

FEW among the thousands who make a loyal pilgrimage to Kensington Palace to view the scene of the Queen's childhood pause to notice the little iron building, half hidden amongst the trees, within the garden wall facing Palace Green. That is the studio of Princess Louise. Through the doorway, made in the wall, are brought the blocks of marble which are to be fashioned into statues and busts from the Princess's models. The studio is in the private garden, communicating with the suite of apartments in the Palace occupied by Her Royal Highness, and there she spends several hours each day when at home, enveloped in a large white apron, and with overalls covering the sleeves, busy either painting or modelling.

There is a wide distinction between the hobbies of ladies of leisure—the fashionable crazes which in turn become the rage of the season, from poker work to slumming—and a genuine devotion to the technique and expression of art shown by Princess Louise. "Professional" she cannot be, but she has spared no pains to make herself a skilled amateur. I have dwelt, first of all, upon the artistic labours of Her Royal Highness because they give the tone to her life and the key to her character. The calm, self-contained expression, the easy,

graceful carriage, and the distinguished features of Princess Louise, all bespeak strength and reserve, and there is a look in her eyes which tells of happiness and contentment derived from a satisfying inner life. The outward circumstances of Royal birth affect her but little. She forms her own atmosphere out of the occupations which she loves and the friends whom she gathers round her because of their affinity. The Princess's dinner-parties at Kensington Palace are rarely mentioned in the Court and Society news. She assembles at her table guests distinguished more for their individual achievements in the world of Art and Literature than for their place in the Peerage. The late Prince Leopold was much



THE PRINCESS LOUISE.

akin to Princess Louise in his tastes and sympathies, and used to say that he wished to make Claremont a similar centre for cultured society to that which his sister had formed at Kensington Palace.

Nothing pleases the Princess Louise better than assuming the rôle of a private lady. I heard a little story the other day which is an illustration of this. Her Royal Highness had arranged to drive in the country with a distinguished literary lady, and when about to start she said, "I wish all ceremony to be dropped; let me accompany you just as any other lady would do." Accordingly they drove off *tête-à-tête*, stopped in a village through which they were passing to make some purchases,

the early years of the Princess Louise. She was born February 27, 1848, and was the sixth child of Her Majesty the Queen. In the light of after events it is interesting to note that one of the guests invited to her first birthday-party was the Marquis of Lorne, aged four. He is described as a "fat, fair little fellow, with reddish hair, delicate features," and having a merry, independent manner. His mother, Elizabeth Duchess of Argyll, was greatly loved by the Queen, being the eldest daughter of Her Majesty's most trusted friend, Harriet Duchess of Sutherland. It was customary for the "Argyll" children to be invited to the parties of the Queen's younger children just as the "Sutherland" children had been to



Photographed from the original, in the Royal Collection at Windsor, by Eyre & Spottiswoode.

#### THE MARRIAGE CEREMONY.

called at several cottages to inquire for sick people, and no one was allowed to know that it was a daughter of the Queen who chatted so pleasantly with the cottagers and tradespeople. The Princess said afterwards that she had thoroughly enjoyed the afternoon's *incognita*.

It seems unnecessary to say much regarding

the children's parties at Buckingham Palace in the early years of the reign. No families were more honoured in this respect.

Princess Louise showed such remarkable talent as a girl for drawing and painting that special attention was given to her training in these accomplishments, and at her own request she was permitted to take lessons in

modelling and sculpture, Mrs. Thorneycroft being her instructress. The death of the Prince Consort when Princess Louise was just entering upon more advanced studies deprived her of valuable help and encouragement in her artistic aspirations. Nothing would have delighted the Prince more than to watch over the development of his daughter's talents, and to assist her in the realisation of her ambition to be a real artist. Perfection in work, for women as well as for men, was the ideal which the Prince ever set before his daughters. Deprived of this inspiring paternal companionship, Princess Louise found her home affinity in her youngest brother, Prince Leopold, whom delicate health kept apart from the pastimes and occupations of the other princes. The two were inseparable, and had quite a world of their own within the family circle. Together they read and discussed books, and encouraged each other in the special studies to which they were devoted—the Prince to music and the Princess to drawing and modelling.

It is no small tribute to the charms of Princess Louise as she grew into womanhood that she elicited quite a courtly compliment from Thomas Carlyle. The sage was not



THE PRINCESS LOUISE AT THE TIME OF  
HER MARRIAGE.

the man to speak idle words of flattery; fortunate were they who got their deserts from him. Carlyle was invited, along with Browning and one or two other literary celebrities, by Lady Augusta and Dean Stanley to meet the Queen at an informal gathering at the Deanery. Princess Louise accompanied her mother, and appears to have entered into conversation with Carlyle. In writing a description of the gathering to his sister, he says of Princess Louise, "Decidedly a very pretty young lady, and clever too, as I found out in talking to her afterwards."

