

## The Prince and Princess Christian.

With special permission and approval of T.R.H. Prince and Princess Christian.

BY MARY SPENCER-WARREN.



From a Photo. by]

CUMBERLAND LODGE.

[Mary Spencer-Warren.



CUMBERLAND LODGE is a fine old residence in true manor-house style, standing in the Windsor Great Park. Everybody knows Windsor Castle, and the part of the Park which immediately surrounds it, but all of us do not get so far out as Cumberland Lodge; for it is a journey of about four miles, much of it uphill. The route lies by way of the Long Walk, the famous avenue with the Georgian equestrian statue at the far end, perched on a lofty height.

Fallow deer and red deer gaze curiously at you as you pass along, and the sun gleams fitfully through the dense trees, of monster size, which stretch far away on your right and left. Then you reach the aforesaid statue, turn sharp off to the left, and very soon the Lodge is seen in the distance. This was formerly called the Ranger's Lodge, and was put up in the time of Charles II. Various Rangers of celebrity have resided there from time to time, and many of them have much altered and improved the building. The Earl of Portland, Sara Duchess of Marlborough, Sir Jeffrey Wyatville, William Duke of Cumberland (he having received the Ranger-ship after the Battle of Culloden), and the brother of George III., are some of those who have held this office. Much of the house is covered with the ancient ivy clinging to it.

One side of it has the appearance of a long, straight-looking building, three stories high, with a square portico entrance; while another side shows towers, gables, and projecting wings, which have very much the appearance of having been added to the main building from time to time.

As nearly everybody knows, it is now the residence of Their Royal Highnesses the Prince and Princess Christian; the latter known to everybody for the great interest she takes in the welfare of the working classes, for her untiring zeal in all movements of philanthropy, and more especially, perhaps, for her never-ceasing activity with regard to nursing associations and needlework guilds; the former movement having been so thoroughly taken up and assiduously pushed forward by the Princess, that not only in England, but in the Colonies, have branches been formed of the "Royal British Nurses Association." "Institutes" and "Homes of Rest" are other branches of beneficial work for nurses. Nor is it the nurses only who have benefited; the public may now be assured that, when a nurse is engaged from these institutes, she is certificated and qualified, and not a mere probationer in what may be truly termed the art of nursing.

As soon as one enters the house, the impression is received that it is a comfortable, unpretentious home, and not by any means a



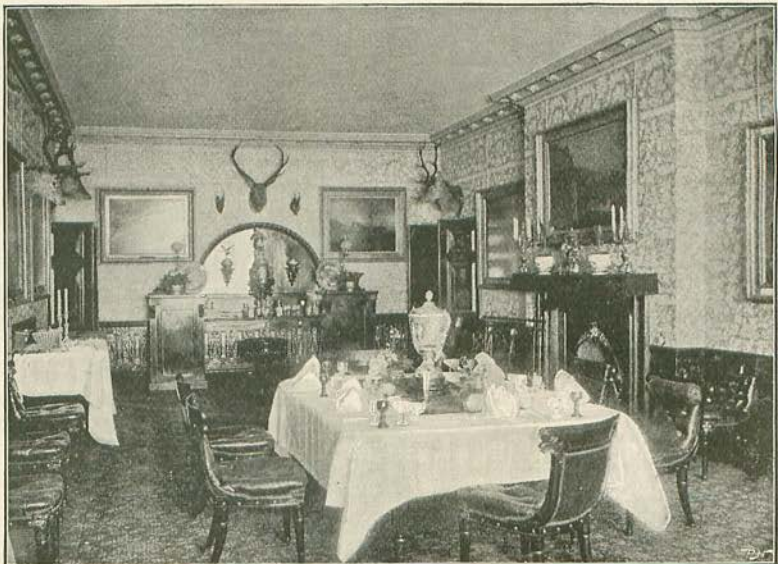
THE HALL.  
From a Photo. by Mary Spencer-Warren.

