strangely enough the windmills had their part in the making of Holland. They were introduced by the Crusaders when they came back from the East, and were made use of to drain the land.

It was in the 14th century that Amsterdam, then a very little place, began to grow in favour, and it is certainly one of the most striking monuments of human industry and

power which the world affords. The town itself is built in the midst of a salt-marsh, and the foundation of all the houses and public buildings is formed by driving piles of fifty or sixty feet long through the swampy ground until they rest firmly on a solid bank of sand below the morass; the upper ends of the piles are then sawn to a level and thick planks are nailed to them, on which the masonry is constructed, so that the foundation is always the most expensive part of a building.

It was this mode of foundation which gave occasion to the witticism of Erasmus who said that "in his country multitudes of people lived upon the tops of trees like rooks."

Interesting as is the country of Holland, its little Queen is more so to us just now.

Her mother, the Queen-Regent and Princess of Waldeck and Pyrmont, was the second wife of William III., and her marriage took place in Arolsen on January 7th, 1879, when she was twenty-one years of age.

Previous to this marriage the relations between Germany and Holland had been very strained, and it was the general opinion among the Dutch that the union of Germany meant danger to their sea-board.

A somewhat better understanding commenced when Prince Henry married a German Princess. At this wedding William III., then a widower, appeared for the first time as a highly-honoured guest at the German Court, and it was here he saw and fell in love with Princess Emma of Waldeck and Pyrmont.

The news of their King's betrothal was received by the Hollanders with very mixed feelings, for the national prejudice against Germany still prevailed, but like the good subjects they were, they rejoiced in his happiness, and began preparing on a grand scale for the reception of the royal pair; but before they could complete their work the King's brother Prince Henry died suddenly. All the decorations were put out of sight as far as possible, and those that could not be so dealt

with were covered by voluminous black banners and draperies.

During the time of mourning, the King and his young wife lived quietly at the Hague, his favourite palace, having travelled from Het Loo incognito. Here they might have been seen driving out almost daily, the King acting as guide to the surroundings of the palace, and looking very happy in his new office.

He hardly knew how much this quiet domestic life pleased his people; they saw in it an earnest of future family life which hitherto had not been seen in the palace, and had been sorely missed. These hopeful feelings greatly increased the zeal with which the people of Amsterdam welcomed them at the close of the time of mourning. One must have seen and known Amsterdam to form an idea of how it looked when it made itself so picturesque in order to celebrate the entrance of the King and Queen. The people went *en masse* to the station, and amid the roar of cannon, the ringing of bells, and the joyful shouts of thousands the train drew up. King William had a short and friendly word for everyone, and while the shouts were ringing *Es lebe der König, die Königin, Orange Boven*, he led his Queen to the open carriage.

All eyes were drawn towards her; she was tall, slender and blond, the true German type of beauty.

The carriage could hardly make its way for the people, who filled every available space, and had not great care been taken in the arrangements, many hundreds must have been pressed into the canal.

The King beamed with happiness, and the Queen wept, but they were tears of joy: indeed the scene was deeply affecting, and scarcely an eye was dry among the people.

In spite of rain a grand torch-light procession took place in the evening, with musical serenades, to which the chief choral societies of Holland contributed. The town was beautifully illuminated, and an illumination in Amsterdam, where each little lamp is reflected



THE QUEEN'S PALACE AT THE HAGUE. (Front view.)

in the water a hundred-fold, baffles description. The Queen, who drove through the town with her husband, was enchanted.

Such was the public entrance of William III. and his wife Emma.

The palace of Amsterdam at which they took up their residence was formerly the Town Hall, and first used as a palace by Louis Buonaparte when he was King of Holland. It rests upon 13,695 massive trees or piles, and the building is constructed of a material not found in the country: with the exception of the ground floor, which is of brick, it is all built of freestone.

The little Wilhelmina Helena Paulina Marie was born at the Hague, where the father and mother had spent the early weeks of their happy married life, on August 31st, 1880. She was the joy of her father, who lived to see her grow up to the age of ten. Her parents were devoted to her, and she went with them everywhere. When only two years old they brought her with them to England when they came to the wedding of the Duchess of Albany in 1882.