The Princess was about twenty-one when the above incident took place, and the sage but echoed the opinion of all who saw her at this period. She had rich, glossy brown hair, a bright animated face with regular features, was of medium height, with a neat, graceful figure, and had great buoyancy of spirit. Various rumours were rife as to the proposals for the Princess's hand, and it was generally understood that she did not incline towards a foreign alliance. The routine of a court was not in the least suited to her love of freedom to follow her own pursuits and inclinations. At length all surmises were ended by the announcement of the



THE MARQUIS OF LORNE AT THE TIME OF  
HIS MARRIAGE.

betrothal of the Princess Louise to the Marquis of Lorne, eldest son of the Duke of Argyll, a young nobleman of amiable and estimable character, with literary tastes. As was fitting, the heir of the Campbells proposed to his future bride among the hills and glens of bonnie Scotland. The interesting occurrence took place while they were walking from the Glassalt Shiel to Loch Dhu, the Princess and the Marquis having become mysteriously separated from Lady Jane Churchill and Lord Hatherley, who had set out with them. Her Majesty was prepared for the tidings, and when, on returning to Balmoral, the young Princess sought her mother's room and told how Lord Lorne had declared his love, the Queen gave her consent and approval to their betrothal.

The marriage of the Princess Louise and the Marquis of Lorne took place at St. George's Chapel, Windsor, March 21, 1871. It was quite a Scotch wedding. The bride wore sprigs of white heather amongst her orange blossoms; the thistle mingled with the rose in the decorations of the wedding-cake; and as the bride and bridegroom entered

their carriage to drive to Claremont, where the honeymoon was spent, a broom was flung after them, for good luck, according to the old Gaelic custom. The wedding presents were largely typical in design of the union of England and Scotland, or emblematic of the traditions of the Clan Campbell. One of the most unique presents was an exact representation of the famous Brooch of Lorn, originally torn from the robe of the

royal Bruce, and afterwards used to clasp the plaid of the victorious Campbell, which Scott has immortalised in "The Lord of the Isles."

Whence the brooch of burning gold,  
That clasps the Chieftain's mantle-fold,  
Wrought and chased with rare device,  
Studded fair with gems of price?

Moulded thou for monarchs' use,  
By the overweening Bruce,  
When the Royal robe he tied  
O'er a heart of wrath and pride;  
Thence in triumph wert thou torn  
By the victor hand of Lorn.



Photo.  
by Topley,  
Ottawa.

THE PRINCESS LOUISE.

*Louise*

The home-coming to Inverary by the heir of the Campbells with his Royal bride was celebrated by a succession of *fêtes* and rejoicings in which Highland customs and good cheer played their part. Unfortunately the clerk of the weather managed badly.

The Princess and the Marquis drove to Inverary Castle through the desolate vale of Glencoe—six miles in length—in a steady downpour, arriving at the Castle some time before they were expected. There was not a single person to receive them—even the hall-porter was absent. The Princess laughed at the *contretemps*, and an hour later, when, according to all calculations, she ought to have driven up and been received in state, she appeared at the grand entrance of the Castle, along with the Marquis and the Duke and Duchess of Argyll, and received the loyal addresses from the tenantry and the salutes of the Highland Volunteers. When the rain had cleared, the Princess drove round the district in the pony-carriage which had been presented to her by the town. The festivities continued for a week, and the Princess greatly pleased the people by the grace and spirit with which she “footed” the hornpipes and reels. Those who imagined that the Royal bride would dance only quadrilles and waltzes knew nothing of the zest with which, as a girl, she had danced at Balmoral to the

music of Willie Blair, the Queen’s fiddler. There was not a Highland dance, game, or custom with which the Princess had not been acquainted all her life at her mother’s Highland castle. She had been “varra weel eddicated,” to quote the “opeenion” arrived at, after due consideration, by an Argyllshire farmer.

The one break in the semi-private life which Princess Louise has elected to pass since her marriage came in 1878, when Lord Lorne was appointed Governor-General of Canada, and the Princess went out to share his vice-regal duties. The Canadians accorded her a most loyal welcome; but, democratic as the Princess is in many respects, it was scarcely possible for her, as the Queen’s daughter, to be on the same terms of accessibility with the official society of Ottawa as the wives of former Governor-Generals had been. Personal grief

also clouded the first year of the Princess’s instalment at Rideau Hall, for shortly after she had reached Canada she received the tidings of the death of her sister, Princess Alice. In consequence, some of the earliest



Photo. by  
Elliott & Fry  
Baker Street.

