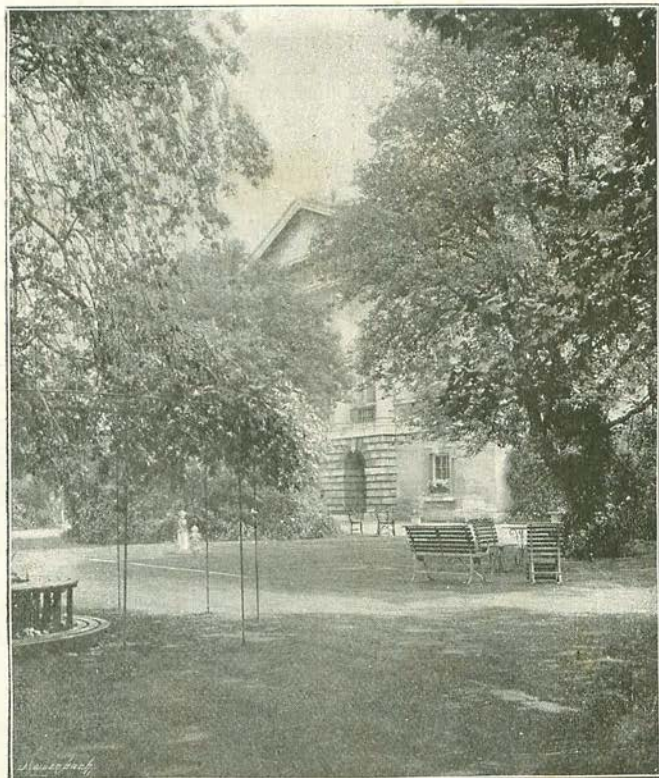


## White Lodge.

BY MARY SPENCER-WARREN.



WHITE LODGE, FROM THE LAWN.  
*From a Photo. by Gunn and Stuart, Richmond.*  
(Taken by special permission for THE STRAND MAGAZINE.)



GREAT day of public rejoicing has come and gone; and more recent events have somewhat relegated to the background the varied anecdotes—true or imaginary—of the Royal bride and her home, her presents and her wedding.

Many may imagine that there is little left to say upon the subject; but when I remind you how much of what has been printed has been vaguely “stated on the best authority,” or told by “someone who knew them well,” and when I couple with this the statement

that I had the special permission of H.R.H. the Duchess of Teck to describe and photograph the interior of White Lodge, I am not without hope of securing your interested attention.

White Lodge has many associations of interest even of our time, and, in going over it, one finds continually cropping up the fact of this or that room having been a favourite room of Her Majesty the Queen or of the Prince and Princess of Wales: and a more truly charming sylvan retreat, and place of absolute quiet rest, can scarcely be found. It is situated almost in the centre of one of the

most beautiful parks within reach of the Metropolis; a park magnificently wooded, every tree inhabited with feathery songsters; deer and rabbit careering and frisking hither and thither, everything pertaining to picturesque Nature, making the whole grand, yet peaceful beyond expression.

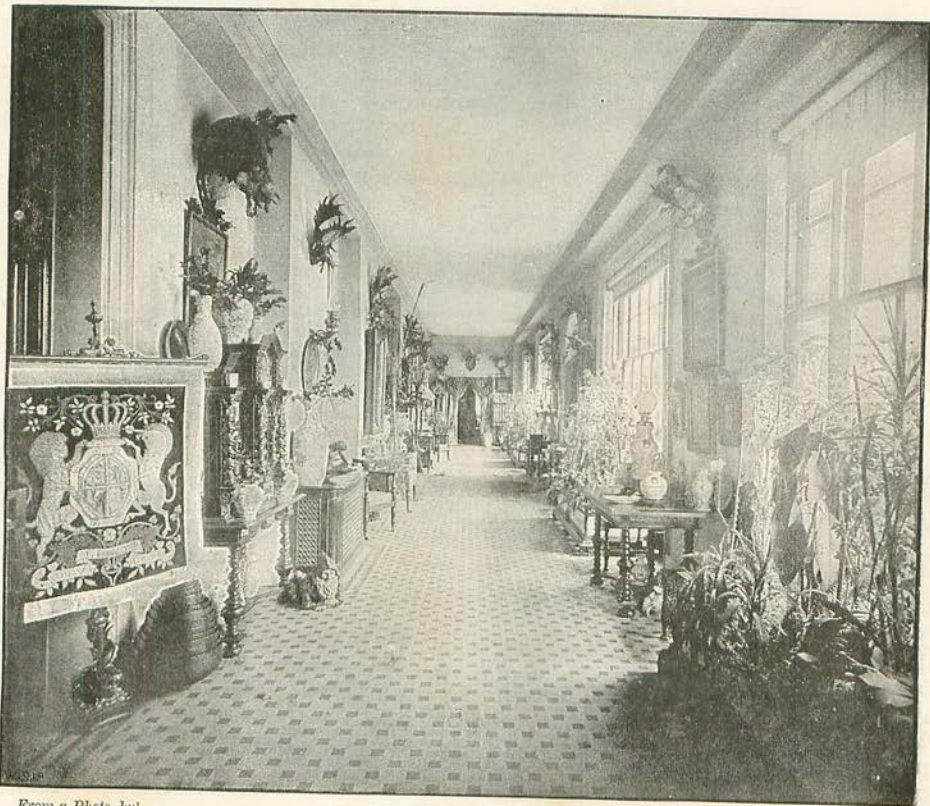
Here is the "home" of her who has but lately come from it to take an important place in the world, in the affections of the people, and in the making of the history of the British constitution.

