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PRINCESSES WHO MAY BE QUEENS.

By MARIE A. BELLOC.



THE PRINCESS OF WALES AT THE TIME OF HER MARRIAGE.



THE CROWN PRINCESS OF SWEDEN AND NORWAY.

EVEN in these days the position of the girl who may be called upon to become a Queen is full of interest. Although much of the splendour and pomp which used to surround even the most insignificant of Queen-Consorts has now disappeared, as has been constantly proved of late years a modern Queen plays by no means an unimportant part in the history of her own or of her husband's country. Among her most precious prerogatives is that of exercising mercy. She becomes in a sense the high almoner of the Sovereign, and woe betide that kingdom whose Queen-Consort is indifferent to, or ignorant of, the higher dictates of humanity.

Few things are more curious in the modern history of nations than the acquirement of the Salic Law by those two European countries which have owed so much to female rulers. It is strange that the great empire once ruled over by the great Catherine, and the dual kingdom which owes its place in the modern world to the wise government and high character of Maria Theresa, should both be excluded in the future from female sovereignty. At the present moment the position of affairs in Austria and in Russia would appear quite different to thoughtful statesmen if the imperial succession were secured in the one case to the Archduchess Elizabeth, the young granddaughter of the Emperor Francis Joseph, and in the other to the baby daughter of the Tsar Nicholas. The only countries which can hope to enjoy a Queen Sovereign, in the fullest sense of the word, are Great Britain, Holland, and Spain.

Of the thirteen Princesses whom a turn of the wheel of fate might place in the highest position known in this world's scale of dignities and honours, three are already considered, among their respective husbands' friends and supporters, *ipso facto* queens; they are the Duchess of Cumberland, the Duchess of Orleans, and the Duchess of Madrid, but before dealing with the personalities of these three ladies, whose future position is somewhat problematical, it may be as well to consider those of their more fortunate sisters who may truly be styled queens-elect. Of these, the first two who naturally occur to the mind are the Princess of Wales and the Duchess of York.

To say that this great Empire is fortunate in the possession of two such Princesses is but to utter a truism. The eldest daughter of the aged King of Denmark has now lived nearly two-thirds



THE DUCHESS OF YORK.



PRINCESS OF THE ASTURIAS.
(Photo by Valentin, Madrid.)

of her admirable and well-filled life amongst her husband's future people. The wife of an heir-apparent has on many occasions to display much tact and good feeling, and the Princess of Wales has endeared herself to the nation without once obscuring her royal mother-in-law's right to the undivided loyalty of her people. It cannot always be easy to play a strictly subordinate rôle, and had it not been that the Princess possessed both great strength of character and sweetness of disposition, inevitable friction must have occurred.

The Duchess of York has been, as compared with other future Queens, very fortunate in one matter. Most royal maidens have to pay very dearly for the privilege of becoming the wife of an heir-apparent or presumptive, if only in leaving their country, kindred, and all the interests of their early life, but Princess Mary Victoria of Teck was born and brought up an Englishwoman, and she inherited from her early childhood a large portion of the wide-felt respect and interest felt for her popular mother.

Her future parents-in-law were the closest friends as well as near relatives of the late Duchess of Teck, and when the young Princess became Duchess of York there were few of her new duties with which she was not familiar. Indeed it may be said that, among future Queens, Her Royal Highness has alone received an ideal training, for, owing to her participation in philanthropic work of every kind, the Princess when quite young became familiar with that side of life so often concealed from gently nurtured girls of high rank, and she early realised that modern philanthropy has a stern side which is exemplified in the fact that "it is better to give than to receive."

One of the most agreeable and excellent of those Princesses who seem fated to become Queens in the near future is the Crown Princess of Denmark, who is of course the wife of the Princess of Wales's eldest brother. She possesses to a singular degree what the *Curé d'Ars* so aptly called "the gift of happiness." *Née* Princess Louise Josephine Eugénie of Norway and Sweden, this namesake of two unhappy French Empresses, notwithstanding the fact that she was an only child, and so had an exceptionally lonely childhood, was destined to become a very happy wife and mother. The Princess was only seventeen at the time of her marriage, and although not regularly pretty, was possessed of the most charming manners and, at the time the Crown Prince of Denmark fell in love with her, the most beautiful figure in Europe. Many pretty stories are told in their respective countries of their courtship, for the Crown Prince, although he was the eldest son of his father, was the fourth member of his family to enter the holy estate; he had been attached to the Princess Royal of Sweden and Norway since she was little more than a child, and was quite content to wait. The fact that the Princess was, through her mother, immensely wealthy—her fortune was estimated at 60,000,000 marks—made the marriage very desirable from a worldly point of view. Accordingly, the course of true love ran smoothly for the royal couple, and the wedding took place on July 28th, 1869.