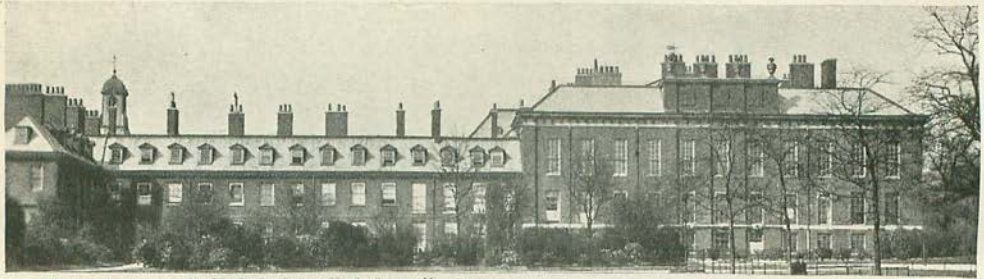
THE MARQUIS OF LORNE.

functions over which she presided, as the wife of the Governor-General, were rendered a little gloomy and severe, and there were some murmurings amongst those who had looked for a great season of gaiety and splendour attendant on the arrival of a Royal princess.

Apart from the Drawing-rooms and State functions, Princess Louise pursued her life at Rideau Hall in quite a simple manner. She often went out shopping with as little ceremony as a private lady. When, however, her face was recognised in some of the stores, amusing scenes occurred, the assistants refusing to attempt the nervous duty of serving a princess, never in their lives having seen a Royal lady before, and being filled with misgivings as to how to act and speak; and the Princess had to wait the arrival of

During her sojourn in Canada Princess Louise took a keen enjoyment in the national sports. She skated, sleighed, and tobogganed, and took long walks in snow-shoes with her accustomed enthusiasm for active exercise; and she also set the Canadian ladies the useful example of wearing simple and appropriate costumes for these sports. In summer the Princess spent a good deal of time at the official residence in Quebec, romantically situated on a high promontory overlooking the river St. Lawrence. She wandered freely about the lovely country with her sketching-book, and found a new delight in studying the manners and customs of the descendants of the old French settlers—those farmers of Arcady of whom we read in "Evangeline."

While the Princess was busy with pencil



From a photograph by H. & R. Stiles, High Street, Kensington.

KENSINGTON PALACE.

the master of the store before her wants could be attended to.

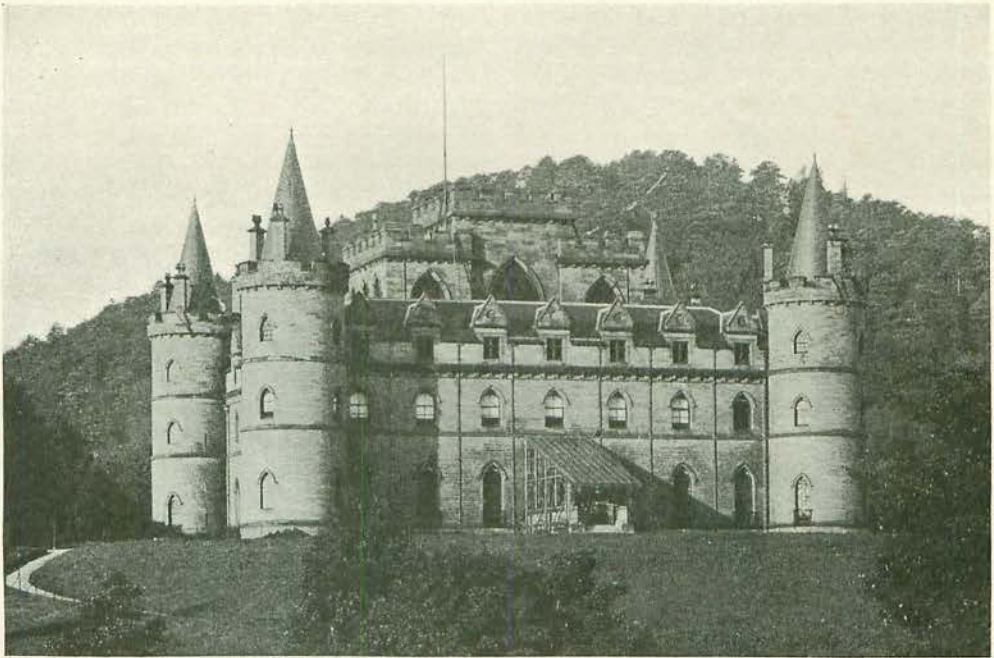
Things were not much better when the Princess's *incognita* was preserved, if the following story, which was rife in the Canadian Press, is to be credited: The Princess wanted a new clock for her boudoir, and went into the city of Ottawa to make the purchase herself. The salesman, ignorant as to who his customer was, grew garrulous in describing the properties of a special make of clock. It was warranted to beat the record in every particular. The Princess listened, and presently cut short the narrative by asking, in a spirit of fun, "Is there anything else this clock can do?"

"Yes," returned the irritated salesman; "wind it up, and it will go."