A simple, unpretentious entrance-gate leads me into the grounds fronting the house; grounds not widely extensive, but yet of some considerable dimensions, replete with trees of all sorts: oak, chestnut, cedars and conifers; rich in shrubs and flowers, with the green grass plots winding in and out of prettily-laid-out beds. Almost directly, one is in front of the house, quaint and old-world in appearance, entered by an old-fashioned portico and double doors, the flower-filled windows stretching away on either side. Indeed, as you step inside the Entrance-hall you may well imagine yourself in a conservatory, so

rich is it in palms, ferns, and banks of flowers. Deliciously cool, though! with its marble floor and many windows: just the place for a comfortable rest in one of the many capacious seats, some of them of an antiquity that carries one back to silken and velvet attire and powdered wig. What a collection of curios, too! Rococo cabinets, Oriental vases, Egyptian pottery, stags' heads, tables of all ages, shapes, and designs, stone images, a stuffed falcon on the wrist of a gauntleted hand, a veritable grandfather's clock, some fine old paintings, some uniquely framed mirrors, and a rare collection of valuable china; in short, an altogether fine show of much interest.

I was somewhat puzzled by an unusually large number of walking-sticks here confronting me; quite a wonderful collection of every shape and make. These, I found, were mainly the property of His Highness the Duke of Teck, and had been presented to him on different occasions by Royal and distinguished personages.

Before I leave this Hall, I have come to the conclusion that I am in a house whose



From a Photo. by]

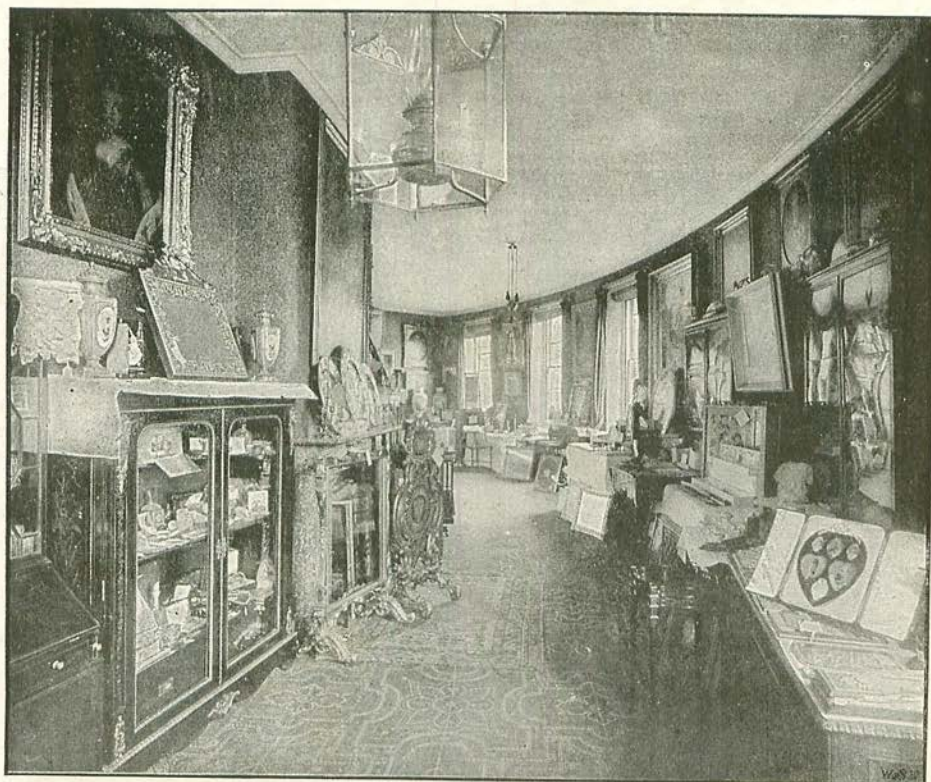
THE ENTRANCE-HALL.

