



JANUARY.—COURSING.

ACCESSION OF QUEEN VICTORIA.

KING WILLIAM IV. expired at Windsor Castle on the 20th June, 1837, at twelve minutes past two in the morning, and Queen Victoria, then a mere girl, having but a few weeks entered upon her nineteenth year, found herself in the possession of the throne of this vast empire. By eleven o'clock a great number of the Privy Councillors, amongst whom were the King of Hanover, the Duke of Sussex, the Duke of Wellington, the Cabinet Ministers, and the great officers of State, and Household, had assembled at Kensington Palace, and were ushered into the state apartments. About a quarter to twelve the Lord Mayor, accompanied by many of the Aldermen, arrived in civic state, as a deputation to her Majesty. A Council was then held at which the Lord Mayor attended.

Queen Victoria, habited in deep mourning, entered the room, accompanied by the Duchess of Kent and the officers of her Household, and took her seat upon a throne, which had been erected for the occasion. The Lord Chancellor then administered to her the usual oaths that she would govern the kingdom according to its laws and customs, and maintain the Protestant religion, and afford security to the Church of Scotland, &c. The Cabinet Ministers having then taken the oaths of allegiance and been confirmed in their offices, and other formalities having been gone through, her Majesty made the following Declaration, the opening passage of which referred modestly and feelingly to the interesting circumstances under which she was, so young, called to such arduous duties:—

“The severe and afflicting loss which the nation has sustained by the death of his Majesty, my beloved uncle, has devolved upon me the duty of administering the government of this empire. This awful responsibility is imposed upon me so suddenly, and at so early a period of my life, that I should feel myself utterly oppressed by the burthen, were I not sustained by the hope that Divine Providence, which has called me to this work, will give me strength for the performance of it; and that I shall find, in the purity of my intentions, and in my zeal for the public welfare, that support and those resources which usually belong to more mature age and to longer experience.

“I place my firm reliance upon the wisdom of Parliament, and upon the loyalty and affection of my people. I esteem it also a peculiar advantage that I succeed to a sovereign, whose constant regard for the rights and liberties of his subjects, and whose desire to promote the amelioration of the laws and institutions of this country, have rendered his name the object of general attachment and veneration. Educated in England, under the tender and enlightened care of a most affectionate mother, I have learned from my infancy to respect and love the institutions of my native country.

“It will be my unceasing study to maintain the reformed religion as by law established, securing at the same time to all the full enjoyment of religious liberty; and I shall steadily protect the rights, and promote to the utmost of my power, the happiness and welfare of all classes of my subjects.”

The proclamation of the Queen's Accession was ordered to be made on the following day; and, from an early hour in the morning all was bustle and excitement in and around St. James's Palace. At ten o'clock, amidst a salute from the guns in the Park, the Queen made her appearance at the window of the tapestried anteroom, adjoining the audience chamber, and was received with deafening cheers. She stood between Lords Melbourne and Lansdowne, in their State dresses and blue ribbons, and near her was the Duchess of Kent. In this, or the neighbouring windows of the Palace, were the King of Hanover, the Duke of Sussex, the Duke of Wellington, and many other distinguished persons. The Queen looked fatigued and pale; but acknowledged the loyal salutations of her subjects with ease and dignity.

The proclamation having been read in due form in the court-yard of the Palace, the band struck up the National Anthem, and a signal was made for the Park and the Tower guns to fire; and as the young Queen curtsied and retired from the window the air was rent with the loudest and most fervent acclamations of those within the area, which were re-echoed by the thousands who thronged St. James's-street, Pall-Mall, the Park, and other parts in the neighbourhood of the Palace.





FEBRUARY.—RABBIT SHOOTING.

THE QUEEN'S VISIT TO THE CITY.

On the 9th of November, (Lord Mayor's Day) 1837, the Queen, according to the custom of English Monarchs on their ascending the throne, honoured the City of London with a visit, and the Lord Mayor and Corporation with her presence at dinner. The day was one of universal joy and excitement. From earliest dawn the Park, and the avenues leading to it were crowded by pedestrians, all pressing towards Buckingham Palace; and the crowd became denser every hour till the moment fixed for the setting forth of the Royal procession arrived.

At two o'clock the first carriage emerged from under the Triumphal Arch, and in due course the Royal state carriage, in which sat the Queen, attended by the Mistress of the Robes and the Master of the Horse. Her Majesty wore a splendid pink satin robe, shot with silver, her hair encompassed with a diamond tiara; and looked remarkably well. She smiled and bowed graciously to the populace on either side, as the vehicle moved slowly along; and already showed, what she has ever since proved to be the case, that her chief delight consists in the good-will and respectful homage of her subjects. The streets along the whole line were profusely decorated with flags, draperies of coloured cloths, green boughs, and such flowers as the season afforded; amongst which were seen busts and portraits of the Queen, and devices in coloured lamps, which were lit up in the evening.