As the child began to prattle and walk there was always a corner for her in the King's audience chamber at whatever palace they were residing, for he was passionately fond of her, and never tired of listening to her baby talk, and little exclamations at what she saw. Her favourite corner was in her father's room at the palace of Amsterdam. From the window she could see all that went on in the square below, and the people soon began to look for the baby-girl's face there, and never failed to give her a joyous greeting as they passed on their way.

Louisa B. B. gives a pretty picture of her when very little. She says: "It is Christmas, and the royal family is in residence at the Hague; although it is snowing slightly, a child dressed in dark blue plush may be seen walking in Heul Street, by the side of a lady, a man-servant following behind; everyone pauses to salute her respectfully, and some cadets make a hedge on each side of her path; she passes between these living walls, but almost without seeing them, for all her attention is absorbed by some children who are playing on a bench; suddenly she perceives her guard of honour, tall lads cap in hand, ready to salute her, but although she is very small compared with them she is not at all afraid, and knows perfectly well how to return their salute, and is delighted at their fine uniforms."

From babyhood her daily life has been very simple, as a few words will show. The Queen Emma was generally up and dressed by seven and ready to receive her little daughter. Presently the door leading into her room opened and the little white figure came in to say "Good-morning," and to be kissed and petted by her mother. Her first question was, "Has mother slept well?" to which the Queen answered—"Yes, mother has slept well and feels well." This was of great importance to remember, as she knew her father's first



THE QUEEN IN NATIONAL COSTUME.



THE PALACE AT THE HAGUE. (*Back view.*)

question would be—"Has mother slept well, and does she feel well?" She would then run off to the King, repeating all the way—"Mother has slept well," lest she should forget it.

Eight o'clock was the hour for breakfast, which meal, as indeed all others, she took with her parents.

After breakfast came lessons in Dutch and arithmetic given by Mr. Gediking, head of a state school in the Hague. At 9.30 the little princess had half an hour's rest, and at 10.30 the books were thrown aside, and with a hasty greeting to her master, she went to the Queen, who was always waiting for her at this hour. A large Bible with beautiful plates lay open on the table, and the Queen, as only a mother can, read and explained one of the wonderful stories contained in it, and then knelt down with her child, teaching her to fold her hands in prayer and ask God to bless her and prepare her for her life's duties.

When she was seven years old she began to learn music from Mr. Hortenbeker, the Court pianist, taking two lessons a week, and Miss Winter, her English governess, who is still with her, was always present at these lessons and superintended her practising. Just before lunch the little princess drove with her mother

and her governess, and after this meal came an hour's play in the nursery.

I give you the description of this room written by Louisa B. B. "This was a large room with two fireplaces, the furniture upholstered in red velvet, a piano and some little cupboards filled with blue china; the toys were mostly of silver, and one corner of the room was devoted to dolls with compartments for drawing, dining and bedroom. In the room adjoining the nursery was a little stove where the princess cooked all sorts of dainties, the delicious odours of which pervaded the corridors." After the hour's play, she went out driving in an open carriage, no matter what the weather was like, dressed in a grey cloak. On her return she either played in the nursery, or sat by her mother doing fancy work or making clothes for her dolls, of which she had twenty-three!

When she played she did so heartily; her dolls were not only her playmates but her friends and companions to whom she poured out all the thoughts of her heart. She named each one after some distinguished person, and if any of them behaved badly the greatest punishment threatened was, "If you are not good I will turn you into a queen, and then you will have no one to play with."

I should like to have given you a photograph of the little queen playing with her dolls; there were a few taken for distribution among her friends, but as the Queen-Regent would not allow any to be sold, no one feels at liberty to lend me one for publication.

At half-past six came dinner, and then a game of romps with the governess, in which sometimes the mother took part.

At eight o'clock she went to bed, and the little Wilhelmina's day was over.

Sometimes during the winter months the little princess had friends to spend the afternoon with her, and on these occasions the palace nursery rang with children's voices while they played all sorts of games or had dolls' tea parties. During their fun no servant was allowed to enter this room. Queen Emma, the governess, and the ladies-in-waiting supplied all their wants, and fed them with lemonade, chocolates and cakes. At these parties the children as a rule spoke Dutch, though English and French were also heard. One of the favourite games was snowballing with artificial snowballs, which occasionally went off in wrong directions and struck the ladies, who always took the blows in good part.