[Ginn & Stuart.

presiding genius is an artist of the highest order; none other could produce the wonderful effect that meets you at every turn. Not a corner is lost, not an inch of space but what is turned to good account; abundance without ostentation, riches without display. No thrusting forward of treasures in an attitude of aggression, that seems to say, "See how much I have cost." It is just everything in the right place for it, with a result beyond conception. How I wish I could adequately describe it; and how much more I wish I could show it to some of the stately dowagers who make their homes places of dreary splendour, odious to the eye, and destructive to the comfort!

But I am keeping you in the Entrance-hall, and you want to see more; so we pass on to the next corridor. By the way, corridors

presents that are continually arriving from all quarters. The close proximity, and the absence of hurry and crush, make the inspection delightful, and I feel loth to leave them; but as you will be familiar with the list and description as given in our "dailies," and will perhaps have seen them at the "Institute" prior to the publication of this number, I will not say anything about them beyond a general remark as to the extreme beauty, combined with utility, of the whole. You have here before you a photograph of the corridor containing them, an apartment that had been entirely cleared for their reception, so that, with one exception, every article shown therein is a veritable wedding present, the exception being an easel, containing a very large and remarkably life-like photograph of the Princess May, taken



From a Photo. by]

THE CORRIDOR, WITH WEDDING PRESENTS.

[Gunn & Stuart.

abound here, the whole place reminding one of an Indian residence. It has a fairly substantial centre building, with long semi-circular wings projecting from either side. This special corridor we have just entered is most interesting just now, for here are displayed the numerous and costly

recently by Gunn and Stuart, the artists responsible for the accompanying views, taken by special permission. This, I am told, is a favourite likeness; the prominent position accorded it testifying to the fact.

From here we step into a little ante-room, lighted by a window from which you look

out into the front grounds. A pleasant little room this, a useful one, too, by the look of it; books and music abound, chief of which I note Sullivan's Operas. Over the mantel is an old-fashioned oval mirror, and on it some quaint china animals of Liliputian size. Some choice old prints appear on the walls, amongst them being William Duke of Gloucester, Elizabeth Queen of Bohemia, the "First Council of Her Majesty," and the celebrated "rainbow" picture of Queen Elizabeth, in the possession of the Marquis of Salisbury. In this room I am forcibly reminded of the incessant zeal in all good works, and proverbial kind heart and real good nature of the popular Duchess and her equally popular daughter. It is not necessary for me to dilate here upon the various charitable objects taken in hand by these two ladies, but the presence of a huge pile of annual Reports of the Needlework Guild will justify the mention of this—one of the most useful works organized by them.

Several little models near testify to the affection in which H.R.H. the Duchess is

held by some of the poor whom she has benefited: one is a model of Brill's Swimming Baths at Brighton; another a model of the Seaside Home for Orphans—just little trifles in cardboard and seaweed, but birthday presents, accepted in the spirit in which they are offered, and preserved and prized as though the costly gifts of the nobly born. A daughter of such a mother, with that mother's ever watchful and loving care, cannot but give rare promise for the future, when her position will be the greatest any woman can occupy.

A cabinet of shells and seaweed tells of pleasant sojourns of the youthful members of the family; and a number of albums contain likenesses of family and friends without number.