Notwithstanding the fact that the King and Queen of Denmark welcomed the Crown Princess with great affection, her early life was much shadowed by the fact that she lost both her father and mother—to whom she was naturally exceedingly devoted—before she was twenty-one, but in time she found consolation in the deep affection of her husband and his large circle of relations, and eight children came in quick succession to brighten their charming home.

It is a great mistake to suppose that the Princess has a soft and yielding character; it is well known that she can hold her own at the Danish Court, and she has inherited from her

ancestors, the Bernadottes, much of French shrewdness and common sense. Thus she has retained a large portion of her private fortune in her own hands, and administers her vast resources well and wisely. Her children are one and all devoted to her, and she is especially attached to her eldest son's wife, *née* Princess Alexandra of Mecklenburg-Schwerin, whose marriage took place two years ago at Cannes.

Since the lamented death of the Queen, the Crown Princess has played a more important rôle at Court. Some of her duties she very wisely delegates to Princess Christian, and indeed the relations between the two ladies resembles very much the happy state of things existing between the Princess of Wales and the Duchess of York, the younger Princess in each case doing all she can to spare her mother-in-law the irksome work which falls to the lot of every future Queen. It may be added that the Crown Princess is specially interested in the education of young girls, perhaps because of the devotion which she shows to her own daughters, and she has much added to her popularity by opening her kitchen to a limited number of Danish girls, who may thus learn cooking and practical housekeeping in the best possible manner.

In these days, when every royal personage is compelled by her position to live in a glass-house, it is strange that the future Queen of Sweden—in spite of the fact that she is the namesake and niece of the Empress Frederick—should be so little known to the outer world.

Princess Victoria of Baden is the only daughter of the Grand Duke and Grand Duchess of Baden, and is, through her mother, the granddaughter of the late Emperor William. As was natural under the circumstances, she spent her childhood with the children of the Emperor Frederick, and until her marriage in 1881 her interests in life were purely German. She was adored by her parents, and by her grandparents, the aged German Emperor and Empress, and there is little doubt that her marriage was a great grief to them.

Had it not been for the fact that the Princess is extremely delicate, she would probably have had an exceedingly happy life, for Prince Gustavus has inherited the fine qualities of King Oscar and Queen Sophia. He has wide intellectual culture, and is never happier than when surrounded by his wife and three little sons. Unfortunately, the Crown Princess early showed signs of great delicacy, and it was essential that she should winter in a milder climate. Accordingly, at the first touch of winter she has to leave Stockholm for the Riviera or other parts of Europe. This is the more sad as it would be hard to find a more beautiful home than the splendid palace of Sopheiro on the Sound which has been the married home of the Crown Prince and Princess. This charming place has been delightfully described by King Oscar in his poem "In my Home," for it was there that he also spent his early married life. When in Stockholm the Prince and Princess inhabit a palace called the "Gustav Adolf Storg," but they are never happier than when spending the summer at Sopheiro.

The Crown Princess is a true example of the saying that "wealth does not bring happiness," for she is one of the richest women in Europe, having inherited a large sum under the will of the late Emperor William, and the fortune of the Grand Duchess of Baden will also pass to her daughter. Notwithstanding her ill-health, the Princess is a very tender mother to her three children, who are splendid specimens of boyhood. She watches over them in their lessons and in their play, and when she is obliged to be away she writes to each one of them daily. Considering the fact

that she is so closely related by marriage to the royal family of Great Britain, it is curious that she so rarely visits England. She dreads the dampness of the climate here, and is content to meet her English friends during their visits abroad. Like her mother, she is much interested in philanthropy, and takes an active part in the management of the Society for Promoting Female Industry in Sweden. She has also instituted a Fresh Air Fund for delicate school-children.