our left and the offices and kitchens on our right. In this corridor I notice a number of hunting pictures, a collection of stags' heads—trophies of the Prince's gun in England and Scotland—some antique carved oak furniture, and a quaint time-piece of remarkable appearance and peculiar movement. The corridor terminates in a hall or vestibule, from which opens a wide staircase. This is a cool resting-place for warm days. Two of the largest stags' heads the house contains are here on the wall, bearing on tablets the respective weights of the animals, twenty-three and twenty-four stone odd, shot by the Prince in 1885. On an easel is a painting of the Princess Victoria, by Miss Deane; a very good portrait. Next to this is the ante-room to the dining-room, in the corner of which stands a good-sized organ, formerly used when service was held in the house before the erection of the church near.

The dining-room is capable of entertaining a large party; it has some old paintings on the walls, principally by Stubbs. "William Duke of Cumberland," "Prince of Wales's Phaeton and Horse, with Thomas, the State Coachman," and three or four State horses. These pictures are interspersed with stags' heads. The sideboard at the far end has a massive silver centre-piece of special interest; at the summit of it stands the figure of the late Prince Consort, the base of the pedestal containing the following inscription: "I have fought a good fight, I have finished the faith. To Christian Victor Albert Ludwig Ernst

State residence. This has not always been the home of the Prince and Princess Christian, as for several years they resided at Frogmore, and there their children were born, and played in the grounds around it. During the time of their life at Frogmore, it was no uncommon thing to see the Princess not only playing with the children in the grounds, but taking them round for an airing in the perambulator, so thoroughly did Her Royal Highness enter into her home duties and the joys of motherhood.

But we are now taking a peep at their present residence. First we traverse a lengthy corridor, with a suite of rooms on



From a Photo. by]

THE DINING-ROOM

[Mary Spencer-Warren.

Anton of Schleswig-Holstein. In remembrance of his grandfather, Albert Prince Consort, from his grandmother and god-mother, Victoria R. May 21st, 1867." The table just now is laid for luncheon, and made bright and attractive with flowers; in the centre is a silver presentation cup, the property of Prince Christian Victor, given by the members of the Garth Hunt Club in 1888. The prevailing tone of the room is green, with carved oak dado.

The Princess Christian's room is im-

As is well known, the Princess Christian is devoted to music, and though she plays a great deal at home and when in company with her Royal mother, yet her talent is not reserved for these occasions, for it is quite an ordinary thing for her to organize, and take part in, concerts and entertainments for the benefit of the poor, or with a view to brightening the lives of those who may be inhabiting institutions for the suffering. Her Royal Highness is also a member of the Windsor Madrigal Society, regularly at-

tending the practices. There are now several successful artistes before the public who largely owe their success to the kindly help afforded them by the Princess Christian. If you glance around the room you cannot fail to notice the large collection of books, and if you read the titles you come to the conclusion that the Princess is an omnivorous reader; and this recalls the fact that Her Royal Highness is



From a Photo. by]

PRINCESS CHRISTIAN'S ROOM.

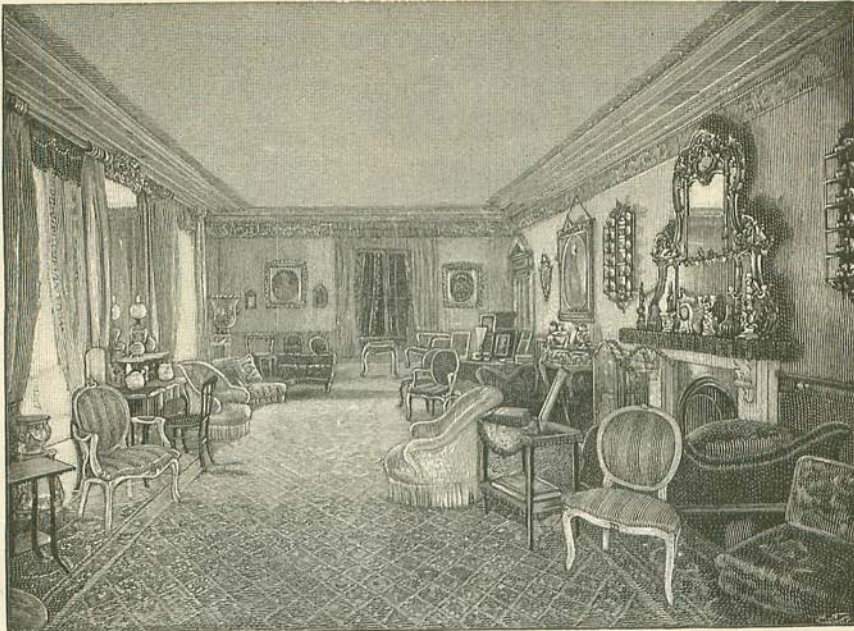
[Mary Spencer-Warren.