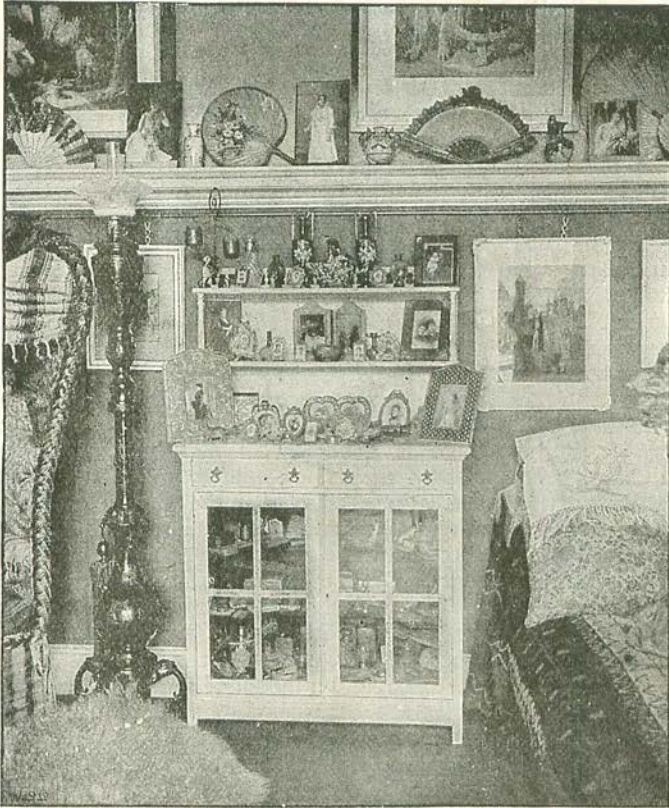
Three doors open from this room, one by which I have entered from the corridor, one opposite leading to the upper regions, and one on my left, by which I enter one of the prettiest rooms I have ever seen—and certainly, just now, the most interesting room in the house, namely, the Princess May's sitting-room.



From a Photo. by]

PRINCESS MAY'S SITTING-ROOM.

[Gunn & Stuart.



From a Photo. by] CABINET IN PRINCESS MAY'S ROOM. [Gunn & Stuart.  
(Taken by special permission for THE STRAND MAGAZINE.)

Charming is a weak word applied to such perfection of art arrangement as you here behold. White is predominant: the ceiling and walls are painted white, relieved with terra-cotta, with shelf and projection of cream and gold beading about one-third of distance from floor; the carpet has a white, velvety centre, with Oriental bordering, and the furniture is entirely of white wood: baskets and vases of flowers, palms and ferns, give an exceedingly picturesque effect to the whole. On the walls above projection you will find a portrait of Her Majesty and the Prince Consort, and a copy of the famous picture "Trust." Over the mantel is a handsome white-framed mirror, with beautifully painted virginia creeper, in autumn tints, running artistically over the glass, the mantel under it being literally crowded with photos and curiosities of all descriptions; the shelf around the room, together with the lower walls, being decorated in like manner.

Near the French windows stands a pretty writing table, and here the Princess has been

in the habit of sitting to conduct her correspondence with her numerous relations and friends. This, as well as every available article or space in the room, is crowded with photos, every one bearing name of original across the front in the owner's handwriting. The Royal Family, of course, are largely represented. On the table there are also a number of useful and pretty articles in silver and tortoise-shell—doubtless many of them are souvenirs—and the entire orderly arrangement of the whole testifies strongly to methodical tidiness from early youth upwards. On the other side of the room is a glass-fronted white cabinet. Of this I take a somewhat lengthened survey, and well am I repaid for so doing. Every inch of the inside and outside shelves is covered with the most charming odds and ends in the shape of jewellery, albums, birthday books, silver and gold-topped bottles,

fans, silver-framed hand mirrors, card cases, silver photo frames, and choice vases—birthday presents most of them, and placed and kept under the special care of the Princess herself.

A neat and pretty white book-case contains a number of works by writers of note, such as Racine, Carlyle, George Eliot, Molière, McCarthy, the Globe Encyclopædia, while poets are represented by Longfellow, Scott, Coleridge, Tennyson, and Herbert. Very evidently, the mind of the young Princess is well stored with useful and varied information; nor am I surprised to find evidences of sincere Christian feeling in the presence of such books as "Captain Hedley Vicars," "English Hearts and English Hands," and "A Hero of the Battle of Life"; each of these and other similar works bearing signs of frequent use.

A comfortable couch, with an Oriental covering, is almost hidden by a beautifully hand-painted screen, and another fan-shaped one containing photos. The back of a luxurious sofa is met by the back of an

upright "Pleyel" piano; this also having an Oriental covering, upon which rest some silver candlesticks, a framed portrait of the eldest son of the house—"Dolly" written across it—and a basket of ferns and flowers. Beside the piano is a pile of music; and what a wonderful and fearful number there are dedicated and composed for the wedding! How tired even *this* amiable Princess must be of wading through such an endless mass of monotony! That they had been looked over and used, appearances proved: waltz, gavotte, and polka, nearly all bearing execrable likenesses of the Princess and the Duke, and nearly all not being worth the paper they cover.