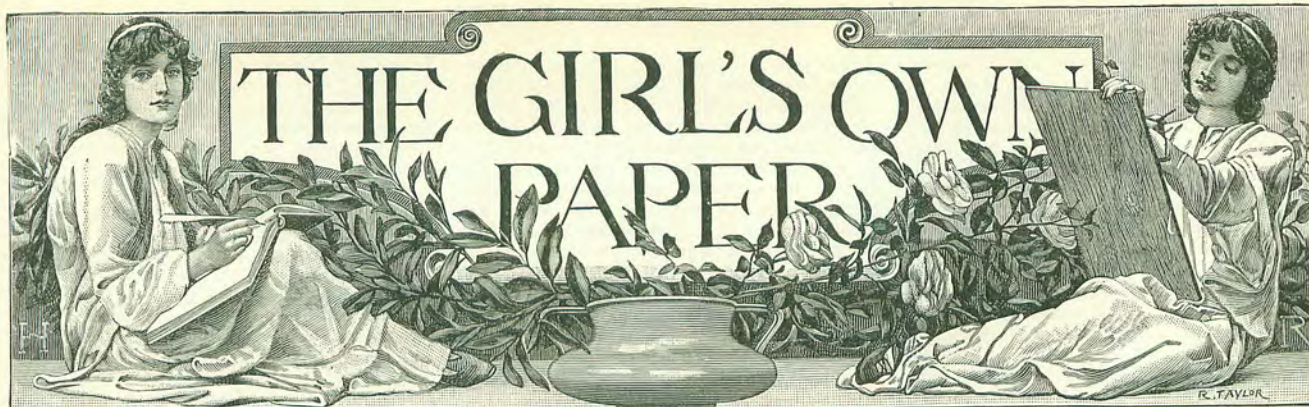
It is curious that Spain, which is the one European country always supposed to lag behind in the van of civilisation, should possess a constitution which admits of female sovereigns. Among the Princesses who may be Queens, but who do not wish that such a fate may ever befall them, may be mentioned the young sister of Alfonso XIII., who stands alone, a pathetic little figure whom Providence may yet destine to rule over her ill-fated country. Just as was the case with the daughter of the Regent, who was of course after her father's accession as George IV. known as Princess of Wales, so the eldest sister of the present King of Spain has enjoyed since her brother's birth the proud title of Princess of the Asturias.

It has hardly ever happened that a Prince or Princess has enjoyed the title of sovereign for a short time, only to return to the comparative obscurity of his or her original position. On the death of Alfonso XII. his eldest daughter was of course immediately proclaimed Queen of Spain, and during the months that elapsed between the King's death and the birth of Alfonso XIII., the Princess of the Asturias was actually Queen of Spain, and though quite a child she was surrounded by all the etiquette which is the special prerogative of Spanish sovereigns.

The Princess of the Asturias is just eighteen. At her birth Queen Christina suggested that the baby should receive the name which had been borne by her own gentle predecessor—Mercedes. Accordingly the little Princess was given, among other names, those of Mercedes Isabella Christina Alfonsina, and as time went on, and the only other child born to the Royal couple was another daughter, Princess Mercedes was regarded as her father's ultimate successor.

The young Princess has felt very much the misfortunes which have of late overwhelmed her country. She is profoundly devoted to her brother, and is said to be the only person with whom the Queen Regent will trust him alone, and in view of recent events it is strange to think that she has been legally of age for the last four years. Accordingly, the Queen Regent—who is never afraid of looking the hard facts of life fully in the face—early initiated her eldest daughter into that routine work which would become her daily life task should the death of her brother make her Queen of Spain. Rumours of the Infanta's marriage, first to an Austrian Prince and then to a Russian Grand Duke, have been rife, but the question is of such vital importance to Spain that it is no wonder the Queen Regent prefers it to remain unsettled. It is said that the Princess is too devoted to her brother ever to make a marriage which would really separate them. She is known to inherit her mother's good sense, but she is exceedingly Spanish-looking, and looks far older than she really is; indeed when she was only fifteen she impressed those about her as if she were grown-up. It is said that the cheerful and rather frivolous ex-Queen Isabella once remarked that she felt very much younger than her granddaughter.