mediately near, and is perhaps one of the sunniest and prettiest rooms of the whole house; the window looking out on the lawn and gardens. The ceiling is plainly painted, but from it hangs a beautiful Dresden floral chandelier, which was, I believe, a wedding present. The walls are papered in blue with a dark wood dado and gold beading; they are nearly covered with pictures, some of which are of Frogmore and Windsor, while others are curious old pictures in colours, the majority being descriptive of sacred subjects. In one case is a splendid collection of miniatures, jewellery, and old china; also there are several miniatures on the walls; one very fine one representing the late Queen Caroline Amelia of Denmark. Then there is some Sèvres china, and a very antique chest with inlaid picture panels. Of course, there is a collection of photographs of the family and friends; also there are a great number of bound volumes of music of all the best masters.

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also a writer of some distinction, several able articles having emanated from her pen. The greater part of such writing has had for its object the distinct idea of help, to some cause or other.

The drawing-room is a capacious apartment, and if there is a State room in the house it is this one; but evidently such rooms are not much in favour with the family, for I am told it is seldom used, except when guests are present, the smaller and more cosy rooms being preferred. Grey and gold are the predominant shades of its ornamentation. The painted portraits on the wall are those of the Queen, the Prince Consort, Prince and Princess Christian, and Prince Christian's grandmother. The floor is of polished oak, with Persian rugs; the furniture being upholstered in various art colours, making a harmonious whole. Here are two large Russian vases, also several brackets containing antique china of great worth. Some of the pretty things here seen, I believe, were



From a Photo. by]

THE DRAWING-ROOM.

[Mary Spencer-Warren.

silver wedding presents, amongst which I particularly noticed a white silk cushion worked with pansies and silver thread, a really remarkable specimen of needlework.

Returning once again to the hall, I enter the library by the first door on my right; a room painted and decorated in chocolate, black, and gold. It is a small and snug apartment, where one may read in comfort, chairs and lounges looking particularly inviting and luxurious. The collection of

books is large and varied, histories and biographies predominating; amongst the latter may be noticed Lives of Mozart, Wilberforce, Napoleon III., and Pitt, while the histories seem to be those of nearly every country. The visitor will be particularly attracted by a fine painting over the mantelpiece by Noack, bearing the date 1867—the picture showing striking portraits of the late Grand Duke and Duchess of Hesse, with three of their children. On the left of this is