At Temple Bar, when the Queen entered the City of London for the first time, the usual formality of presenting the keys by the Lord Mayor was gone through; and in St. Paul's the procession stopped, whilst Mr. Frederick Gifford Nash, the senior scholar of Christ's Hospital delivered an address of congratulation to her Majesty. "God save the Queen" was then sung by the scholars and a great part of the multitude. The weather which had hitherto been fine had now turned to rain; but the ardour of the crowd was by no means damped by it.

At half-past three her Majesty arrived at the door of the Guildhall, where she was escorted by the Lord and Lady Mayoress to the Council Chamber, which

had been splendidly fitted up for the Royal reception room. Here a loyal address was read by the Recorder; to which a suitable reply was made by the Queen.

Meantime, in the hall below, the civic functionaries and their friends, fortunate in possessing tickets for this right royal banquet, had already assembled; and the great officers of State, and foreign ambassadors, and other distinguished guests, were already in the places allotted to them. The hall was gorgeously hung, and lighted; and a throne of elegant proportions stood in the midst of the Royal table, which was upon a dais slightly raised above the level of the floor.

At twenty minutes past five dinner was announced; and the Queen, preceded by the Lord Mayor and Lady Mayoress, and conducted by the Lord Chamberlain "in respectful silence" descended into the hall, and after walking round it, took her seat on the throne, amidst the acclamations of all present.

After the banquet, the Lord Mayor gave "The health of our most gracious Sovereign Queen Victoria," and the Queen gracefully bowed in acknowledgment of the enthusiastic acclamations with which the toast was received. The common crier then announced "Her Majesty gives the Lord Mayor, and prosperity to the City of London," and the shouting and cheering were renewed; and then came the only other toast of the evening, "the Royal Family;" which having been duly honoured, the Queen at half-past eight rose, and took her departure, in one of her Majesty's private carriages.

On her Majesty's return, when arrived at Cheapside, she was greeted with "God save the Queen," sung by many hundred voices, accompanied by a band of wind instruments—a performance arranged by the Harmonic Society, who had obtained permission to use for the purpose the galleries, which had been appropriated in the morning to the scholars of the City of London schools. This, however, was but a sample, slightly varied in the mode of exemplification, of the enthusiasm which attended the young "Queen of the Isles," all the way to her palace: in the midst of which, the rain having ceased for a time, the illuminations, which were upon a grand scale, appeared to great advantage.





MARCH.—WOODCOCK SHOOTING.

THE CORONATION OF QUEEN VICTORIA.

THE Coronation of our most gracious Queen took place on the 28th of June, 1838. The ceremony was conducted in most respects after the abridged model of that of William IV.; the walking procession of all the estates of the realm, and the banquet in Westminster-hall, being dispensed with. The consequence was that while the Coronation of George IV. cost £240,000, that of Queen Victoria cost only £70,000: but, in point of effect, the latter far surpassed the former; for in this the confiding loyalty of a nation, already proud of their young Queen, and full of the brightest hopes of a long and happy future, under a virtuous rule, gave a colour and a life to every incident which no tinsel glitter, no cumbrous ceremonial of Courts could supply. Moreover, while the senseless mummeries of the banquet, last remnants of feudal times, were foregone, the out-door procession was lengthened, extending up Constitution-hill, and thence down Piccadilly, St. James's-street, Pall-Mall, &c.; and so affording to hundreds of thousands the pleasure of seeing their Sovereign on her way to, and on her return from, the sacred edifice where she received the crown of her ancestors. London had little rest all the day and night which preceded that auspicious 28th of June; the provinces, too, were still pouring in their thousands—not by copious streams of railroad, as now, but tediously by mail and stage-coach, and post-horse—but still pouring in, it is said, to the number of some 400,000; and Londoner and visitor from the provinces were all eagerly engaged making preparations of toilette in honour of the occasion, and making treaty, by means of love, or interest, or money, for places from whence to see either the interior or exterior ceremony.

Long before sunrise all the City of London, and all the suburbs of the metropolis, all the villages and hamlets for miles around had become, as it were, deserted; their inhabitants all thronging into the City of Westminster, where they wait the live-long morning, till ten o'clock, when salvos of artillery announced the departure of the Queen from Buckingham Palace. The gorgeous splendour of our Royal state processions are pretty generally known; the principal

novel features in that of this day were the splendid equipages of the Foreign Ambassadors Extraordinary, which were all new for the occasion, and very superb—the Yagers in their splendid uniforms being very conspicuous.

It was half-past eleven when the Queen reached the western door of Westminster Abbey, which was crowded within by spectators admitted by tickets—most of whom (and amongst them the writer) had been in their places since the opening of the doors at four o'clock. The appearance of the young Queen had the magical life-giving effect of a sun-ray upon a world of unrest. The waking and watching of the past long night were at once forgotten; the sleepest eyes brightened up with new fire as the glittering array of one of the most interesting proceedings in our nation's history passed along beneath the venerable pile. It was remarked, of the Queen, as she walked up the nave, that her slight girlish figure was evidently oppressed with the weight of the embroidered robes appropriated to the occasion. More than once she raised her small hands to lift the load from her shoulders; and as this simple natural action was noticed—as noticed it was by the numerous assembly—many a fervent prayer was ejaculated that that burthen might be the heaviest Victoria might have to wear throughout her reign—now solemnly inaugurating. Of the ceremonial which ensued, and the many touching incidents with which it was marked, we have not room to speak; sure we are, however, that the remembrance of them will never be effaced from the minds of those who were present. At a quarter to four o'clock, the Queen, wearing now her crown, and carrying her sceptre, moved in procession out at the west door; and as she went forth upon her sacred mission of love and duty, many a voice exclaimed, "God bless her!"

