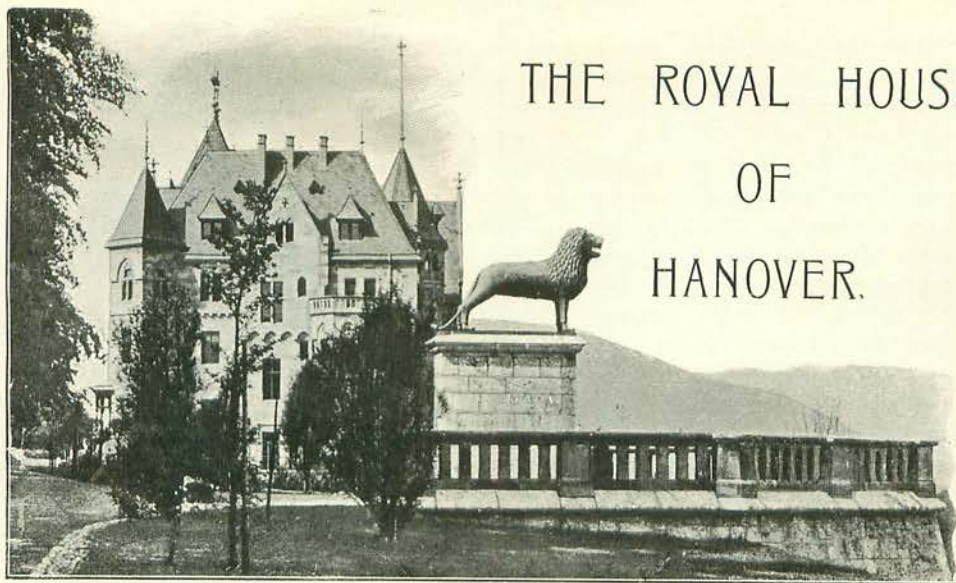


THE ROYAL HOUSE OF HANOVER.



Cumberland Lodge, Gmunden.

THE Royal House of Hanover, of which our Queen is a member, is one of the most ancient in Europe, and since the marriage of the Elector of Hanover to the Princess Sophia the history of England has been so much mixed up with that of Hanover that it is difficult to speak about one country without mentioning the other. Sophia was both beautiful and witty, but her eldest son, who succeeded his father, and who carried on the line, had little of his mother's charming disposition. This eldest son, afterwards George I. of England, married the beautiful and unfortunate Sophie Dorothea of Celle, the story of whose romantic life has lately been told by Mr. W. H. Wilkins, in his "Love of an Uncrowned Queen." From George I.'s accession to the throne of England to the accession of Queen Victoria, Hanover and Great Britain remained united under one sovereign. Until George III. came to the throne, Hanover was undoubtedly the favourite country; the third George, however, was born in England, and his proudest boast was that he was an Englishman, so that under his rule Great Britain came in for her share of favour, and Hanover was left to the care of a Regent, and was chiefly managed by the Ministers and the influential nobles. When Queen Victoria came to the throne

it was necessary to separate the kingdoms, as, whereas she was able to reign in Great Britain, it was not the case in Hanover, where the salic law holds good, and therefore the Duke of Cumberland became King of the German State at the same time as his niece ascended the throne of Great Britain.

Although for over thirty years there has been no reigning king of Hanover, those in favour of the restoration are not without hopes that arrangements may soon be made by which the reins of government may once more come back into the hands of the Cumberland family. Indeed it would almost seem that this arrangement had already been made, for in *The Almanach de Gotha* for 1899 the Duke of Cumberland, instead of appearing as a member of the British Royal Family appears, for the first time since the annexation of Hanover, as the Duke of Brunswick independently.



THE LATE GEORGE V.
OF HANOVER.

The Duke of Cumberland, Ernst-August by name, was, at the time he became King of Hanover, married to a princess who had made herself famous, her great beauty and her love of conquests having caused her to have been well known at most of the Courts of Europe. This Princess, who was a sister of Queen Louise of Prussia, the mother of Kaiser Wilhelm I., first married Prince Ludwig of Prussia, a younger brother of Frederick William III. of that ilk; and soon after his death, which happened in the year 1796, she married a Prince of Solms Braunsfels, who also died after not many years of married happiness, leaving her with several children. Then came the unexpected death of the only child of King George IV. of England, upon which all his bachelor brothers rushed unto matrimony, the Duke of Cumberland choosing for his wife his cousin, the widowed Princess Solms-Braunsfels, who, in spite of her thirty-seven years, was still beautiful and fascinating. She bore

Ernst-August died in the year 1851, on November 18, and was succeeded by his son, who had then been married for several years



THE PRINCESS FREDERICA
OF HANOVER.



THE DUKE OF
CUMBERLAND.



THE PRINCESS MARY OF HANOVER.

to the Princess Marie of Saxe-Altenburg, the eldest of the four beautiful daughters of the Duke Joseph of Saxe-Altenburg. The marriage had taken place on February 18, 1843, and proved a most

happy union. Of the three children of the late King George V., the eldest, the present Duke of Cumberland, was born on September 21, 1845, the Princess Frederica on January 9, 1848, and the Princess Marie on December 3, 1849.