(To be continued.)

THE NEW LACE APPLIQUÉ WORK.

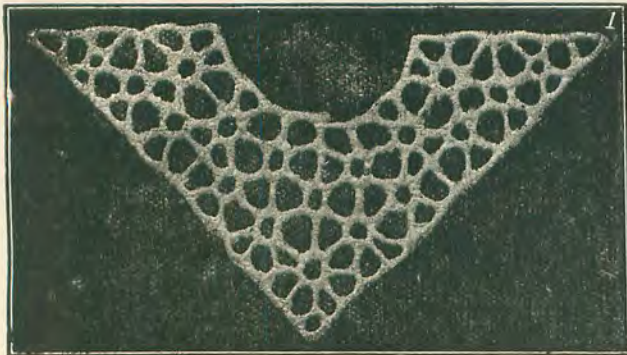


FIG. 1.

THE inventor of the new lace appliqué deserves a vote of thanks from all workers who like (as who does not?) to achieve a maximum result with a minimum of labour. The appliqué is so pretty, strong, and inexpensive that it is hard to say too much in their favour.

Their nature is seen in Fig. 1, where an unmounted specimen is shown of one of the many shapes that can be procured.

It can, as workers will notice, be used as a corner, as half the setting for a circle, in a border (see Fig. 4), and in many other ways.

In addition to appliqué of this open kind is another variety, equally useful for certain purposes, and distinguished by its greater opaqueness. Such shapes have the appearance of embroidery on very fine cambric or lawn, and hence are quite suitable for applying to a linen handkerchief or equally delicate fabric. The second figure shows the corner of a handkerchief so trimmed. In copying this design the cambric should be stretched in a round tambour-frame, the appliqué tacked carefully down in the exact position required, and then the work completed out of the frame. In fact all these appliqué, fine or coarse, lace-like or opaque, set far better if they be tacked to the foundation when the latter is stretched in a tambour-frame. The oversewing or embroidering is a later detail, and varies according to the style selected.

To return to the handkerchief corner. The appliqué, removed from the frame, is sewn securely in place by very small stitches in fine lace thread whipped over and over the extreme edge or cord beyond the border of holes. The drawn-threadwork and hem-stitching with which our specimen is further provided enhance the beauty of the work, but need not be minutely described here.

On coarser linen an equally good effect is produced by this combination of lace appliqué and drawn-work.

The next example (Fig. 3) of jewelled appliqué work, shows a widely different way of utilising similar materials.

The design of the border agreed upon, and the appliqué tacked in place, they are to be sewn down with stitches of many-coloured flax-threads. The more shades and tints the better, providing of course that they be chosen with a reasonable regard to effect; so little of each colour is required that an excellent way of using up scraps remaining from larger pieces of work is thus suggested.

As a slight guide to the colourings used in the piece of embroidery here reproduced, it may be said that each of the central stars or circles has six long stitches of dark blue thread radiating from the centre, each of the bars beyond this centre is oversewn with one stitch of turquoise blue, beyond is a circle sewn down at regular intervals with yellow thread, and the extreme edge is caught down with scarlet.

The semicircles have seven large French knots worked in turquoise blue, and each surrounded by scarlet and then by yellow stitches; the extreme edge is caught down by French knots (in gray-