In the evening the whole town was illuminated; the theatres were thrown open to the public free of payment; and fireworks were displayed from the Green Park. The Queen gave a splendid dinner to a hundred guests; and amongst other parties given in honour of the occasion was a grand ball at the Duke of Wellington's, for which 2000 invitations were issued. Furthermore, for the gratification of the general public, a fair was held in Hyde-park, which was open two days.





APRIL.—STEEPLE-CHASING.

THE MARRIAGE OF THE QUEEN AND PRINCE ALBERT.

THIS interesting event—interesting not only to the illustrious parties concerned, but to the country whose future destinies are intimately bound up with the happiness of her Majesty in her domestic relations—took place on the 10th February, 1840, at the Chapel Royal, St. James's. The ceremony was, of course, a much less public one than the Coronation, and less gorgeous in its accessorial details; but by the privileged few who were present, it is described as more deeply interesting and picturesque in its general effect.

At twenty-five minutes past twelve, Prince Albert, accompanied by his father and brother, and attended by a small suite of German officers, and preceded by drums and trumpets, and certain officers of her Majesty's household, entered the chapel and took his place at the altar. Throughout his passage, till he entered the sacred precincts, he was greeted with the hearty cheering with which Englishmen welcome a foreign guest about to become domesticated amongst them—the men clapping their hands, the ladies waving their handkerchiefs and smiling with evident interest and delight. He wore a Field-Marshal's uniform, with the collar of the Garter, and carried a Bible bound in green velvet in his hand. The Lord Chamberlain, preceded by the drums and trumpets, then returned to the throne-room, where her Majesty was, to attend her to the chapel; and in the course of a few minutes the doors again opened, and, amidst the performance of the National Anthem, the Queen, attended by twelve bridesmaids, the *élite* of the beauty of the day, and a splendid procession of all the officers of the Court, entered the chapel, and advanced with a slow and dignified step to the altar. The ceremony then proceeded according to the accustomed ritual, the Queen pronouncing what was required of her in it in an audible manner, with a voice remarkable for brilliancy and musical tone. The Duke of Sussex gave the bride away; and exactly at a quarter to one o'clock the pealing of the guns in the Park announced that at that moment the happy Bridegroom had placed

the ring upon the finger of his Royal Bride. The remaining benedictions over, the Queen shook hands cordially with the members of the Royal Family present; amongst whom, with a marked affection, the Queen Dowager Adelaide, who had watched the proceedings throughout with almost the interest of a mother. Prince Albert also kissed the Queen Dowager's hand, and acknowledged her congratulations; and then taking the hand of his Wife and Queen in his, walked with her out of the chapel, the Royal pair being attended by her Majesty's suite.

Her Majesty and the Prince proceeded to Buckingham Palace, where a splendid breakfast was prepared for the illustrious visitors invited to the marriage; after partaking of which the happy couple proceeded to Windsor Castle to pass the honeymoon.

In the evening a grand State Banquet was given at St. James's Palace, and dinner parties were given by the Queen Dowager, and the various members of the Cabinet. For the public enjoyment the theatres were thrown open gratis; and the streets were magnificently illuminated.

A description of the wedding cake used at these Royal Nuptials may be interesting in after time. It weighed nearly 300lb, and was three yards in circumference and about fourteen inches thick; made of the choicest materials, and covered with sugar of the purest white. On the top was seen the figure of Britannia, in the act of blessing the illustrious Bride and Bridegroom, who were represented somewhat incongruously in the costume of ancient Rome. These figures were nearly a foot in height. At the foot of Prince Albert was a dog, emblem of faithfulness; at those of the Queen a pair of turtle doves. A Cupid writes in a volume the date of the happy marriage; whilst various other Cupids sport, enjoying themselves as such interesting personages generally do. On the top of the cake were numerous bouquets of white flowers, tied with true-lovers' knots of white satin ribbon, intended for presents to the guests at the nuptial breakfast.





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.





JUNE.—OTTER-HUNTING.

VISIT OF KING LOUIS PHILIPPE TO QUEEN VICTORIA.

IN September, 1843, Queen Victoria first set the example of sealing and confirming with the Royal sanction the amicable relations, of nearly thirty years' duration, between England and France, by paying King Louis Philippe a visit at the Château of Eu. For although this visit was strictly personal, there can be no doubt that it was intended, not alone as a mark of esteem towards the then ruler of the French nation, but, through him, of amicable and goodwill towards the French nation also. And if, unhappily, the generous confidence displayed by the illustrious guest was afterwards abused, as it is to be feared it was in the case of the Spanish marriages, there was no suspicion of this being the case till some time afterwards; and when, in October, 1844, the aged King, accompanied by his son, the Duke de Montpensier, and M. Guizot, his Prime Minister, arrived in England, to return the visit of our Queen, he was received along the whole line of his journey with a right honest welcome, and at Windsor Castle with right regal honours.