Hanover, though connected with Prussia by tradition and by many ties of relationship, was loyal in her adherence to the ancient Empire of Austria; and when the war of 1866 was declared between the northern and southern Powers, the King of Hanover could not bring himself to declare in favour of Prussia, even though his Minister for Foreign Affairs had informed the King of Prussia that Hanover intended to be on his side in the impending campaign. King George decided otherwise, and, although he was blind, he declared his resolution of leading his

him a son, the late King of Hanover, who from his fourteenth year suffered from total blindness.

troops himself. This wish was, however, frustrated, but the King and his son left Hanover with their army, which was almost immediately afterwards defeated by the Prussians at Langensalza, and the town of Hanover was naturally later occupied by the victorious troops. Although he was defeated, King George never thought that he would lose his kingdom, for his connection with England, and the fact that he was also related by ties of blood to the Prussian Royal Family, made him expect to be let off gently; and at the commencement of the campaign it was hoped by him and the rulers of the Southern German states that Austria would prove victorious.

It was Bismarck who, on the conclusion of the war, proposed the annexation of Hanover to his master; and at first the King of Prussia absolutely refused

to listen to his advice, for he declared that it was impossible for him to annex Hanover, a country connected to Prussia by so many ties, and, above all, a country that was the senior of Prussia in point of rank, and which had always held a higher place in the Fatherland. His objections were, however, overruled by the great statesman, and Hanover became Prussian territory. It is an amusing fact that

when King William found that the annexation of his neighbour's country was carried out without difficulty, he suggested to Bismarck that they should also annex Saxony; but to this Bismarck would not agree, for political reasons, and events have proved that he was right.

The banishment of the Royal Family of Hanover caused a most painful impression in Germany, and their subjects forgot all

their grievances, and were one and all loud in their anger against the Prussians. Even now there is a very strong party in Hanover in favour of the restoration of their ancient Royal Family, which goes by the name of the Guelph party, and which is still very active.

Queen Marie of Hanover, who was as proud as she was beautiful, felt her banishment and her loss of the position of a

reigning sovereign even more than her husband did; but, forgetting her own sorrows, she devoted her life to soothing him, and in endeavouring to render his life and her children's as happy as was possible in their altered circumstances. Time has now softened the bitterness of the blow to them, but Queen Marie remains the same, and it has been chiefly her influence which has prevented any chance of a reconciliation



H.M. THE QUEEN OF HANOVER.



THE QUEEN OF HANOVER AND HER
YOUNGEST DAUGHTER.

between her son and the Prussian Sovereign. She was proud of her position as Queen of Hanover, proud of her beautiful daughters, whom she hoped to see make brilliant marriages, and her whole life was full of ambitious dreams for her family. Then came the war of 1866, and at one fell swoop everything was taken from her, and she was doomed to spend the rest of her life as an exiled sovereign.

When King George V. died, in the year 1878, the Queen of England did her best to persuade the Duke of Cumberland to come to terms with Prussia; but it was of no use, and the Duke issued a proclamation to the Powers of Europe announcing that he did not withdraw his claims, and this naturally rendered a reconciliation with the German Emperor impossible. When Hanover was annexed by Prussia, the Hanoverian Royal Family went first to Penzing, near Vienna, when the Crown Prince entered the Austrian army, and for many years they led a very quiet life. In 1871 they went to

where the Duke and Duchess of Cumberland (sister to the Princess Frederica) was well as his mother and father still live. It is a most beautiful place, and full of interesting things, which that of the Duke is the most beautiful.

Queen Marie of Hanover was doomed to another serious grief in the marriage of her eldest daughter, from whose beauty and talents she had expected such great things. The Princess Frederica, who was the favourite of her father, was in the habit of delighting him with her music, and when he went to Paris to consult his doctor, in the year 1876, she accompanied him, and during the time she was there was thrown very much in the society of his secretary, Baron von Pawel-Rammingen. A friendship grew up between the young Princess and the Baron, which ripened into love, and they determined to try to obtain the consent of the parents of the Princess to their marriage. King George died in the year 1878, but when, later, the Princess Frederica told her mother of her love for her father's secretary, Queen Marie was highly indignant, and would not for one moment



THE DUCHESS OF CUMBERLAND AND THE PRINCESS
OF WALES BEFORE THEIR MARRIAGE.

listen to the vow. The last King of Hanover died, the Duke of Cumberland was married to the Princess Thyra, the youngest of the three daughters of the King and Queen of England, as well as Her Majesty, whose Her Majesty, whose is so well known, probably as her elder sisters, has a could help her. C. Her Royal Highness, though ngly amiable character, and the the marriage of the Princess Thyra, in spite of many trials, has proved



THE DUCHESS OF CUMBERLAND WITH HER SIX CHILDREN.