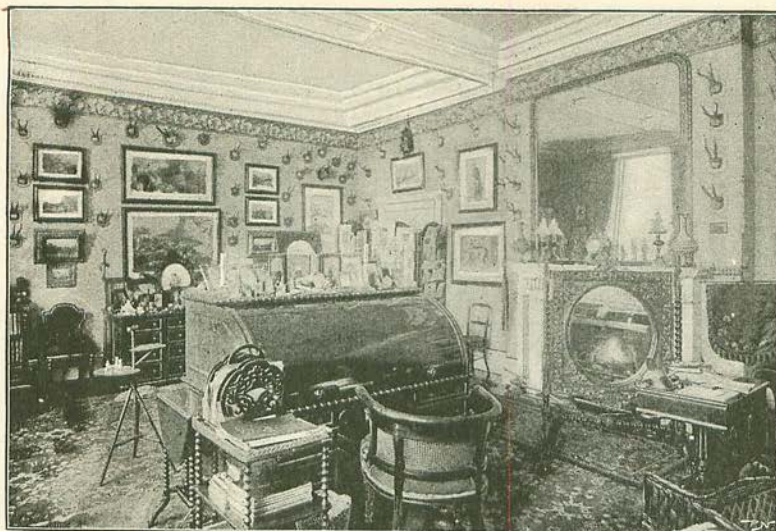
a good portrait of the late Dean Wellesley. Several water-colours further adorn the walls, and also a quaint old clock. Another fine skin on the floor testifies to the Prince Christian's skilful shooting. There is some old china and bronze ornamentation, and more photographs, one of which is particularly interesting to me, as it represents Her Majesty the Queen and the Prince of



From a Photo. by]

THE LIBRARY.

[Mary Spencer-Warren.



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PRINCE CHRISTIAN'S ROOM.

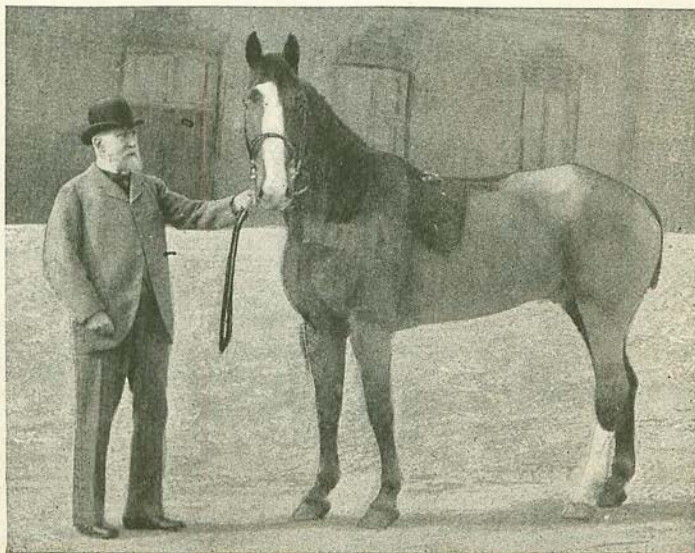
[Mary Spencer-Warren.

Wales, taken when I was present at the Royal wedding at Coburg, in 1894.

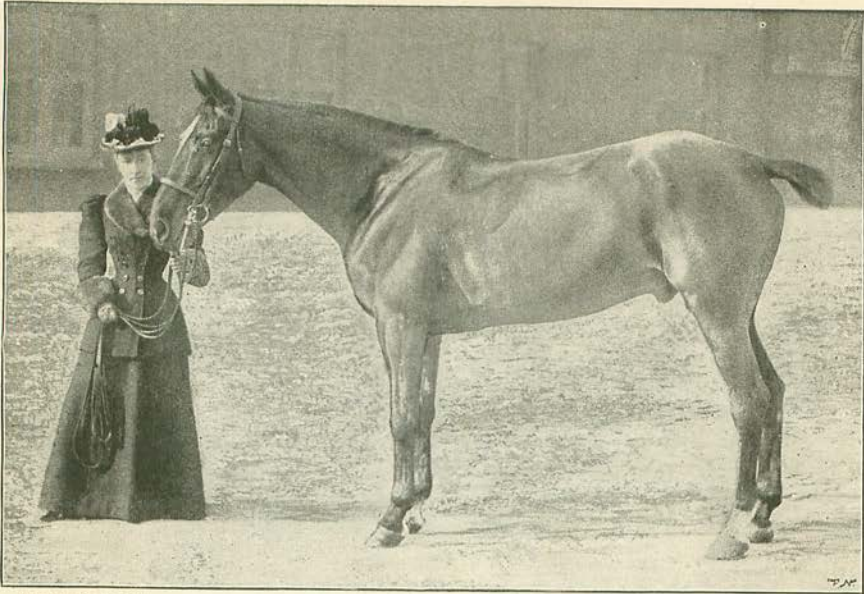
The next door to this opens into the Prince Christian's sitting-room. It is literally crowded with knick-knacks and curios. On the walls there seems scarcely to be an inch of room, so great is the number of pictures and stag-horns—several of the pictures being of animal life. Some show pretty bits of scenery in water-colours, and others are portraits, chiefly noticeable being those of the father and mother of the Prince Christian, and those of Their Royal Highnesses' daughters. Books and portraits abound, as do all sorts of interesting and pretty little articles, many of them souvenirs. In the centre of the room stands an *escritoire*, and over in one corner—a snug corner, too—is a writing-table, showing signs of much use; and a particularly inviting-looking easy chair. This is the Prince's favourite corner, and here he is accustomed to pass much of his time when indoors. I may say here that the Prince Christian very graciously received me at Cumberland Lodge, and was most especially kind to me in affording facilities for seeing and photographing the various parts of the house. I had