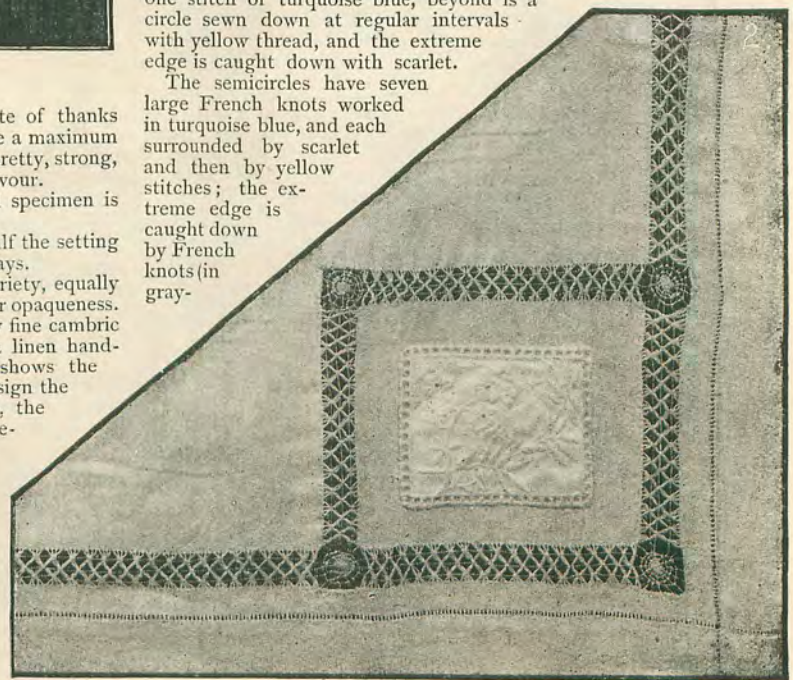


FIG. 2.—HANDKERCHIEF CORNER DECORATED WITH A LACE APPLIQUÉ.

A REIGNING QUEEN, AGE FOURTEEN.

THE LITTLE QUEEN OF THE NETHERLANDS.

CHAPTER II.

WHEN the spring came the royal party left the Hague for the Castle or Palace of Loo near Apeldoorn, and as they drove to the station the little princess was generally laden with toys for the children in the neighbourhood of the castle.

The village of Apeldoorn is one of the most picturesque in the whole of Holland; the people are wealthy and fashionable, and each house is constructed after the taste and idea of its owner.

No wonder this Castle of Loo is a favourite residence with the royal family, for though there is nothing attractive in its exterior, being a plain white building with many windows, the inside is most interesting and comfortable, and its grounds and park are magnificent, with their winding walks, well-kept lawns, avenues of elms, gigantic black beeches, venerable chestnuts and masses of flowers, and to make it still more attractive the park joins on to an immense forest, which extends north with scarcely any break up to Elspect and westward up to Milligan.

It is easy to understand the little princess's

love for this place, when it is known that she has a territory close to the castle, within which she has ever been all-powerful. On this ground is a small *châlet* containing a charming drawing-room arranged for its mistress and her children, the dolls, and a room for her to cook in; the garden outside the *châlet* is full of flowers of all colours which the little princess herself raises from seeds. In the play-ground to the right of the *châlet* are gymnastic appliances of many kinds, a see-saw, a swing, a croquet lawn, and a riding-ground.

In the summer holidays, which the royal child enjoyed in common with other children, her time of study was reduced to an hour and a half a day, and her recreations were enjoyed in the open air instead of in the nursery.

Although the little princess, as she was called up to the time of her father's death, was as fond of her studies as other children, and clever both at languages and music, yet her chief delight was in outdoor exercises and amusements, and her love of animals very great.

It was a day to be remembered when she took her first riding-lesson at the Hague from the master of the horse, and she made such rapid progress that very soon she was permitted

to accompany her mother Queen Emma in her rides up and down the beautiful avenue leading from the palace at the Hague to Scheveningen—a seaside place about three miles distant.

When at Loo the little princess had her own riding-ground, as has been stated, and her mother, who is a splendid horsewoman, frequently superintended the riding-lessons there herself.

Ponies play a large part in the little Wilhelmina's life. Every one in Apeldoorn knows the basket carriage in which for many years she has driven herself, sometimes with two ponies, sometimes with four, and now not infrequently with six.

It is quite pretty to see her with "Baby," her pet pony, which follows her about like a dog during her walks, and graciously offers its back to the young mistress when she is tired.

She finds plenty to do outdoors in feeding the pigeons, the ducks and the deer, and tending her own garden, and after a morning so spent she goes into lunch, consisting of fruit and cake, and then has an hour's rest with her mother or Miss Winter, which is always to her a happy time.

Christmas has generally been spent by the royal family in the Castle of Loo, and has always been a season of great happiness to the little princess. On Christmas Eve the children of the principal families of Apeldoorn are invited to visit her, and certainly it is an evening not to be forgotten by the guests. First, there is a large Christmas tree with hundreds of lighted coloured candles, and laden with presents of every kind and description, many of which are bestowed upon the children, who return home with their hands full, but a large number of the toys are sent to the various institutions and hospitals, making the worn faces of the sick children light up with pleasure.