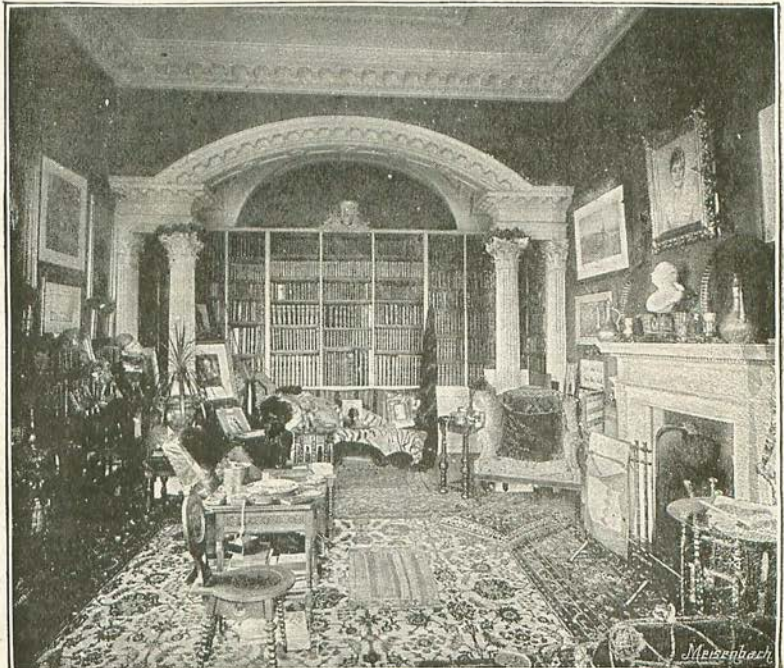
Just now, the fire-place is fronted with handsome hand-painted screens; on the right—almost in the corner—standing a large canopied seat, with a basket-work exterior and lined in satin—a very comfortable-looking arrangement it is. Near this stands a huge work-basket, from which peep out sundry pieces of knitting of various sizes and colours. You all know how the Princess has been in the habit of working for the poor around her gates! How with never-failing industry she has sewn and knitted, even continuing her work when chatting to morning callers; finding time all too short for the work she ever found awaiting her.

The door panels are exquisitely painted with branches of trees, having squirrels in playful attitudes, strikingly true to life. Over each doorway depend Oriental curtains, and a number of pretty white flower-stands display ferns and white Marguerite. Time is indicated by a French time-piece in malachite and ormolu, and by a handsome little travelling clock on the writing table. Hanging lamps and bronze candelabra light the room by night; the daylight streaming through

French windows opening on to a charming white painted balcony, replete with hanging baskets of ferns and flowers, and looking on to lawn and gardens. Small and unpretentious in appearance is the room wherein the Princess has spent so many happy hours of her youth, but so cosy, so thoroughly home-like, and showing such evidences of its owner's taste and skill, and so full of pretty momentos of relations and friends, that I should imagine feelings of real regret would arise at leaving such a spot.

Opening from here is a room used for various purposes: sometimes by Mlle. Bricka, to write letters, etc., sometimes by the young Princes to read and smoke. In it there is a goodly array of books: travels, history, magazines, military and naval works, and a case containing the whole of Scott's. A few old paintings may be seen, also a few good caricatures, one especially funny of Corney Grain and Grossmith. In the centre of the mantel is a bronze bust of Her Majesty, and in different parts of the room other bronzes, one or two time-pieces, some old china, and a model of a mortar. Writing tables and easy comfortable chairs abound, with an assorted collection of pipes and other masculine property here and there.

Now I retrace my steps through the



From a Photo. by

THE DUKE OF TECK'S SITTING-ROOM.

[Ginn & Stuart.]

Princess's room and the corridor, and traversing the Entrance-hall, find myself in the Inner Hall. From here the Grand Staircase opens on the right, with a door on same side leading into the Duke's sitting-room; the entrance to the drawing-room faces; the dining-room opening on the left. This Inner Hall is rather dark, but there is sufficient light with which to admire four fine pieces of Gobelin tapestry, some fine old paintings—one being a portrait of Queen Charlotte—some antique carved oak furniture, and fine Oriental vases.