previously had many opportunities of seeing His Royal Highness at State ceremonies, at which his tall, commanding figure in General's uniform is a familiar presence; but, of course, I am always more particularly gratified when on my numerous occasions of visiting Royal residences I am able to come in contact with these Royal personages in their

every-day home life. From each one I have always received the utmost consideration, and I felt quite sure, before going to Windsor, that I should not find any exception to the rule in the Prince and Princess Christian. You may, or you may not, know that the Prince is an immense favourite with all the members of our Royal Family; all the younger ones affectionately speaking of him as "Uncle Christian." He is a great lover of all athletic and manly sports; hunting, shooting, cricket and football, all find in him an ardent and active patron. Of horses and dogs he is particularly fond, and at the request of



PRINCE CHRISTIAN AND HIS FAVOURITE HORSE.  
From a Photo. by Mary Spencer-Warren.



From a Photo. by]

PRINCESS VICTORIA AND HER FAVOURITE HORSE.

[Mary Spencer-Warren.

His Royal Highness, I had the opportunity of accompanying him and his daughter, the Princess Victoria, to see some of the favourite occupants of the stables, and to photograph them.

Passing up the wide staircase, I reach thereby long corridors and several suites of rooms. Turning to the right, I find first the sitting-room of the Princess Victoria. Just now the Princess is occupying it, but knowing I am anxious to take a photograph, she very kindly tells me I am at liberty to do so. It is a pretty room with walls dressed in grey, and dado of a deeper hue. A prominent feature is the beautiful grand piano, which stands open, and the strains, indeed, of which

I had just been listening to as I came up the staircase. You will not need, perhaps, to be told that the Princess inherits her Royal mother's musical talent. Water-colours, engravings, and family portraits adorn the walls, together with a number of curios on pretty brackets. Comfortable chairs, with covers and cushions showing beautiful art needlework in silk, abound, while flowers and ferns, with the hundred and one knick-knacks of a lady's boudoir, make up a charmingly picturesque effect. The well-used writing-table has a pile of correspondence on it, and a number of beautifully mounted fittings. Flowers are in every direction, and a plenitude of books

and music. Altogether, the apartment is not only charmingly pretty, but is also evidently the scene of study and work.

The Princess Victoria is no stranger to the public, for she is the able and willing coadjutor of the Princess Christian in all her beneficent work; and where the mother goes, so



From a Photo. by]

PRINCESS VICTORIA'S ROOM.

[Mary Spencer-Warren.

does the daughter, as a general rule. So numerous have the appeals for help become, that it is a fact that neither of the Royal ladies has an idle minute—one continual round of duty ever presenting itself. On one of my days at Cumberland Lodge, the Princess Victoria made a casual remark that she was going to see a sick child; and I afterwards learned that it was the little son of an employé that was to be visited. A critical operation had been necessary, and this had been performed by an eminent surgeon; two trained nurses had also been engaged to take charge of the case, all at the sole expense of the Princess Christian. In addition to this, everything necessary for the child was being sent from the Lodge, and at the same place sleeping accommodation for the nurses was accorded, the cottage being too small for the purpose. This case came to my knowledge in the most casual way, and is doubtless only one of many similar instances which never come before the public.