Although the young Princess has been very highly educated, and speaks several languages fluently, she has never travelled, but she is in constant correspondence with her Austrian cousins.



PRINCESSES WHO MAY BE QUEENS.

By MARIE A. BELLOC.

PART II.

It is rather a curious fact that, although many of Queen Victoria's descendants will undoubtedly bear, during the latter portion of their lives, the title of queen consort, there is at the present time only one of Her Majesty's granddaughters, the Empress of Russia, who is actually in such a position. The Duke and Duchess of Hesse are of course sovereigns, but they do not enjoy the title of king and queen.

The future Queen of Greece and the future Queen of Roumania both stand in the relation of granddaughter to Queen Victoria. In spite



THE CROWN PRINCESS OF GREECE.



THE PRINCESS OF NAPLES.



THE CROWN PRINCESS OF ROUMANIA.

of their close relationship to each other and to the British royal family, the two Princesses are very different in character and in their general outlook on life; and the Duchess of Sparta, notwithstanding her youth, has gone through the bitter trial and humiliation of seeing her beloved adopted country worsted in one of the great international struggles of modern times. How hard this must have been to bear, will be realised when it is recalled that the future Queen of Greece was a Prussian princess, the daughter and granddaughter of men who never met defeat on the field of battle.

Princess Sophia Dorothea Ulrica Alice is



THE COUNTESS OF FLANDERS.

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MARIE-DOROTHÉE, DUCHESS OF ORLEANS.

the third daughter of the late Emperor Frederick and of the Princess Royal of England. She was born at Potsdam just before the outbreak of the Franco-Prussian War, and there was a difference of four years between her and Princess Victoria. Accordingly she enjoyed, during the first two years of her life, the delightful position of being the only baby in the Crown Princess of Prussia's nursery. She was brought up, as were all the Empress Frederick's daughters, in a very simple and sensible manner. It soon became apparent that she was gifted with a gentle, thoughtful, and yet determined character; indeed, she is said, in the German Imperial family, to strongly recall the English aunt after whom she was named, that is to say, Princess Alice, whose premature death was so bitter a grief and loss to her brothers and sisters.

As she grew up, Princess Sophia was marked out for special affectionate care by her father, Frederick the Noble, and when he became aware that the young Princess had given her heart to Prince Constantine of Greece, who had come to Germany in order to complete his military studies, the Crown Prince, as he then was, took much personal trouble in order to make himself acquainted with the future king's nature and capabilities. The young man came well out of the ordeal, but, owing to the Princess's great youth, a certain delay took place, and the formal betrothal only took place over Frederick the Noble's death-bed.

During the sad days which preceded the Emperor's death, his unmarried daughters were constantly with him. Princess Sophia specially devoted herself to her father, and, although the Emperor stipulated that the marriage should take place very soon after his death, she refused to fix the date of the wedding until after a full year of mourning had elapsed. The marriage of the Princess and of the Duke of Sparta took place at Athens in the October of 1889, the bride being nineteen and a half, and the bridegroom being almost exactly two years older. Owing to the fact that there is in Greece a curious old superstition declaring that when a Constantine and a Sophia reign over the country, the Greek flag will once more fly over Constantinople, the alliance proved a very popular one, and the young Duchess, who during the year preceding her marriage had thoroughly mastered modern Greek, soon became really beloved in Athens and the surrounding country. Notwithstanding the fact that she was accustomed to all the splendours of the Prussian Court, she adapted herself admirably to the almost spotless simplicity which surrounds the palace of the Greek royal family, and within less than a year after she arrived at Athens, her married happiness was made complete by the birth of her eldest child, a son. It was probably then that the Princess first realised the cruel scission which must exist when a mother and her child have perforce to be of a different faith. After studying carefully the tenets of the Greek Church, and after, it is said, asking the advice of both Queen Victoria and of her mother, the widowed Empress Frederick, the Duchess of Sparta made up her mind to join her husband's faith. Accordingly she was received into the Greek Orthodox Church on May 2nd, 1891.