Her birthday, August 31st, is greatly looked forward to by the Dutch children, who are invited in large numbers to high festival in the grounds of the Castle of Loo.

Up to 1884 the little Wilhelmina was not regarded as heir to the throne of Holland, because her step-brother Alexander Prince of Orange was alive. But his death occurring that year the succession in the female line was at once confirmed, so that in case of the king's death his daughter might succeed him, and after consultation it was agreed that should the king die before Wilhelmina attained her majority (eighteen years of age) the Queen Emma should become Queen-Regent. Had there been no little Wilhelmina the crown of Holland would have fallen on the grandson of the Grand Duke of Saxe-Weimar, whose wife was the sister of the late king.

The year 1890 was a sorrowful one for Queen Emma and her little ten-year-old daughter, for the husband and father whom they dearly loved was in bad health during many months previous to his death—which occurred on the morning of November 23rd—and quite incapable of attending to affairs of State, and it was only a few days before he died that the queen left him for a few hours to go to the Hague to take the oath as Regent.

In the course of the President's Address on this occasion, he said that "the Netherlands had been happy and contented under the forty years' reign of William III., and that he was glad to know that the people loved the queen as a wife and mother, and had entire confidence in her," and after the queen had taken the



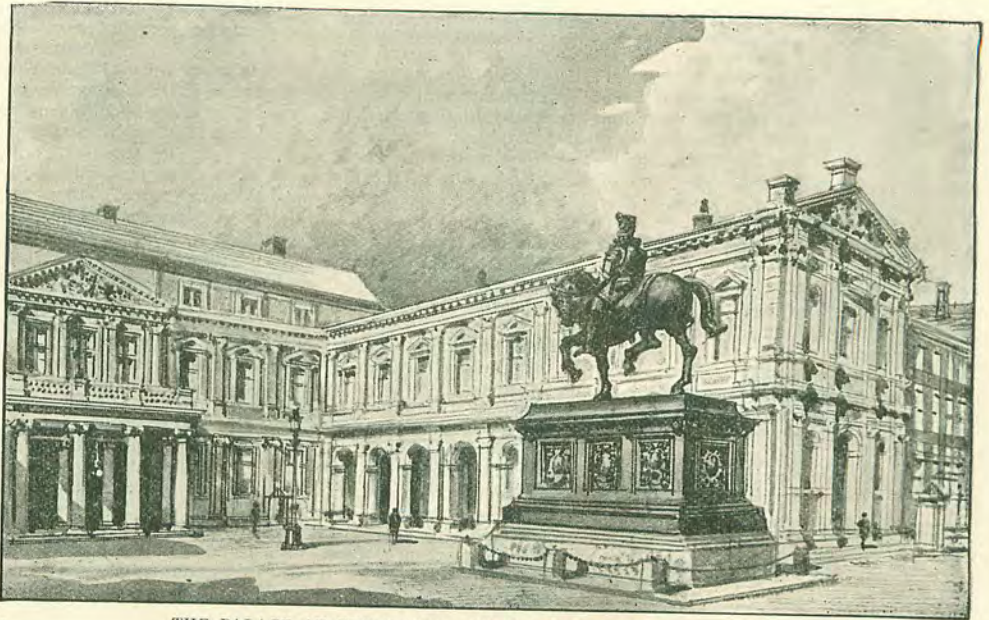
THE FAVOURITE PONY.

oath the President invoked the Divine blessing on the Regency. She did not leave the king again even to go to the service at Apeldoorn Church, but attended in the private chapel of Loo.

After his death the king's body was placed on a bed covered with palms, and when laid out in state it was strewn with flowers gathered by Wilhelmina from her own garden. At length it was removed to the Hague amid firing of cannon and tolling of bells, and finally buried with great pomp in the mausoleum of William the Silent at Delft, an old town five miles from the Hague, and the Minister of Justice set his seal on the coffin of lead and mahogany.

The chaplain in his funeral address said: "One after another the Orange stem has lost all its shoots, until it stands before the world nearly naked. The princes of the blood are dead, and there remains to us only a little child. Let us who are loyal to the House of Orange be thankful for this, and unite round the branch which remains as a symbol of the old royal house. This child in her unimportant person unites the mighty remembrance of a famous race and the gallant struggles of a people; she appeals to the heart, the imagination and conscience of the nation. May our royal child be the symbol of our past, the hope and surety of our future, and a uniting power over her people."