In the course of the magnificent festivities which were held in honour of the French King's visit, was a grand Chapter of the Garter, at which his Majesty was invested with the insignia of that illustrious Order. In connection with this ceremony, an anecdote is told of Louis Philippe, upon the authority of an eyewitness, strongly indicative of his desire for peace between the two countries. When the Bishop of Winchester, as Chancellor of the Order, arrived at the part of the ceremony where the knight is called upon to declare that he "will not make any unjust or unholy war upon the Sovereign of the Order," the King interrupted the prelate, and emphatically exclaimed, more than once, "No, I never will!" The same sentiments were expressed at greater length in replying to addresses from the Corporations of Windsor and of London. "The union of France and England," he said, "is of great importance to both nations; our view should be PEACE, while we leave every other country in the possession of those blessings which it has pleased Divine Providence to bestow on them.

France has nothing to ask of England, and England has nothing to ask of France, but cordial union."

On the Saturday previous to his departure (October 12), Louis Philippe visited the ancient College of Eton, in company with Queen Victoria, Prince Albert, and a numerous suite. The reception on the part of the scholars was most enthusiastic;—a fact which Louis Philippe gracefully commemorated in the book, when signing his name, by adding to it—"encore ému de l'accueil, que lui ont fait les élèves de cette honorable college."

King Lou's Philippe did not go to the British capital, any more than Queen Victoria had done to that of France; and he probably avoided doing so for fear of exciting the jealousy of his own subjects, who in their newspapers had already begun to quarrel with him for talking so much about peace, which they considered unworthy of him as the leader of a great and brave nation.

Louis Philippe, accompanied by his Royal hostess, started for Gosport on the 14th Oct.; his Majesty intending to depart thence, for Treport, near Eu, in his own ship, the *Gomer*; but a heavy storm suddenly coming on, the route was changed, and the King of the French went the same evening from Gosport to the Nine Elms station of the South-Western Railway, and thence to the New Cross station of the South-Eastern, where a special train was in readiness to convey him to Dover. At the very moment of his Majesty's arrival at the New Cross station, a conflagration which destroyed the engine house was at its height. Louis Philippe arrived at Dover at half-past two, a.m., on the 15th Oct.; and, after a few hours' rest, crossed to Calais in the French steamer *Le Nord*.

Meantime, after the departure of the French King from Gosport, Queen Victoria, undismayed by the temporary war of the elements, started for the Isle of Wight in her yacht the *Comet*. On her way, her Majesty paid the French Admiral La Suse, the honour of a visit, on board the *Gomer*; where, after partaking of a *déjeuner*, she gave in French the toast of "the Health of his Majesty, King Louis Philippe"—so truly gracious and sincere was her hospitality to the last.





JULY.—ANGLING.

OPENING OF THE NEW ROYAL EXCHANGE.

As the old Royal Exchange was opened by Queen Elizabeth in person, so the new building, erected after the destruction of the former by fire, was opened in person by Queen Victoria, accompanied by her Royal Consort. The inauguration of this new temple of commerce took place on Monday, the 28th of October, 1844. At eleven o'clock on that day, Queen Victoria and the Prince Consort set forth, in the splendid state carriage, from Buckingham Palace, accompanied by a numerous and brilliant suite, and proceeded along the Park into Pall Mall, and thence by Charing Cross, along the Strand to Temple Bar, where the Lord Mayor and civic authorities, in their finest court costume, were in attendance to receive their illustrious guests, and conduct them to the interesting scene of the day's ceremonial. It should here be stated, that upon its arriving at the bottom of St. James's-street, the Royal cortège was joined by the Ambassadors from foreign courts, in their splendid carriages. All the length of the streets through which our gracious Queen passed, the footways and windows—ay, even the roofs of the houses—were crowded with her loyal subjects, dressed out in their best, who rent the air with lusty cheering; the women waving their handkerchiefs—the men their hats; eager attention and curiosity expressed in every countenance. Flags and banners, too, waved from many a conspicuous point, mingled with inscriptions of respect and loyalty appropriate to the occasion; and, in the midst of all this confused animation, were heard the pealing of the various parish bells and strains of inciting music from the military bands.

A little better than one hour was occupied by this gorgeous out-door proceeding. At a quarter-past twelve o'clock the Royal carriage arrived at the great western entrance of the Exchange, when the band struck up "God Save the Queen;" the Royal standard was hoisted on the topmost point of the building; beneath it hung a flag, in which the Gresham, Mercers', and City arms were combined. Preceded by the Lord Mayor, her Majesty and the Royal party walked once round to the Merchants' Area, or quadrangle, after which she

proceeded to the Subscribers' Room at Lloyd's (which, as well as the Merchants' Area, was already thronged with visitors admitted by tickets), where a loyal address was presented to her Majesty by the Lord Mayor and Corporation, to which she made a gracious reply:—"It delights me to behold the restoration of this noble edifice, which my Royal ancestors regarded with favour, and which I esteem worthy of my care. Within the last three years, when fire had destroyed the ancient building, my beloved Consort laid the new foundation,\* and this day I gladly celebrate the completion of the work, quickly executed, but grand and perfect in all its parts. The relief of the indigent, the advancement of science, the extension of commerce, were the objects contemplated by the founder of the Exchange. These objects are near to my heart. Their attainment will, I trust, be recorded among the peaceful triumphs of my reign; and I shall rejoice if I am thus enabled, by the blessing of Divine Providence, to promote the prosperity and happiness of all classes of my subjects."

