



PORTRAIT OF HER MAJESTY THE QUEEN OF PORTUGAL.—FROM "THE ILLUSTRATED LONDON NEWS."

THE MARRIAGE OF THE KING OF PORTUGAL
WITH THE PRINCESS STEPHANIE.

The marriage by proxy of the King of Portugal with the Princess Stephanie took place at the Church of St. Hedwige, Berlin, on Thursday, the 29th April, 1858, in presence of the Prince of Prussia and a Royal party. The bride was accompanied by her parents, the Prince and Princess of Hohenzollern Sigmaringen.

The Prince Bishop of Breslau officiated. He opened his sermon with a description of the nature of matrimony, as the earliest, closest, and holiest of all human ties. Having alluded then to the importance of the career which the bride was about to enter upon, he concluded with pointing to the celestial example of the Holy Virgin, and the earthly pattern of St. Elizabeth of Portugal, who came likewise from a foreign country to the throne of her husband, and, under severe trials, distinguished herself as a noble-minded Sovereign, tender wife, a loving mother of her country, and true daughter of the Church.

Immediately after the conclusion of the marriage ceremony the grandees who had been sent by the King of Portugal to receive his Queen from the hands of his proxy stepped forward, and in front of the altar, and in the presence of the whole assemblage, knelt down successively to kiss the hand

of their young Sovereign. The Duke of Terceira, a tall, martial-looking man, with grey hair and a white beard, whose countenance reminded the Prussians of that of Blucher, was the first to pay his homage to his newly-gained Queen. This ceremony, which concluded the ecclesiastical part of the proceedings, had something deeply affecting in it. The young Queen seemed scarcely able to suppress her emotion at the moment when this homage was rendered to her in the midst of such a splendid throng, and on a consecrated spot. Everybody in the company was affected at the thought that this was the turning-point in the life of one who had hitherto, in her rural retreat, been all-unconscious of the proud dignity which awaited her. Brought up in a little Suabian country town, where her father resided, until the year '48, a petty Sovereign, the Princess, and the Hohenzollern family, in consequence of the revolutionary movements of that time, established themselves in Prussia, where the younger branch of the house had, centuries ago, ascended the throne of the country. The Principality of Hohenzollern then became an integral portion of Prussia, and the elder branch of the family was recognised anew as belonging to the Royal dynasty of the country. Since that time the parents of Princess Stephanie have resided at Dusseldorf, on the Rhine, whence they visited Berlin only at rare intervals. The elder branch of the Hohenzollern family have never been Protestants. The Princess Stephanie-Frédérique-Wilhelmine-Antoinette was born on the 15th July, 1837.