Fifty thousand visitors came into the Hague to witness it, and most of them wore Orange cockades trimmed with crape. The king's long reign had brought prosperity to the kingdom, but for many years of it he himself had been far from happy. His first wife, Sophia of Wurtemberg, one of the most learned women in Europe, and he did not



THE PALACE AT THE HAGUE, WITH THE STATUE OF WILLIAM I.

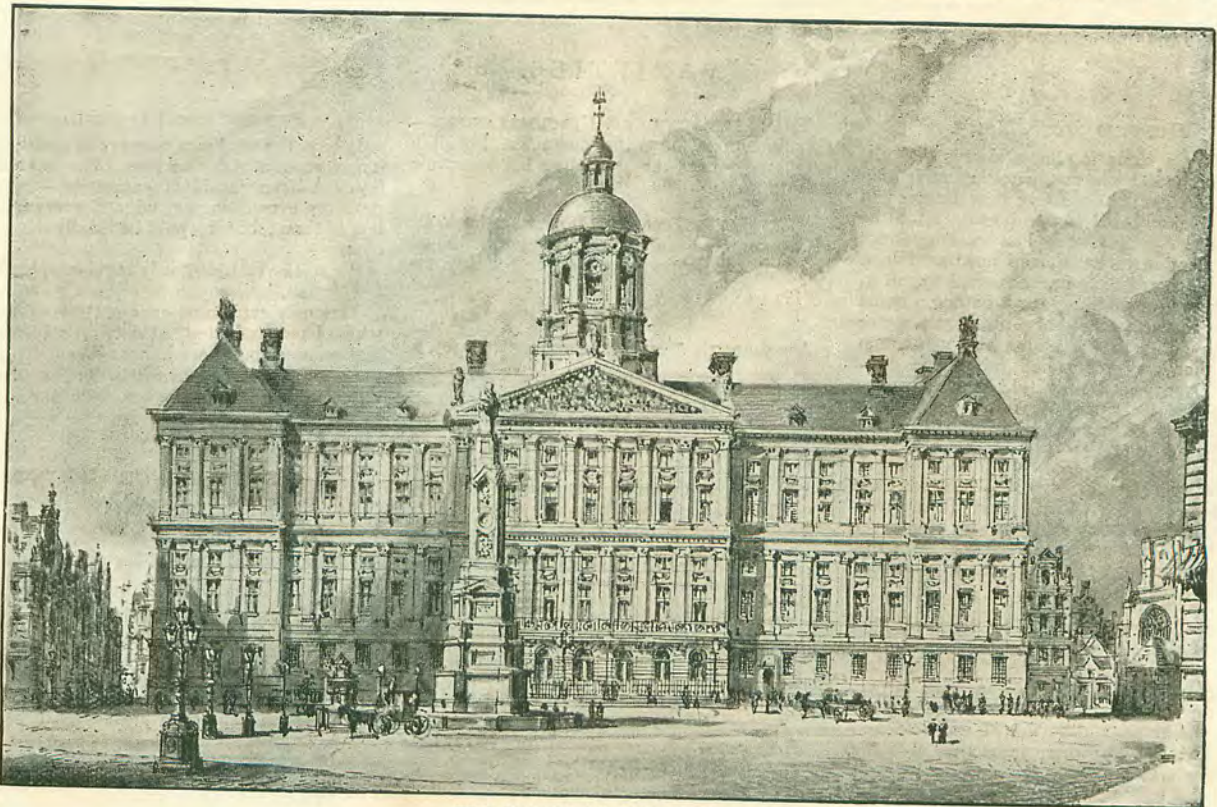
agree, and she lived and died apart from him in the Palace of Heusten Bosch; his eldest son, nicknamed "Prince Citron," lived and died in Paris almost in obscurity, and his second son, Alexander, a very intellectual man, died in 1884 of spinal disease. But the last years of his life were full of happiness and domestic comfort with Queen Emma and his little daughter Wilhelmina.

One of our leading journals, speaking of the king's death, said: "Dutchmen may be congratulated on the fact that he is succeeded by a girl, for even politicians of Republican sympathies will feel that it will never do to act disloyally to a young queen."