Resuming my tour of the mansion, I go next to the dressing-room of Her Royal Highness

of things to be seen here which must be interesting to the occupant of the room, as they have been presents; some given on the occasion of the silver wedding—amongst these latter some silver caskets are especially noticeable. On one of the tables is a beautifully mounted gold dressing-service. On the walls I notice a large number of photographs of the Royal Family, amongst them being the Queen and the Prince Consort, Prince Christian, and the sons and daughters of the house. Portraits are everywhere; as are flowers, books, and curios of all sorts. The windows are tastefully hung with lace and floral curtains. Over in one corner I notice a glass shade, which, on approaching, I find covers an object doubtless much prized by the Princess Christian, being her own bridal wreath; and on the wall in the opposite corner I descry something else worth seeing—the framed certificate gained by Her Royal Highness for proficiency in nursing. The whole of the furniture is of satin wood, and the room is lighted with a hanging coloured lamp.



From a Photo. by]

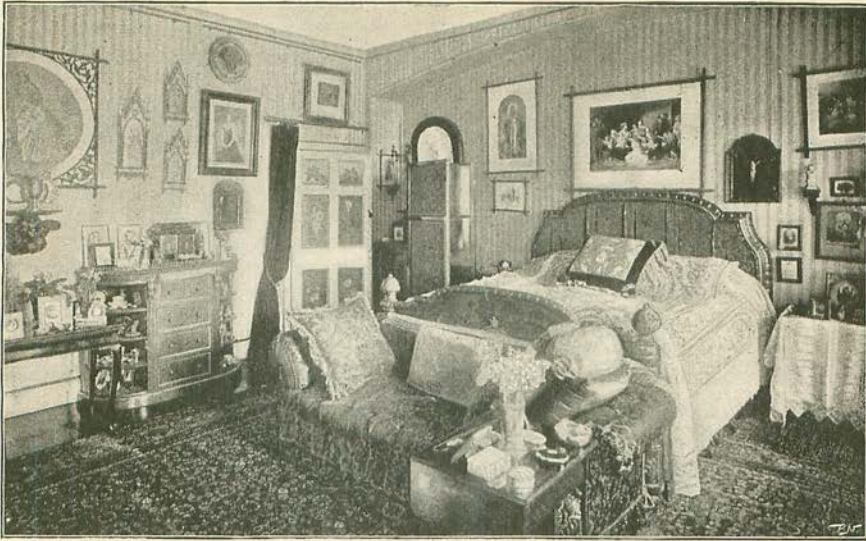
PRINCESS CHRISTIAN'S DRESSING-ROOM.

[Mary Spencer-Warren.

In the Princess's bedroom, the prevailing tones are green and silver, with bed and lounge upholstery in gold and brown brocade. The panels of the door are beautifully painted—the artistic talents of the Princess and her daughter make it very possible that the work is theirs. Water-colours, portraits, engravings, and old prints adorn the walls in profusion. Many of the articles are enamelled in white,

and the furniture here, again, is chiefly of satin wood. The large over-mantel is almost filled with old china, more of which is displayed on brackets and side-tables. A pretty Parisian timepiece, some gold and silver curios, and quantities of flowers are other objects which meet the eye. Three handsome screens are in various positions—one has glass panels, another panels of silk; also there is an abundance of

the Princess Christian, another tastefully furnished room—artistic, yet homely. The walls are papered in green of a pretty shade, with a darker dado. The floor is of polished oak, with a handsome Persian square. There are two writing-tables in the room, one in the centre, and another in front of one of the two windows. Here the Princess passes many a busy hour, engaged with her very large correspondence. There are a number



From a Photo. by]

PRINCESS CHRISTIAN'S BEDROOM.