Hanover to Baron von Pawel-Rammingen was celebrated at Windsor Castle.

The Queen of Hanover remained for many years unforgiving, and refused to receive her daughter or her son-in-law; but not long ago a serious illness softened her heart, and she expressed a wish to see her daughter again, since which time the Princess has paid frequent visits to her mother at Gmunden, though Her Majesty is still quite as opposed to morganatic marriages as ever.

very happy. The first months of their married life were spent very quietly, on account of the mourning for the King; but the Duchess soon found many friends in her new home, both in her mother and sister-in-law, and amongst the members of the Austrian Imperial Family.

The Duke of Brunswick, on his death, left a large property to the Duke of Cumberland, who is also the heir to the Duchy, so that now he is immensely wealthy. His Royal



THE DUCHESS OF CUMBERLAND WITH HER ELDEST DAUGHTER.

Highness, however, would not, on the death of the Duke, take possession of Brunswick, as he refused, if he did so, to resign his pretensions to Hanover, and until he does this he cannot take his place in Germany as a German Sovereign.

The private property of the late King of Hanover has also been restored to his family, and would have been their's long ago had they given a promise demanded not to use it in intriguing against the Prussians.

The family life of the Duke and Duchess of Cumberland is very happy, and they devote themselves to their children and to superintending their education. Princess Marie-Louise, the eldest, was born on October 11, 1879, and was introduced to the Court of

Vienna two weeks ago, when the Duchess of Cumberland was present, with her usual retinue of a great number of ladies and private attendants, and seemed to enjoy herself almost as much as the young Princess, who is a charming young girl, with a great resemblance to her aunt, the Dowager-Empress of Russia. The second on the list is Prince George-Wilhelm, whose recent long and painful illness has caused his parents so much anxiety. His Royal Highness, who was born on October 28, 1880, has been lately given a commission in the Austrian Army, though it is feared that his lameness will always prevent his doing active service with his regiment. He is extremely clever, and his tutors have great hopes of his proving exceptionally talented. Third comes the Princess Alexandra, who will complete her seventeenth year on September 29, and who will probably make her first appearance at the Hofburg next winter. She promises to be a great beauty. The fourth child of the Duke and Duchess of Cumberland is the



GEORGE I. OF ENGLAND.

Princess Olga, who was born on July 11, 1884; then comes Prince Christian, who was called after his grandfather, the King of Denmark; and the youngest is Prince Ernst-August, who was born on November 17, 1887.

One of the trials of the Duke has been the delicate health of the Duchess, who has several times been very much out of health, and has caused her relations the greatest anxiety. Of late years, however, Her Royal Highness has been much more robust, and since the recovery of her eldest son she has been able to go into Society with her daughter, and do many other things which were formerly an impossibility for her.

There is no more loving, affectionate mother than the Duchess of Cumberland, and during her son's illness she hardly ever left him. She is always happiest when surrounded by her six children. The Duke

one to be with who is sad, as she is so sympathetic and kind, and so ready to do all in her power to lighten the sorrows of others. To her mother-in-law she has proved a most affectionate daughter, and her love has done much to render the disappointed life of Queen Marie happier. She and the Duke and their children are always devising ways of giving the Queen pleasure, and Her Majesty finds her chief happiness in watching her son's children, her days enlivened by their loving attention. The Queen, in spite of her great age, continues to take a keen interest in all the questions of the day, and, though now she no longer expects to see her son on the throne of Hanover, she still hopes that her grandson may perhaps regain the Crown, and that the kingdom is not entirely lost to her house. The Duke and Duchess of Cum-



THE SCHLOSS, HERRENHAUSEN, HANOVER

and Duchess have often, since their marriage, joined the family party at Copenhagen, and have thoroughly enjoyed the reunion with the other members of their family. The last visit paid by their Royal Highnesses to Denmark was on the occasion of the eighty-first birthday of King Christian, but they were obliged to cut their visit very short, in order to return to Gmunden to spend the eighty-first birthday of Queen Marie with her, which fell on April 14, just six days later than that of the King of Denmark.

Since the death of the Queen of Denmark, the King has paid a long visit to Gmunden, and found it a great rest to stay with his youngest daughter in her quiet home, and he hopes to repeat the visit this summer if he is strong enough to bear the journey. The Duchess is exactly the person for any

berland divide their time between Gmunden and their palace at Penzing, and in the winter they often go to the Italian or French Riviera. In Gmunden they have many friends, as there are often members of the Austrian Imperial Family staying there, while a number of the aristocratic families of Austria have villas in the place.

With the members of the Austrian Imperial Family the Duke and Duchess are naturally on friendly terms, and more especially with the Arch-Duke and -Duchess Friedrich, who have also a large family of children, whose ages correspond with those of the Princes and Princesses of Cumberland. The Cumberlands are closely related to the Greek Royal Family, as the Queen of Greece is a niece of the Queen of Hanover, while the King is a brother of the Duchess of Cumberland.