On November 26, in the second chamber, when the announcement was made of the king's death and accession of the little queen, all rose, and the President concluded his speech by saying, "Let us honour the king's memory by proving our devotion to the young queen and her mother the Queen-Regent, whom he has bequeathed to us as a precious pledge."

On the following day the Minister of War addressed the army, saying: "The hope of the nation, and certainly yours, rests in the late king's daughter: henceforth your cry will be 'Long live Queen Wilhelmina!'"

On December 8 Queen Emma took the



THE PALACE AT AMSTERDAM.

oath of Regent during her daughter's minority. She said, "I accept the task confiding in God, and praying that its accomplishment may assure the welfare of the country and people and the consolidation of the kingdom." And in the first proclamation she issued in the name of the queen Wilhelmina she said, "May her throne find solid support in the fidelity and devotion of the people to the House of Orange. May the Almighty hear the prayers for the new queen, and take her under his holy guardianship and protection."

From November 1890 our little Wilhelmina has been Queen of Holland under the regency of her mother, for her coronation cannot take place until she attain her majority in 1898.

The Queen-Regent guards this child as the most precious gift God has given her, and devotes her life to the education and training necessary to make her a good queen and ruler of her people. I hear that she is rather delicate, very sweet-tempered, and extremely shy. Her dolls have fulfilled their mission; they greatly increased the happiness of her childhood, but they now have to be put on one side to make room for people. Her responsibilities are too serious to allow of confidences between them and her. Life is very full and earnest, even though the mother is her right hand.

The first public deed performed by her as queen was, I think, in May 1891, when, accompanied by her mother, she laid the first stone of the new hospital in Amsterdam. A cantata was sung by 5000 children and 600 grown-up people, and there were six military bands. It seems that one of the leading Amsterdam families had given 300,000 florins towards this building, and the whole of the aristocracy were present.

An eye-witness said: "I have never seen such enthusiasm in favour of a dynasty which, thus supported by all classes, cannot be endangered except by its own fault, and the

popularity won by the Queen-Regent, and the grace and charm of the young queen are a guarantee against this."

She has during the last few years been a frequent visitor to the hospitals and charitable institutions of Holland. Another of her public acts since she has been queen was to go with her mother to Rotterdam and there lay the first stone of the new quay, which was rendered necessary by the ever-increasing trade.

They drove from the Hague to the mouth of the Maas, and thence went by steamer to Rotterdam. Sixty vessels and several men-of-war and torpedo-boats followed the royal boat. At Vlardingem and Marsolins the authorities, together with bands of music, stood along the shore, and the air rang with enthusiastic shouts. On landing their drive through the town was really a triumphal march. There was no manner of doubt as to the attachment of the Dutch people to the House of Orange.

The photograph of the young queen, in the national costume of Friesland, has a little history attached to it. Two years ago the two queens visited the northern provinces of the kingdom, which turned out quite a triumphal progress. The ladies of Leeuwarden, the chief town of Friesland, presented the little queen with a complete national costume, which she had the good taste to appear in at a grand festival held in her honour. Everyone was delighted; instantaneous photographs were taken of her, and appeared for sale in the shop-windows, but they were very imperfect, and the Queen-Regent authorised the taking of a proper one, which we printed last month. The costume consists of a little jacket and skirt of lilac silk, with rich trimmings of lace. The chief ornament is the head-dress, a wide gold band, almost like a helmet, surrounds the head on the top of a doubled hood or cap of plain stuff; on each side of the band is a shield of delicate gold filagree work, with

pearl-headed pins. On the forehead lies a costly diamond ornament in the form of a feather, while the whole is covered with a fine lace handkerchief. Of course the kind and value of the materials vary according to the means and position of the Friesland women and girls who wear them.

Among the less well-off classes the head-dress is only a narrow silver band, widening towards the front. The gold band is a sign of prosperity, and serves also as an intimation of the girl's desire to marry; the wider the gold band, the larger the dowry is supposed to be. The whole costume, as worn by the queen in the photograph, cost 2000 florins, or £160.