First of the above-named rooms which I enter is the Duke's room; a handsome apartment with cream painted ceiling and imitation-marble papered walls, with green dado, and an inlaid floor scattered with druggets and skins. On the walls I noticed a portrait of Her Royal Highness the Princess Mary in her youth, one of the Princess May, and a copy of "Trust." Other portraits repose on easels and over the mantel; on the same being a bust of George IV., two large salvers, "Tel-el-Kebir, 13th Sept.," inscribed thereon, and some engraved jugs and cups. Tables, large and small, contain

a number of valuable and quaint curios; in one corner is a fine shield artistically draped, and in various parts are swords, daggers, assegais, and other martial weapons. The Duke of Teck is no drawing-room soldier merely, but has seen practical service, and knows by experience the utility of these exhibits—many of them being brought from lands where he has fought. A cabinet containing a collection of club badges is interesting, as is also the very large number of photographs which are *en evidence*.

That the Duke is a thoughtful reader is easily understood by examining the fine collection of books displayed on shelves, and on cabinets and tables. I am not going to weary you with a list, but am sure you will be interested in knowing that His Serene Highness is a reader of *THE STRAND MAGAZINE*, the bound volumes of which show much general use.

Now, just a peep into the Duke's dressing-room, looking every inch a soldier's room. For an instant, you may imagine yourself in a tent, it being hung in brown holland; the furniture, in light oak, is simplicity itself. Portraits of the Duchess and her children



From a Photo. by]

THE DRAWING-ROOM.

[Gunn &amp; Stuart.



CABINET CONTAINING PRESENTATION CASKETS AND TROWELS.  
From a Photo, by Gunn & Stuart.  
(Taken by special permission for THE STRAND MAGAZINE.)

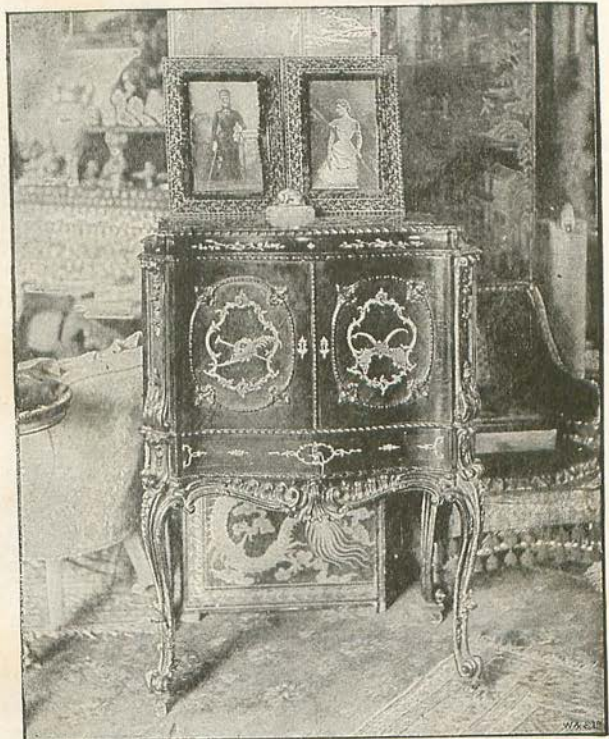
appear here and there, and riding-whips, etc., are plentiful.

The Drawing-room, certainly the finest room in the house, comes next. From its large windows a magnificent view of the park is obtained. The concave ceiling and walls are painted in cream, with gold relief: on the walls being two fine paintings, which are immediately noticeable—George III. and his queen. The curtains are Oriental, as much as two hundred years old, and very costly. The carpet is Axminster, here and there appearing skins and rugs. There is a suite of furniture upholstered in pale blue satin, with frames of over-burnished gold; while some is covered in Beauvais tapestry, and some draped with Indian shawls, with frames of ebony. It would be interesting to know the histories of much of antiquity here; unquestionably these things were many of them the property of departed monarchs and princes, and could tell many a strange tale of bygone courtly circles.

I noticed several beautiful cabinets in this room; two of them, being of great interest, I had photographed. One is of ebony with ormolu mounts, and Sèvres plaques in door panels; it contains the caskets and trowels which have been presented to the Duchess by different institutions which she has helped by her sympathy and presence.

The other cabinet was formerly the property of Queen Charlotte; it is of Amboyna and tulip wood, beautifully inlaid, and is much prized by its present Royal owner. Then there is one standing at each side of the fire-place, given by Queen Victoria. They are of precious wood, handsomely mounted, and are full of costly curios, many of them profusely jewelled. Another—fitted with numbers of drawers—looks of James I. period; and still another I note, which must be of great value, being of inlaid pearl.

On top of some of these cabinets is a fine display of Sèvres



From a Photo, by] QUEEN CHARLOTTE'S CABINET [Gunn & Stuart.  
(Taken by special permission for THE STRAND MAGAZINE.)