The Queen then conferred upon the Lord Mayor, Mr. (afterwards Sir William) Magnay, the honour of a Baronetcy; and several persons were presented to her Majesty, amongst others, Mr. Tite, the architect of the building, who had the honour of kissing hands.

After a splendid banquet (the plate used being estimated at £100,000), at which her Majesty drank "Prosperity to the City of London," the Royal cortège proceeded again, in great state, to the quadrangle of the building, where the Queen proclaimed, in an audible voice, "It is my Royal will and pleasure that this building be hereafter called the Royal Exchange."

And then (at half-past two), amidst tumultuous cheering and the clang of trumpets, and the swelling strains of the national anthem, Queen Victoria descended again the steps of the Exchange, and entering one of her private carriages, returned, followed by her suite to Buckingham Palace.

\* Prince Albert laid the foundation-stone of the new building, 17th June, 1842.





AUGUST.—GROUSE SHOOTING.

OPENING OF THE GREAT EXHIBITION MAY 1, 1851.

Of all the events of the present eventful epoch, none has been of more deep and enduring interest than the opening of the Great Exhibition of 1851. The pageantry of peace with which it was conducted, will form, if we mistake not, the brightest page in Queen Victoria's brilliant reign. Never dawned a brighter morn than on that ever-memorable "May-day;" the sky clear and blue, the sun coming forth in undimmed splendour, the air crisp, cool, yet genial, as a poet's spring morn should be. London, with her countless thousands, was early afoot; by six o'clock, the hour fixed for opening the park-gates, streams of carriages, all filled with gaily-attired company, came pouring in from all parts of the metropolis and the surrounding districts, while whole masses of pedestrians marched in mighty phalanx towards the scene of action. All St. James's Park, all the way up Constitution Hill, all the way along Knightsbridge and Rotten-row, was one sea of heads, whose owners were all intent upon one object—to catch a glimpse of her Majesty and splendid suite on her way to the Palace of Industry. The procession was of what is termed "half state"—instead of the cumbersome state carriage, her Majesty and Prince Albert went in a private "dress" carriage and pair, their suite occupying seven other similar carriages.

Within the Crystal Palace the fortunate ticket-holders had begun to assemble at nine o'clock. The Duke of Wellington, the hero of a hundred fights, was one of the earliest arrivals, and was loudly cheered, as with unmistakable interest and pleasure he paid his homage to the Genius of Industry. These plaudits were perhaps dealt with increased warmth and volume on account of the auspicious day itself being the Duke's birthday. Of other arrivals, including the Ministers, it is unnecessary to speak; suffice to say that by eleven o'clock the Crystal Palace was filled with such an assemblage (30,000 in number), as had never before been brought together under one roof; though this number was far surpassed—doubled, tripled—on many subsequent days during the Exhibition.

At twelve o'clock a flourish of trumpets proclaimed the arrival of the Queen,

signified outside by the elevation of the Royal standard at the northern summit of the roof of the transept. As her Majesty and Prince Albert, accompanied by the Prince of Wales and Princess Royal entered under the crystal arched roof, through the handsome bronzed and gilded northern gates, erected by the Coalbrookdale Company, through the adjacent spaces decorated by gorgeous exotics, sparkling fountains, and choice statuary, and as the flourish of trumpet and clarion proclaimed this their state entry, a most deafening burst of applause came from the concourse of loyal subjects around her, who rose to welcome the Royal pair. The sight was overwhelmingly grand. The Queen having taken her seat in her chair of state—the Royal Commissioners, Foreign Ministers, and members of the Cabinet, in their Court dresses and splendid uniforms, being ranged around her chair—the National Anthem was performed by a choir of nearly a thousand voices, accompanied on the organ by Messrs Goss and Turl.

His Royal Highness Prince Albert then descended from the dais, and, taking his place with the other Commissioners, read an address; to which her Majesty made a gracious reply. And then after a prayer for the occasion, read by the Archbishop of Canterbury, the Royal Procession was formed, which made the entire circuit of the building; the organs playing, and the choirs singing, the "Hallelujah Chorus." On her Majesty's return to the platform, the Queen declared the "Exhibition opened;" which was announced to the public by a flourish of trumpets, and the firing of a Royal salute from the *Serpentine*. The Queen then retired, and the barriers were thrown open, and the public allowed to circulate through the wondrous pile.