Mary Spencer-Warren.

art needlework on cushions, and a basket of wool-work which speaks of the guilds in which many of the Royal Family are so much interested. And here occurs to me the great service Her Royal Highness has rendered to poor gentlewomen in the interest she has displayed in the Royal School of Art Needlework. By means of this school many, who would otherwise lack many necessities of life, are enabled by their own exertions to obtain them.

Visiting the poor is another mission that I must briefly touch upon. How many families have been helped, how many homes brightened and hearts cheered, by the active sympathy of the daughter of England's Queen will never be known. Not only the poor around her gates, but the toilers of the great City are familiar with the Royal lady's presence, and thi in the very slums and alleys.

To children the Princess is devotedly attached, and the mere enumeration of the many branches for aid to the little ones would take up some considerable space. Meals for those who come from homes where good food is impossible, is one direction in which very timely help is afforded. All through the bad weather numbers of the children are fed twice a week at the Town Hall, Windsor; Her Royal Highness herself being generally present, busily occupied in ministering to their wants. For their amusement and recreation she also works hard, both in organizing evening entertainments *for* them, and taking part in games *with* them. Those

of them who are ill are not neglected, very active help being rendered to the Children's Country Holiday Association. Quite near the Princess's home there is a small branch in connection with the Ragged School, and here sick boys are sent down for a fortnight's holiday, having the beautiful park for a playground, and the two Princesses for constant visitors. Many a little delicacy, and many a present, finds its way from Cumberland Lodge to this home.

Infant day nurseries is another project in which the Princess Christian displays an unbounded interest. Many a poor woman may find herself sorely puzzled to know what to do with the children while she is out helping to earn, or, in many cases, entirely earning, the daily bread. Some are too young to leave entirely to themselves, and to pay the sum often demanded by people who take charge of them is a serious strain upon the woman's little income. At these nurseries the charge is so nominal, and the children are so well fed and cared for, that the boon to poor toilers can hardly be judged in an adequate measure. In all undertakings for the benefit of those who are less fortunately placed, the Princess not only brings to bear upon it kindly sympathy, but also undoubted tact; everything and everybody being helped in so thoroughly practical a manner, that just what is necessary and best is done in each case, and while imposition is rendered next to impossible, actual poverty and distress of every kind are ameliorated.

As might be expected, a most thorough



English training has been imparted to the young Princes and Princesses; and the maxim of doing *well* everything they do at all has been most thoroughly inculcated. Both the sons are soldiers, one of them having seen much active service in India. The youngest daughter was married to the Prince Aribert of Anhalt some time ago. When I was down at the Lodge, one son was at home, but only for a short period; generally speaking, the Princess Victoria is the only youthful member of the family there, and so is companion to both father and mother, sharing the love of animals and the rides across country of the former, as well as assiduously helping the many projects of the latter.

There yet remain one or two other rooms to see; one of them is the dressing-room of the Prince Christian. This is essentially plain in appearance; painted ceiling and papered walls, with solid-looking furniture; a veritable *man's* room. Even the pictures are groups in athletic dress: some in cricket costume, some in football.

There are also some portraits of the children, and of the Prince's father and mother, and over the mantelpiece is a very pretty flower painting, the artist being the Princess Victoria.

Away up the other end of the broad corridor I come upon a smaller one, replete with marble busts, old cabinets, bronze equestrian statues, and another collection of antlers; also a number of comical pictures, known as Forbes's hunting accomplishments.

Of course this does not nearly exhaust the rooms, or the interesting objects contained in Cumberland Lodge. There are the apartments of the young Princes, those reserved

for visitors, and those for the suite, irrespective of the kitchen and other offices.

It is a goodly and fair English home, and inhabited by a family altogether and entirely English in ideas and tastes. And though every member so ably supports the British Royal dignity, yet they are one with the people in their joys and sorrows, and so true respect and love surround them on every hand.



From a Photo. by]

H.R.H. PRINCESS CHRISTIAN.

[Bassano.