From a Photo. by]

THE DUCHESS OF TECK'S SITTING-ROOM.

[Gunn &amp; Stuart.

wedding. The cost of the instrument was 225 guineas, the selection being left to Signor Paolo Tosti. Having had an opportunity of hearing its tones in the room where it is standing, I can here testify to its beauty and power.

In a corner of the room, opposite the piano, a door opens into the Blue-room, the private sitting-room of the Duchess. It is luxuriously furnished, yet has a very cosy home-like appearance. The ceiling is painted in the

china, Bleu du roi and Bleu de Vincenne. On the marble mantel is a time-piece by Mignuel, some Sèvres and ormolu candelabra, and two bronze equestrian ornaments. Palms, ferns, and flowers flourish in Oriental and Dresden vases; hand-painted screens are rich in variety. Buhl and ormolu tables are plentiful, and contain costly curios of every description. Some valuable mirrors are much to be admired, having frames with pebbled fruit in relief. There are some fine ormolu candelabra, mounted on ebony and ormolu pedestals; and a bronze bust of Charles I., which must not be overlooked. I spent some considerable time in front of a glass-topped table, the contents of which are unique and priceless: medals, coins, orders and cases, showing engraving and chasing of the rarest, the articles themselves being of purest gold, and in many cases studded with precious jewels.

One corner of the room has a specially artistic appearance; from the ceiling floating a gilded angel, supporting hangings of Indian shawls, arranged with very fine effect.

A magnificent grand piano, by Steinway and Sons, occupies a conspicuous position. This is known as a "No. 2 Grand"; it was presented to Her Royal Highness the Duchess by the inhabitants of Richmond and vicinity on the occasion of her silver

palet of blue, relieved with cream and gold, with walls in dark blue and gold dado. On the walls are some good portraits; the Duke of Teck, the late Duchess of Cambridge, and the Princess May, by Long—a silver wedding gift—being the chief of them. There is a large and very fine collection of miniatures, some French clocks, some costly fans and mirrors, together with hosts of curios, rich and rare. Sèvres china, ormolu and Dresden candelabra, stand on choice cabinets. Here, again, I notice some of the furniture is upholstered in Beauvais tapestry, while some is in pale blue or sage, showing up well against the dark background of the walls. On one chair may be seen a handsome cushion—evidently presentation—stuffed with rose leaves, and hand-embroidered, a verse of Scripture beautifully worked: "And the leaves of the tree were for the healing of the Nations," over this appearing the name of Her Royal Highness. Tables are numerous, but two are of special note, one being the writing table of the Duchess. It is crowded with correspondence in neat piles, the entire arrangement being evidence of inherent method and order. The other table, I note, has a glass-case top, filled with medals and souvenirs. On a small inlaid table near, my attention is

drawn to a silver horse-shoe, in an open velvet case, this being commemorative of the first Horse Show held at Richmond in 1892.

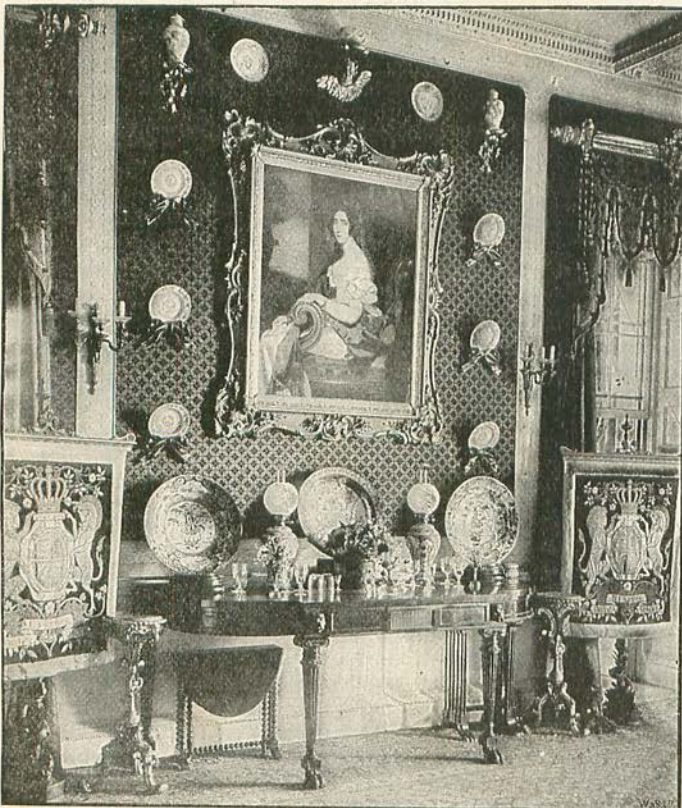
Portraits—chiefly family ones—are in every direction, some of the groups having most interesting associations. A crystal case of ancient jewellery must be of immense value, as must also be the number of tasteful vases here displayed. One, of some considerable size, has some hand-painted bars of music shown on it, being passages from works of Verdi, Tosti, and Donizetti. Very much more might be said of this pretty apartment; but, as there are one or two more rooms demanding brief notice, I leave it, and proceed to the Bird-room: this taking its name from a very pretty paper on the walls, showing birds of all sorts and colours. This room is used as a breakfast-room; but the family, when alone, often dine here also. In it are some "Landseers" and other pictures, together with a number of old prints, some as far back as 1501. An ordinary dining-table stands in the centre, most of the chairs and couches being of basketwork. The room