The ceremonial was one, it may be said, without precedent or rival. While the race of man exists, this solemn and magnificent occasion will not readily fade away from his memory like the "baseless fabric of a vision;" it commenced an era in which the sons of toil shall receive honour and reward; at the same time stimulating the energies of man to conquer "fresh domains," and discover new faculties of nature and her products, for the well-being and use of his fellow-creatures.



NATIONAL SPORTS.



SEPTEMBER.—PARTRIDGE SHOOTING.

THE OPENING OF PARLIAMENT BY HER MAJESTY.

The state opening of Parliament, on the first day of session, by the Sovereign, is no unmeaning pageant. Gorgeous and exciting as the whole proceeding is both along the line of the Royal procession, and within the splendidly decorated House of Peers, there is in the mind of every loyal and patriotic subject a deeper feeling of interest arising out of a consideration of the importance of the occasion itself. It is the solemn act of recognition by the supreme Head of the State of the powers and privileges of the other two Estates of the Realm, and of surrender into their hands of the destinies of the empire. For, although the Sovereign upon these occasions delivers a Speech from the Throne, prepared by the responsible Ministers of the Crown, giving a general view of the state of affairs, and directing attention to subjects which it is considered might properly occupy the attention of Parliament—this document is generally so cautiously worded, as to leave the deliberative wisdom of the State free to deal with them in such manner as it may deem best. A charge of vagueness has, in consequence, very commonly been brought against Royal Speeches; but, we think, unjustly. It would be an act of presumption—to use a mild term—for a Government, speaking by the mouth of the Sovereign, to lay down, at the outset of a deliberative session, positions upon great questions of polity, in such a manner as to prejudice the freedom and fullness of discussion. By wisely avoiding this error, the Parliamentary business of the year is generally set about without any strong manifestation of antagonistic feelings; the “Address” in reply to the Speech being agreed to without much discussion, and generally without amendment or division.

Queen Victoria opened the first Parliament of her reign, on the 20th November, 1837. The Peers then sat in the Painted Chamber—the “House” temporarily provided for them, pending the building of the new Houses. It was not till ten years afterwards, July, 1847, that her Majesty entered the new House of Lords, and then for the purpose of proroguing Parliament. The Royal procession first entered beneath the magnificent Victoria Tower (see Engraving), at the opening of the session of 1852.

The new Palace of Westminster, erected under the superintendence of Sir Charles Barry, was commenced in 1835. In style it is late Gothic, of the Tudor period. The river frontage is nearly 1000 feet long; and, when the building is complete, it will cover an area of nearly nine acres. The river front consists of a centre compartment, with towers, two wings, and wing towers at each end. The wings and centre portion are divided into thirty-five bays by hexagonal buttresses, with tracery and pinnacles to each. Each bay contains between the principal windows the arms and supporters of all the Sovereigns of England, from William the First to her present Majesty. The wing towers project in advance of the main building, and have oriel windows, and rich paneling; over the centre of the building where the grand hall separates the House of Lords from the House of Commons, is a stately tower. The Victoria Tower, at the south end of the building, is a stately tower, will be 370 feet high: through the spacious gateway of this tower the Royal state carriage enters; from which her Majesty alights, and ascends to the main floor of the building by a staircase on the left. Thence she proceeds to the Robing-room, and from that through the Victoria Gallery, to the throne at the end of the House of Lords. The procession through this portion of the building presents a brilliant *coup d’œil*. But still more brilliant is the appearance of things within the house itself: a magnificent saloon, 90 feet long, by 45 broad, and 45 high; with its richly carved and gilded ceiling, its painted windows, its fine fresco paintings, and stately furniture—this truly Royal apartment, crowded for the occasion with the highest and most distinguished both by birth and position, and personal merit in the land; and the representatives of Foreign Courts. At the extreme south end on an elevated dais is the Queen, sitting on her throne, and surrounded by the Great Officers of State, herself the “cynosure of every eye,” and at a given signal the members of the House of Commons, with the Speaker at their head, come rushing and tumbling up to the bar, at the extreme end facing the throne, to hear her Majesty’s most gracious Speech. Such is the imposing scene enacted twice every year.





OCTOBER.—PHEASANT SHOOTING.

VISIT OF THE QUEEN TO THE CAMP AT CHOBHAM.

The attention paid of late years to the efficiency of our defences, both by sea and land, and especially under the present Ministry, is very creditable to the authorities; and the result of the extraordinary exhibition of the resources of both forces which were made in the course of last year cannot fail of inspiring the most gratifying confidence in their efficiency and undeniable discipline. The Camp at Chobham was established in June, and was first occupied by troops on the 14th of that month. In the course of the two months which ensued, nearly every regiment in the service, then in the United Kingdom, had its turn of camp life, and its lessons of field practice in it.

It was on the 21st of June, exactly one week after the first assembling of the troops, that the Queen and Prince Albert paid their first visit to Chobham, accompanied by the King and Queen of Hanover, and many other Royal and distinguished personages. The Royal tent was erected at Magnet Hill, whence a good view of the Camp and surrounding ground could be obtained.