It is not unusual for a Friesland woman to wear on her head alone the value of a thousand florins, but where this is the case she sacrifices her hair, as the weight would otherwise be intolerable. Naturally the young queen's hair was not cut off, as it was only necessary for her to wear the head-dress for a few hours. It is easy to see by the photograph that the costly head-dress is not becoming to a girl, it makes the young Wilhelmina look twenty instead of fourteen.

While I am writing this last page the two queens are visiting Middleburg and Flushing. The young queen is unveiling the statue of the Dutch Admiral De Ruyter, which has been removed from the quay to the sea boulevard. They were enthusiastically cheered by the crowds who lined the streets, and their majesties visited the public buildings and the various sights in the town, and in the evening there was a public illumination.

We shall be interested in every action of the little queen, and join heartily in her mother's prayer, "that her throne may find solid support in the fidelity and devotion of her people, and that the Almighty may take her under His holy guardianship and protection." Long live Wilhelmina! Long live the House of Orange!

VARIETIES.

HUNTING FOR A NAME.

Finding a name is almost always difficult, but some people are much quicker at it than others. A gentleman living near Exeter had a valuable and handsome horse, which he had called Ajax. Last season he came across an excellent mate for it, and purchased it at once. Then arose the question what to call it.

There was some delay about finding a name in every respect satisfactory, till after a day or two, on going to the stable the gentleman found that his groom had solved the difficulty. Over the stall of the old family favourite was painted his name Ajax, and over that of the new comer the man had printed in big chalk letters, "Bjax."

"WHAT DID YOU SAY?"—Did you say or did you not say, John, what I said you said? Because Mary said you said you never said what I said you said. Now, if you did say that you did not say what I said you said, then what did you say?

IRISH HOSPITALITY.—The laws of hospitality as observed in Ireland were once famous all the world over. A traveller, arriving late at the cabin of an Irish harper, asked for supper and shelter. There was no fuel in the house, and outside all was drenched with rain; the only dry combustible was the poor man's harp—his only means of living—but he did not hesitate to condemn it to the flames, in order to cook a meal for the wayfarer.

THE INFLUENCE OF CIRCUMSTANCES.—Circumstances form the character, but like petrifying waters they too often harden while they form.

THE HAPPY HEART.—Do you desire to be always amiable and in good humour? Then be at peace always with God and with yourself.

ANSWER TO TRIPLE ACROSTIC (p. 39).

1. C o S m O (a)
2. O r n i t H o l o g Y
3. C e R e S (b)
4. K I T
5. L i s M o r E (c)
6. E t i e n n e P a s q u i e R (d)

Cockle. Shrimp. Oyster.

(a) Cosmo de' Medici, a wealthy citizen of Florence, who rose to the first offices of state; but owing to jealous intrigues he was exiled to Venice. Recalled, he became Prince of Florence and Duke of Tuscany, governing wisely during thirty-four years, and taking the prominent part in the revival of learning in the fifteenth century. He died in 1464, renowned as "The father of his country."

(b) The Goddess of Agriculture, whence all food-grains are termed "cereals."

(c) The bishopric is now Waterford and Lismore.
(d) Etienne Pasquier pleaded so successfully against Versoris, the defender of the Jesuits, that the French king, Henri III., made him Advocate-General to the Chamber of Accounts. He died, at an advanced age, in 1615.

BEAUTY AND EXPRESSION.

It is in the vital part of every organism that its expression and therefore that its beauty lies. A face devoid of expression—and expression ever changing, might be even faultless in form; but it would be totally devoid of charm—

"Faultily faultless, icily regular, splendidly null."

This may explain why many types of beauty which have fascinated not only artists but men and women in general, have been far from perfect in form. Some witchery of expression, a grace behind the form, has been the source of the charm.

A RHAPSODY OF SPRING.

FOREIGN AWARD.

Highly Commended.

Margaret M. Evans, Mussoorie, India.

Honourable Mention.

Mrs. N. Browne (Bengal), James Corbet (Washington, U.S.A.), Jessie Danford (Montreal), Annie C. Duguia (Melbourne), Emily Glass (Bengal), Daisy H. Lyall (South Africa), May Malone (Antigua), Susanna Neumann (Dresden), Edith Owen (Toronto), Winifred Paczensky (Madras), Miss L. Plunkett (Poona), Mary Ruttonji (Bombay), Minnie Shaw (Malabar), M. Winifred Thomas (Barbados).