The Duke and Duchess of Sparta have now three children, Prince George, Prince Alexander, and Princess Helena. The latter was still an infant when the Greek-Turkish war broke out, but this did not prevent the young Duchess of Sparta from taking a very active part in the preparations which were made for nursing the wounded. With characteristic energy the Princess sent to England for the best surgical appliances, and for a number of

picked nurses. Both she and her mother-in-law, the gentle and beautiful Queen Olga, worked incessantly in the hospital wards. The Princess never spared herself, and on more than one occasion was present at a terrible operation simply because she thought that to be so would comfort the patient. During those sad weeks the Princess, as she wrote to an English friend, many times tasted the bitterness of death, for her husband was, of course, with the army, and she never knew what news any hour might bring.

There can be very little doubt that the terrible experience that she then went through matured and deepened the Duchess of Sparta's already fine character. Though not yet thirty, she is interested in all sorts of weighty subjects, though like all her sisters she loves an outdoor life, and is a fine horsewoman. After the end of the war she devoted herself heart and soul to making her husband forget his sorrows. They are a very united couple, and are rarely separated even for a day.

The future Queen of Roumania has one very pleasing distinction; she is considered by far the prettiest of Queen Victoria's granddaughters. Although she is a devoted wife and mother, nothing pleases her more than a new frock, and she can certainly claim to be the best-dressed princess in Europe.

Princess Marie Alexandra Victoria of Edinburgh is the eldest daughter of the Duke and Duchess of Saxe-Coburg Gotha. She was born at Eastwell Park on October 29th, 1875, and spent her childhood partly in this country, partly in Malta, and partly in Germany.

The Duke of Edinburgh's three elder daughters were brought up entirely in the English fashion, very much as have been the young Princesses of Wales; but notwithstanding this fact, there may be little doubt that their natures have been modified by the Russian strain introduced by their mother, who was, it will be remembered, the sister of the late Emperor of Russia.

Princess Marie early cast off childish things. When she was only fifteen she looked quite grown-up. Accordingly, those who had not the opportunity of seeing her when the Duke and Duchess lived in England, were not astonished to hear of her very early engagement and marriage. There seems to be very little doubt that the Prince and Princess fell in love at first sight when attending the wedding of a Prussian princess; at this function Princess Marie's extreme loveliness aroused much notice, and the Crown Prince of Roumania was one of those smitten by her girlish charm. It may, however, be whispered that the course of true love did not run quite smoothly. The Duke and Duchess of Saxe-Coburg Gotha are both very devoted to their children, and they were in no hurry to lose their eldest daughter, even in order that she might become the bride of a future king. The Princess, however, showed great determination, as indeed had done her mother in much the same circumstances. Accordingly the wedding was celebrated with great magnificence at Sigmaringen in the January of 1893, the bride being just eighteen, and the bridegroom just ten years older.

The royal bride had by no means an easy task before her, as the Queen of Roumania, "Carmen Sylva," was known to have done her very best to promote a marriage between the Crown Prince and her favourite maid of honour. Although she extended the very kindest of welcomes to Princess Marie, their attitude was jealously watched and criticised by the little Roumanian Court-world, the more so that the young Crown Prince was not, as is almost always the case, the son of the Sovereign and his consort; he is nephew to the King, and was only raised to his present exalted position at the age of twenty-three, his parents, the

Prince and Princess of Hohenzollern, naturally retaining a very strong hold on his affections.

From the moment, however, of the Crown Prince and Crown Princess's triumphal entry into Bucharest, the future Queen has been regarded with the strongest affection by the warm-hearted Roumanian people. Like Carmen Sylva, Princess Marie is very fond of wearing the national dress, which is as beautiful and picturesque as that type of habiliment generally is in Eastern Europe. Owing to the Queen's ill-health a great deal of what may be called the Court ceremonial side of royal life devolves on the Crown Princess, and her youth and high spirits stand her in good stead, the more so that she inherits from her mother all the Russian tact and charm of manner.

Of the Crown Prince and Princess's two children, the eldest, Prince Carol, was born about a week before his mother celebrated her nineteenth birthday. The Princess Elizabeth is a year younger. The Crown Princess has remained on terms of great intimacy with her own family, and constantly pays flying visits to Coburg, where she is always warmly welcomed. She felt very deeply the sad and premature death of her young brother, for the two were very nearly of an age, and were fondly attached to one another. With the exception of this one great grief she had led an exceptionally happy life. Some time ago when her husband became seriously ill, she nursed him with untiring devotion, and it is believed in Bucharest that she virtually saved his life by her care and attention. He, on his side, is devoted to his beautiful young wife.