At half-past ten o'clock, the whole division composing the Camp was under arms in front of their respective quarters, in readiness to receive the Queen. The spectacle at this period was very imposing. The cavalry cresting the high ground on the right, the brigade of Guards extending across the valley, and the two infantry brigades stretching out to the extreme left, flanked by the Royal Artillery, with a white wall of canvas to fill up the picture, formed a grand military *coup-d'œil*. The weather was propitious; the sun not too bright. An immense multitude of spectators, estimated at not less than 100,000, from London and from all parts of the country, were present.

At half-past eleven the Queen, with her brilliant *cortège*, arrived at the Royal tent, and to the delight of the little army, and of all others present, upon descending from her carriage, immediately mounted a caparisoned charger, upon which she rode forth in the direction of the Camp. Her Majesty wore a blue riding habit, with a basque jacket fitting closely to the figure, and having on the breast a rich gold aiguillette and a brilliant Garter star; a round riding hat,

having in the front a small military plume of red and white feathers. The horse of her Majesty, a graceful dark-bay charger, was caparisoned with rich housings and gold trappings. His Royal Highness Prince Albert was attired in the uniform of a field-marshal. Her Majesty had upon her right Prince Albert, and upon her left the Duke of Saxe-Coburg; and was attended by Lord C. Fitzroy and the Hon. Dudley de Ros. Her Majesty looked remarkably well, and the somewhat *militaire* appearance of her costume increased, if possible, the enthusiasm with which the troops received their Royal Mistress. The cheering from the multitude of civilians was immense, rolling over the crowded common as if it would never tire or cease.

A series of brilliant evolutions having been gone through, a sham battle followed, which the Queen watched with great interest, and joined in the general hilarity when a simultaneous charge of Carabineers and 17th Lancers dispersed a multitude of lookers-on from the heights on the left of the Royal position, and which, for the occasion, were, perhaps unconsciously, "the enemy," against which the combined operations of the troops had been directed. The victory being thus obtained to the British flag, the staff approached her Majesty's tent, and the troops defiled past. First came the cavalry regiments, who, headed by their bands, trotted past the Queen. As each regiment defiled, its band moved to the right, and took up a position opposite the Royal tent. The appearance of the troops excited universal admiration. Each regiment had its friends, and the whole was certainly a display of which the nation might well be proud. It may be fearlessly asserted that there is no country in the world from whose army, however large, 9000 men could be brought together that, either in height, size, strength, vigour, health, or appearance, would bear comparison with the men who passed before Queen Victoria on this occasion on Chobham Common.

Shortly after three o'clock the Queen and the Royal party (after having partaken of luncheon), left the Common, and returned to town by the South-Western Railway.



NATIONAL SPORTS.



NOVEMBER.—FOX HUNTING.

GRAND REVIEW OF THE BRITISH FLEET AT SPITHEAD.

The great Naval Review at Spithead, on the 11th of August, 1853, was the most magnificent spectacle of its class which has occurred in the time of the present generation. The last display of the kind occurred on the 25th of June, 1814, when the Prince Regent entertained the Allied Sovereigns with a demonstration at Spithead, in which fifteen sail of the line and as many frigates manoeuvred for the entertainment of the distinguished visitors. But the evolutions on that occasion were few and unimportant; as the absence of wind rendered the men-of-war as helpless as so many logs upon the water; while on the 11th of August each immense vessel was as manageable as a Thames wherry, and did her allotted work with the precision of an automaton. During the forty years that had elapsed since the two reviews, a new element had been evoked—a new power had been discovered; and British coal and iron had come to share in the duty of national defence, which British oak had previously monopolised.

The squadron reviewed consisted of 25 vessels, of which 9 were ships of the line, including the *Duke of Wellington* screw steamer of 131 guns. The following is a summary of the imposing force thus assembled:—

EMPS.	No	Guns.	Men.	Horse-pr.	Tons.
Screw .. .. .	13	664	6,085	5,450	24,226
Paddle .. .. .	9	127	2,130	4,330	11,626
Sailing .. .. .	3	296	2,610	..	8,294
Grand Total .. .. .	25	1,087	10,825	9,780	44,146

In addition to the above, which formed the service fleet, there were also present at Spithead nine men-of-war steamers and eleven yachts and steam-tenders,

and other smaller vessels, making a grand total of upwards of fifty vessels of all sizes bearing the Royal pennant.

