



MAY.—RACING.

CHRISTENING OF THE PRINCE OF WALES.

THE Prince of Wales was born on the 9th November, 1841, and was christened "Albert Edward," in St. George's Chapel, Windsor, on the 25th of January, 1842, with circumstances of great magnificence.

So highly decorated an edifice needed but little preparation for the late ceremony; and little was attempted. Before the altar was raised a dais, or *haut pas*, in the centre of which was placed the baptismal font on a purple velvet and gold ottoman: this font consists of a golden salver, on which rest a pedestal and bowl used at the Christening of Charles II., whence rises a second pedestal bearing a shallow lotus-leaved vase containing the water. Semicircularly on the *haut pas* were placed twelve chairs and fald-stools, of purple and gold. Upon the altar were arranged the communion-services of the Chapel Royal, St. James's, and St. George's, comprising six salvers, eight large tankards and flagons, two cups, and ten smaller vessels, of gold, or silver-gilt. The entire floor of the chapel was covered with a purple carpet, ornamented with the star of the Order of the Garter, and the cross or shield of St. George.

At half past twelve o'clock, the Royal procession left the quadrangle of the Castle in carriages, and soon reached Wolsey's Hall. Shortly afterwards, the Archbishop of Canterbury entered the platform, and stood before the font; and was joined by the Archbishop of York, the Bishops of London, Norwich, Winchester, and Oxford, and the Deans and Canons of Windsor. The Royal procession then left Wolsey's Hall, the Queen and Prince Albert and their attendants filing off, and entering the choir by the north door, to the right; and the King of Prussia and suite, the Duchesses of Kent and Cambridge, and the Duke and Princess Augusta of Cambridge, entering by the opposite, or southern door. The Queen, in a few seconds, appeared, conducted by Prince Albert, and preceded by the Lord Chamberlain and Master of the Household, when the company rose, and the band played the march from "Joseph." The Queen wore

the robes of Sovereign of the order of the Garter and a circlet of diamonds: her Majesty was supported by Prince Albert, the Duke of Sussex, Prince George of Cambridge, and Princes Ferdinand and Leopold of Saxe-Coburg. The Duke of Wellington stood behind her Majesty's chair, bearing the Sword of State.

The march having been concluded, the Archbishop of Canterbury, standing behind the font, and supported as before, commenced reading the usual baptismal service; during the greater part of which the Queen, Prince Albert, the King of Prussia, and other Royal and distinguished personages, knelt. The King of Prussia, and the other Royal sponsors, repeated the usual responses in an audible tone of voice.

Amongst the illustrious persons present at this august ceremony, were— the Queen, in the robes of the Sovereign of the Order of the Garter, Prince Albert, the Duke of Sussex, Prince George of Cambridge, the Princes Ferdinand and Leopold Saxe-Coburg, the Duke of Wellington, bearing the sword of state, and the King of Prussia. The last named was one of the Sponsors, the other Sponsors were the Duchess of Kent, proxy for the Duchess of Saxe-Coburg; the Duchess of Cambridge, proxy for the Duchess of Saxe-Gotha; the Princess Augusta of Cambridge, proxy for the Princess Sophia; the Duke of Cambridge, and Prince Ferdinand of Saxe-Coburg. The ceremony was performed by the Archbishop of Canterbury.

In the evening a magnificent banquet was served in St. George's Hall to 140 distinguished guests, a servant in the Royal livery being behind each chair; and afterwards was a concert. The Christening Cake was about thirty inches in diameter, and with its figured ornaments stood upwards of four feet high.

In the town of Windsor the joyous event of the day was variously celebrated. A large party dined at the Town-hall, and the poor were feasted at their homes. The streets were illuminated. In the metropolis several of the public bodies gave dinners; and the streets were also partially illuminated.