



From the Painting]

QUEEN VICTORIA AT THE AGE OF SIX.

[by Fowler.



From the Painting]

QUEEN VICTORIA AT THE AGE OF ELEVEN.
(FROM THE ORIGINAL AT FROGMORE.)

[by Fowler.]

Portraits of Queen Victoria when a Child.

(By gracious permission and approval of Her Majesty the Queen.)

THE two early portraits of the Queen here given make their appearance under somewhat curious circumstances. In the first place, we have to correct an error which made its way into the description of the Palaces of the Duke of Saxe-Coburg, which appeared in our July issue. We there reproduced a portrait of a young

child playing with a dog, under the title of "Queen Victoria at the Age of Four," accompanied by the following description by the writer of the article, Miss Spencer-Warren: "Going into another room in the upper part of the house, I find on the wall a painting of Her Royal Highness the Princess Victoria, now our Queen, representing her as a wee child cuddling her favourite dog. This seemed to me to be well worth photographing; carrying one back as it does over a period of seventy years, when the parents of the little Princess scarcely dreamed of the future exalted position their little daughter would be called upon to take." The portrait was pointed out to Miss Spencer-Warren as that of the Princess Victoria by an old retainer of the Castle, who had been charged with the mission of conducting her over the Palace. "Are you certain," asked Miss Spencer-Warren, "that this is a portrait of the Princess Victoria?" "Undoubtedly it is," replied the old gentleman; "I have

lived in the Castle all my life, and my father lived here for thirty years before me, and this picture has always been known as a portrait of the Princess Victoria." Upon this authority Miss Warren photographed the portrait with an easy mind. But, alas for the stability of the best-established legends! When our reproduction of the portrait came to the Queen's notice, Her Majesty at once pronounced it to be a painting by the celebrated French artist, Greuze, who died in 1805—fourteen years before the Queen was born. Her Majesty was so good as to inform us of the fact, and at the same time to give orders that two genuine portraits should be sent to us for reproduction in *THE STRAND MAGAZINE*. Our readers have therefore the privilege of comparing the portrait which has so long enjoyed an undeserved reputation with the two interesting and valuable portraits here reproduced with the authority of Her Majesty herself.