The Lords of the Admiralty, the members of both Houses of Parliament, and the *corps diplomatique*, were conveyed to the scene in Royal steamers specially allotted to them. And at eleven o'clock, the *Victoria and Albert*, having the Queen and Prince Albert on board, arrived; and after her Majesty had honoured the Admiral of the Fleet, Sir Thomas Cochrane, with a visit on board the *Duke of Wellington*, the fleet put to sea in double line. Arrived on the other side of the Isle of Wight, the fleet formed in line, and a grand mimic sea-fight was performed, followed by a general chase; afterwards a boat attack, and other manoeuvres were gone through with admirable precision and effect. A writer who was present thus describes the scene towards the close of the day:—"As the wind slowly rolled the clouds to leeward of the flotilla, bringing into view boat after boat and the hulls of steamers, the *coup d'œil* was one which no language can convey, for it was instinct with motion—teeming with energetic life. The boats were returning to their respective ships, from which the signal of recall had been hoisted; or, with oars aloft, were lying to off the late "enemy;" on the white beach at Southsea, as far as the eye could reach, thousands of people were gathered in the full enjoyment of the spectacle: every mound—every hillock—the ramparts of the fortifications, the tops of houses—any and every place, in fact, from which a view of Spithead could be had, were black with a swarm of human beings. Everything that could float and move by sail or oar—collected from all parts of the neighbouring shores, was on the water floating about, so as to shut out the face of the waves beneath a shifting veil of rope, and wood, and canvas. The Royal yacht, beset with them like a queen bee by its loving subjects, floated tranquilly, the centre of innumerable *lorgnettes* and prying eyes. Her Majesty remained afloat until all was over, at seven o'clock, and then returned to Osborne. Thus terminated a spectacle unprecedented in this country, and that could be produced nowhere else—a spectacle which well accords with our national sympathies, and which is doubly gratifying from the light in which it places the efficiency of our navy."





DECEMBER.—WILD DUCK SHOOTING.

QUEEN VICTORIA'S VISITS TO IRELAND.

VICTORIA is the first British Queen who has trod upon Irish soil, and the second of our Monarchs who has visited that portion of the empire with any other than hostile intent. Her Majesty's first visit to the Sister Isle took place in 1849. The enthusiasm of her reception, the intense feelings of pride and gratification, which it afforded to the warm-hearted sons of Erin will long be remembered, but would baffle any attempt at description in this brief notice.

On the 1st of August, at three p.m., the Queen and the Prince Consort, accompanied by the Prince of Wales, the Princess Royal, Princess Alice, and Prince Alfred, and attended by a numerous suite, embarked at Osborne on board the *Victoria and Albert* steam-yacht, which immediately got under way, and arrived at the Cove of Cork the next evening, at a little before ten. On August 3, after making the tour of Cork harbour, in the *Fairy* yacht, the Royal party landed at Cove, and thence proceeded to Cork, the principal streets of which they drove round, and in the evening returned on board the *Victoria and Albert*.

The Royal squadron arrived at Kingstown about seven o'clock on the evening of the 5th (Sunday); and the next morning, at half-past nine, a deputation, including Prince George of Cambridge, the Archbishop of Dublin, the Lord Chancellor, the Duke of Leinster, &c., waited upon her Majesty on board, to pay their respects. At ten, the Royal party landed, and proceeded by railway to Dublin, and thence to the Vice-Regal Lodge, amidst the enthusiastic cheers of the multitude. In the afternoon the Queen, attended by the Countess of Clarendon, drove to see the Botanical Gardens and round Phoenix Park. The streets were decorated with banners and triumphal arches, and in the evening were illuminated.

On the 7th the Royal party visited the Bank, the National Board of Education, Trinity College, and (in the evening) Kilmalsham Hospital. At night the town was again illuminated.

On the 8th a levee was held, at which no less than 1900 persons were presented, many with loyal addresses from Dublin and various parts of the country. The presentations occupied from two to six p.m.; meantime a dinner was given

to a thousand poor persons. In the evening there was a concert at the Regal Lodge.

On the 9th there was a grand review in the Phoenix Park, and in the evening a Drawingroom at the Castle, at which upwards of 1700 persons were present.

On the 10th the Queen honoured the Duke of Leinster with a visit at Carton; and in the evening sailed for Belfast, where she landed next day, shortly after two p.m. Her Majesty having visited the principal manufacturing establishments, and other objects of interest in that flourishing town, sailed in the afternoon of the following day (the 12th) for Glasgow, en route for Balmoral.

Her Majesty again visited Ireland, in 1853, under circumstances peculiarly interesting—namely, to honour with her presence the Great Industrial Exhibition of Dublin, which had been got up in humble, but generous emulation of our ever-memorable Exhibition of 1851. The Queen, on this occasion, sailed from Holyhead, early on the morning of Monday, the 30th of August, and landed at Kingstown at eight o'clock on the same morning. Her Majesty, accompanied by Prince Albert, the Prince of Wales, and Prince Alfred, visited, on the same day, the Great Exhibition (illustrated on the preceding page,) where a splendid dais was erected for her reception, on which was a Throne of State.

Just as the clock struck eleven, an immense cheer outside the building announced the arrival of the Queen—the great centre door was thrown open, and her Majesty, leaning on the arm of Prince Albert—the Royal children walking beside—entered the handsome edifice, amidst a tremendous chorus of human voices, waving of handkerchiefs and hats. As her Majesty proceeded up the hall the cheering was again and again renewed, until her Majesty reached the dais, where she stood in evident admiration of the magnificent scene before her. The committee, who, headed by their chairman, Mr. George Roe, led the way, having reached the foot of the raised dais, formed a semicircle at its base. A loyal address was then presented, to which her Majesty returned a gracious reply. Both the Queen and Prince Albert seemed deeply touched with the splendour of the scene, and the enthusiastic welcome with which their presence was greeted.