During the summer months of the year they reside at the beautiful castle of Pelesch in the Roumanian Mountains. The young Princess, who was very highly educated, is a fine amateur pianist, and she also paints well, but it must be admitted that her great amusement is that of designing wonderful frocks for herself and her little girl. She is a good needlewoman, and like so many other royal ladies takes an active personal interest in the fashioning of her gowns. She has remained very much attached to the United Kingdom and her English friends, and she early determined that her children should have about them English attendants.

One of the most pathetic and charming of future queens is the Princess of Naples. Nowadays the various royal families of Europe are so knit together by ties of relationship that a royal bride is almost always quite familiar with her future home long before there is any thought of her changing her nationality. The case of the daughter of the Prince of Montenegro proved an exception to this rule, for before her marriage with the only son of the King and Queen of Italy she can have known but little of the wonderful country which was to be her future home, for her girlhood had been passed between her father's mountain fastness and St. Petersburg.

The story goes that the third daughter of Prince Nicholas of Montenegro was early destined to a very exalted position, in fact to occupy that of Empress of Russia.

The late Tsar once called her father "my only friend in Europe." Princess Melitza of Montenegro was married some ten years ago to one of the Russian Grand Dukes, and her young sister Helena was placed when little more than a child in one of the great Russian establishments where young girls of noble birth are educated. There she became the close friend and companion of the then Emperor of Russia's children, but, as all the world knows, the Tsarevitch, as he then was, was from boyhood attached to Princess Alix of Hesse, and when Princess Helena of Montenegro's education was completed, she went back to Cetinje, the Russian royal family retaining for her a very warm affection. There

is little doubt that her marriage to the Prince of Naples was first suggested to the Italian royal family by the present Emperor of Russia. Princess Helena met with a very different fate from that which usually befalls modern princesses. There seems to be no doubt that her marriage was entirely a State matter, for until the wedding had actually taken place, she had rarely seen her future husband and on no one occasion alone. Thus it is very fortunate that both the Prince and Princess of Naples are high-minded and conscientious.

The Princess, cut off from her beloved parents and her brothers and sisters, has valiantly tried to find new interests and to form new friendships in her adopted country. At the time of the marriage, that is, three years ago, the bride was three and twenty, the bridegroom, who has always been of a remarkably shy and retiring disposition, being twenty-seven.

One of the few times that the royal couple have appeared together at any foreign ceremonial was on the occasion of the Diamond Jubilee, when the beauty and grace of Italy's future Queen aroused the greatest enthusiasm amongst the many royal personages gathered together in London on that historic occasion.

The home of the Prince and Princess is at Naples, but when in Florence they occupy a suite of rooms at the charming Pitti Palace. They share many tastes in common, perhaps their greatest interests being riding and yachting. Hitherto, the Prince and Princess of Naples have had no children, and this is a great grief to the Princess. A year ago she proved the sweetness of her character by welcoming, in a very kind and tender manner, the little son of the Duke and Duchess of Aosta, who, if she herself remains childless, will some day become the King of Italy.

Of the Princesses who may become Queens, the most interesting from many points of view is the Countess of Flanders, the popular sister-in-law of the King of the Belgians. *Née* Princess Marie of Hohenzollern, this royal lady possesses one of the most charming and sympathetic personalities in the royal caste. She is much beloved by a numerous circle of relations in Germany, Portugal, and Great Britain, and although since her marriage, which occurred in 1867, she has naturally had to play a subordinate part in her husband's country, she has remained on the very happiest terms with the King and Queen of the Belgians; indeed the latter often says that she does not know how she would have borne her sad and sorrow-laden life had it not been that she has always found in the Countess of Flanders the most loyal of sisters and comforters. The Count and Countess inhabit a very charming palace in Brussels. Unlike the King and Queen they have been singularly fortunate in their four children. Till comparatively lately the Countess remained wonderfully young-looking, and she and her two daughters formed a charming group. The death of their eldest son was a terrible blow to the Count and Countess of Flanders, the more so that shortly after their two daughters married, and so left the one time well-filled palace very deserted. Now the only child at home is Prince Albert, who may be regarded as the future King of the Belgians, and who is a very clever and promising young man.