"Very well, then," was the reply, "you may send it to Rideau Hall." The look of dismay which greeted this order can be easily imagined.

and brush, the Marquis was exercising his literary and poetic faculties in historical description of this fascinating country. Sometimes the Princess would go salmon-fishing in a canoe, with native Indians for guides. One of Her Royal Highness's "catches"—an enormous salmon—was forwarded in a frozen condition to the Queen, and graced the sideboard at Windsor.

Indeed, the five years spent by Princess Louise in Canada gave her an opportunity for the kind of adventures in which she delights. She accompanied the Marquis in his journeys throughout the Dominion, stopping at new settlements, where Colonial life was to be seen in its first stages, and halting at Indian stations to receive deputations decked in paint and feathers, or more ludicrously still in a Europeanised costume, consisting in some cases of a silk hat and a pocket handkerchief. There were weird Indian dances and torchlight processions



*From a photograph by G. W. Wilson, Aberdeen.*

INVERARY CASTLE, THE SEAT OF THE DUKE OF ARGYLL.

for the entertainment and honour of the distinguished visitors; and the discomforts of travelling in outlandish districts were amply compensated by the charm of novelty and the beauty and grandeur of primeval nature :

All the wild-flowers of the forest,  
All the lilies of the prairie,

and the country where,

Round about the Indian village  
Spread the meadows and the cornfields,  
And beyond them stood the forest—  
Stood the groves of singing pine-trees.

As well as travelling throughout the Dominion, the Princess visited British Columbia, Vancouver Island, and touched the western shores of the United States. When she returned home at the end of Lord Lorne's term of office, Her Royal Highness brought some well-stocked portfolios and a memory stored with pleasing recollections of the simple, kind, and patriotic people of one of the most loyal portions of the Queen's Empire.

Since her return from Canada in 1883 the life of Princess Louise has centred in the old court suburb. She loves Kensington

Palace for its family and historical associations, and has taken the keenest interest in the restoration of the State Apartments. It has been a personal pleasure to her to see the fine carvings and decorations gradually recovered from the barbarous coatings of stucco and paint to their original beauty. Before these restorations were begun, Princess Louise used to entertain her juvenile guests by taking them through the long, deserted rooms, and showing them the Queen's old nursery and the remnants of toys which lay idly about.

I have already referred to the little dinner-parties which the Princess is so fond of giving to congenial friends, and during the season Her Royal Highness usually gives a large garden-party, to which many of her Kensingtonian neighbours and friends are invited. The grounds which immediately surround the Princess's apartments are very umbrageous and secluded, being entirely cut off from the public gardens of the Palace. However, one cannot but feel that the throngs of visitors to the State Apartments must interfere slightly with the quietude of her Royal Highness's home life, and it is

rather significant that her garden-party last year was given on Wednesday, the day that the Palace is closed to the public.

Although the Princess invariably attends the services conducted by the Rev. William Graham Green in the private chapel attached to the Palace, she lends her patronage and support to various benevolent schemes connected with her parish church of St. Mary Abbots. Canon Pennefather can always rely upon practical help from the Princess when any special effort is being made in connection with Church work.

The principal philanthropic institution in Kensington in which Her Royal Highness is interested is the Industrial Home for Crippled Boys at Woodsthorpe House, Wright's Lane. She has for many years been Patroness of this institution, and in 1887 laid the foundation stone of an additional building, called, after her, the Louise Hall.

Upon the wall hangs a charming lithograph of the Princess about the time of her marriage, of which the boys are very proud. The Home is conducted upon those principles of self-help which specially commend themselves to the Princess. The object is to receive and train crippled boys in such trades as carpentering, tailoring, printing, etc., to enable them to earn their own living. The Home is capable of receiving a hundred

boys at a time, but the funds are not quite sufficient to warrant the reception of that number. Her Royal Highness has frequently commended this charity to her benevolent friends, and nothing pleases her better than to hear of new subscribers. Useful articles made by the boys are on sale at the Home. Sometimes the Princess will walk in without any previous intimation, take a look at the boys busy in the work-

shops, chat pleasantly with them, select some purchases, and depart without any ceremony whatever. Mindful of the kindness of the Princess to them, the boys at the Home thought they would like to make her a present. So a monogram for notepaper was designed with two L's intertwined for Louise and Lorne, having a crown and coronet above and below. This was printed in gold on some packets of writing-paper, and sent to the Princess, who was much



*From a photograph by Argent Archer, High Street, Kensington.*

STATUE OF THE QUEEN BY PRINCESS LOUISE.

touched and pleased by this spontaneous token of the boys' regard. We reproduce the monogram at the head of the article.

Princess Louise is at work on a statue of the Queen, which is to be placed in the west front of Manchester Cathedral, and which will serve to still further connect Her Royal Highness with her husband's constituency. The statue is a gift from a citizen of Manchester.