opens on to a pretty Oriental balcony, from whence is a flight of steps leading down to green sward and flowery bed. On this balcony the family often take tea when the weather will not allow of it being taken under the favourite copper beech. The walls are covered with Indian matting; numbers of cosy or capacious basket chairs, and tables of the same, comprise the furniture, while from the ceiling depend baskets of flowers and creeping plants. Very artistic is this pretty balcony, and I am not surprised when I hear of its being much frequented.

Now I wend my way to the Dining-room, a room which has lately seen some distinguished gatherings round its dining-table. It is a fine, handsome apartment, lofty and light, with panellings of red bordered in gold moulding. On the walls are some grand paintings: Frederick, King of Bohemia, by Mierevelt; Elizabeth, Queen of Bohemia, by Van Dyck; the three children of Henrietta Maria, by Sir Peter Lely; and the Duchess of Cambridge. A good photograph of the latter is here presented; it is, as you will

see, hanging over the side-board, on which are some very fine pieces of china. On either side are some beautifully worked screens, standing usually, however, on either side of the fire-place. In the centre of the room hangs a massive lamp, in the place of the chandeliers generally seen; White Lodge, owing to its isolated position, not being supplied with gas. Heavy crimson curtains, Turkey carpets of the same hue, and red morocco-covered furniture make up a warm, rich effect, while flowers here, as everywhere, cast around their brightness and fragrance.

The Green Corridor must have but brief notice, though one might spend hours in seeing it; it is a long, winding place with ceiling and walls painted in the most beautiful shades, from which it takes its name. It is literally full of things of beauty: inlaid cabinets, Oriental rugs, tiger skins, plush and



From a Photo. by

PART OF THE DINING-ROOM.

[Gunn & Stuart.

(Taken by special permission for THE STRAND MAGAZINE.)

hand-painted screens, malachite and ormolu caskets, ormolu and tortoise-shell time-pieces, a large number of enamels and miniatures, paintings and old prints; buhl and ormolu tables, and numbers of baskets and stands containing a perfect wealth of flowers. It is here that the Duchess likes to receive her visitors, and here is her favourite seat near one of the many windows looking out on one of the prettiest parts of the grounds. These same grounds are well worth a visit, the Duke taking a special pride in their arrangement. Turn which way you may, something uncommonly picturesque meets the eye. Several times I saw something amusing, too, both here and from the drawing-room windows. It goes without saying that just at the time of my visit—immediately before the eventful 6th of July—White Lodge was very much a centre of attraction. Mr. and Mrs. John Bull and family drove out in waggonette and trap to see the place; hence it was that, on account of the shrubs encircling the grounds being dense and high, one was continually seeing

heads bobbing up and down like jacks in a box. It was possible to look over the hedge by standing up on the seats of the carriage; so the very utmost was made of the opportunity, with amusing results as above.

When I drive away from this most pleasant of Royal houses, I am conscious of having been where a family, at once united and affectionate, are almost dreading the ordeal of the first parting. Bright and brilliant as the future appears, the beloved daughter and adored sister will never again be the life and sunshine of the home as she has been, and it is but natural that her absence will cause a void that can never be filled. The family loss, however, is the country's gain; for a Princess is coming to us who has received the wise training and counsel of an English home; who has passed her youthful days in the midst of the people over whom one day she may be called to reign, and who has already gained their good-will and respectful affection, by the many good works in which she has assisted her illustrious mother.



From a Photo. by

A FAMILY GROUP.

Gunn &amp; Stuart.