Even during the present century nothing is

more startling than to note how often even one turn of the wheel of fate has brought about dynastic changes. This has been especially the case with France, and very similar to what must have been the position of Louis Napoleon during at least half his life, must be that of the young Duke of Orleans, who is regarded by himself and by his adherents as the *de jure* successor of St. Louis. Accordingly among the Princesses who may become Queens, his wife, *née* Archduchess Maria Dorothea of Austria, may certainly claim to take a place. The young Duchess is great-niece to Marie Antoinette, and is of course descended from Maria Theresa, some of whose more militant qualities she seems to have inherited.

There can be but little doubt that the Duke of Orleans greatly increased his chances of succeeding to the French throne by his union with this determined Austrian Princess.

The Duchess of Orleans is the eldest daughter of the Archduke Palatine of Hungary

although not exactly pretty, is very charming in appearance, might have become, had she so chosen, the wife of the Austrian Heir Presumptive, but she preferred to wed the French Pretender. During the last three years the Duke and Duchess of Orleans have spent a good deal of their time in England, where they possess two charming homes, York House, Twickenham, and Wood Norton, a large estate left to the Duke by his great-uncle, the Duc d'Aumale. The Duchess frequently pays flying visits to France, of course unaccompanied by her husband, for the Duke is forbidden to put foot on French soil. It is in Brussels that the royal exiles are able to receive their French supporters, and although the Duchess's name does not appear in any of private correspondence, lately published, *à propos* of Royalist plots, there is little doubt that there is no one more interested in French political propaganda than is the Duchess of Orleans. It is said that she is convinced that Fate holds the crown of France in store for her, and she is certainly one of those who believe in the good old French proverb: "*Aide toi et Dieu t'aidera.*"

The Duchess of Cumberland, who is regarded by a large number of people on the Continent as legitimate Queen of Hanover, possesses a personality particularly interesting to us, owing to the fact that she is the much-loved younger sister of the Princess of Wales. Of the three beautiful daughters of the King of Denmark Princess Thyra has had in some ways the most romantic existence. When quite a child she accompanied her father and mother to England in order to be present at the marriage of the Prince and Princess of Wales. Owing to the great difference in her age and her sisters', she soon found herself occupying the position of an only daughter, and although no Princess has ever been more sought after in marriage than the royal Danish maiden, for a long time she declared that she would always remain with the parents, to whom she was so specially devoted. It is now curious to recall the fact that this Princess might have become another "Queen in exile," for at one time there was a good deal of talk of her marriage with the ill-fated Prince Imperial.

Very romantic was the first meeting between the Duke of Cumberland and the Princess Thyra. The eldest son and heir of the old King of Hanover was a sad and embittered man, and he declared that so long as his parents' affairs remained in such an unsatisfactory state, he could not take a wife. Passing through Denmark he was of course entertained by King Christian, Princess Thyra being at that time a beautiful young woman of twenty-five. The Duke fell in love at first sight, and shortly afterwards the marriage was arranged.

The Duke and Duchess of Cumberland have now been married just twenty-one years, and their existence, although spent in exile—for the Kingdom of Hanover is now a portion of the great German Empire, and the Duke follows his father's example, and has always refused to become a mediatised Sovereign—has been a singularly happy one. They are devoted to their children, and the Duchess has found a second mother in the venerable Queen of Hanover, the oldest bearer of her title in Europe, for she is a year older than Queen Victoria.



THE DUCHESS OF CUMBERLAND.

and Princess Clotilde of Saxe-Coburg. She is rather older than her husband, having been born in 1867, and although they were related—for both are the great-grandchildren of Louis Philippe—the Duke and Duchess do not seem to have met in early youth. They first made each other's real acquaintance on the occasion of the marriage of Princess Hélène of Orleans to the Duke of Aosta. The Archduchess, who is very highly educated, and who speaks English perfectly, was very anxious to make a tour of some of the more important philanthropic institutions in London, and it fell to the lot of the Duke to escort his fair cousin on these expeditions. Although it would seem impossible to find a greater contrast than the somewhat serious-minded and thoughtful Princess and the volatile Prince, a great friendship sprang up between them, and their intimate friends were not at all astonished when their engagement was made public.

It is said that the Archduchess, who,

