

A Remarkable Quilt.

BY R. G. BASSETT. PHOTOGRAPHS BY ALFRED DEWEY, SIDCUP.



THE collecting of autographs has always had a fascination for people. But probably never has this interesting hobby been associated with a more pleasing work than that lately accomplished by Mrs. J. Wheeler Bennett, of Ravensbourne, Keston, near Bromley, in Kent. This work takes the form of a unique quilt, which consists of forty satin "squares" arranged in diamond shape and joined with torchon lace. Upon the "squares" are inscribed the autographs of some 400 or more persons of high rank, or distinguished in the service of the State, in politics, science, art, music, and literature. Now that it is completed, the quilt has been disposed of for the benefit of the funds of a local charity—the Bromley Cottage Hospital—and realized a handsome sum for this object.

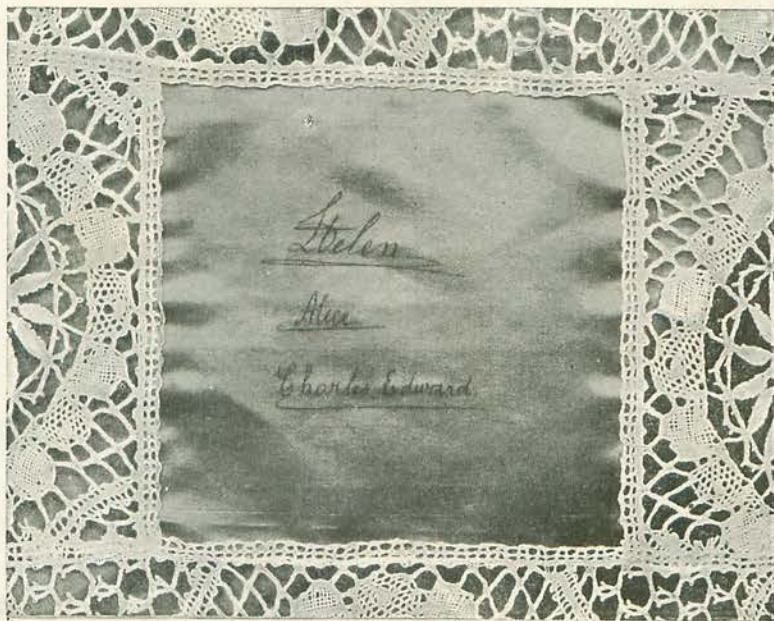
So remarkable a piece of work, which will be an art treasure in the home to which it goes, calls for more than passing reference, and having been privileged to inspect it, I am able to pass in review some of the distinguished names it bears.

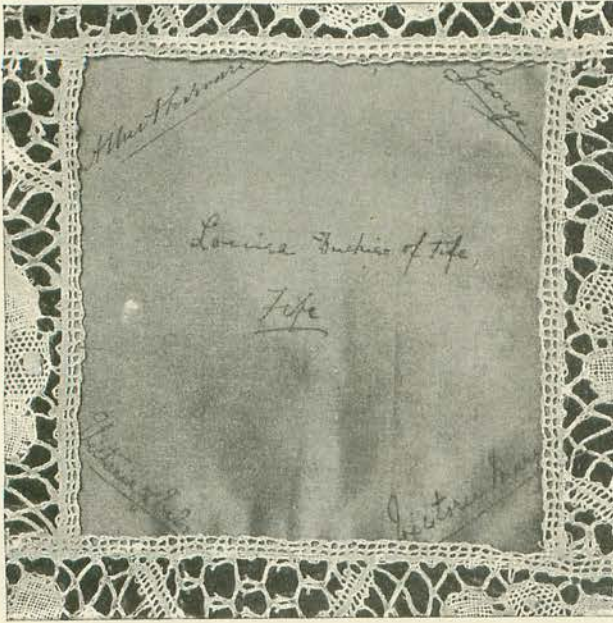
Occupying the central place in the quilt is the Royal square, having the signatures of H.R.H. the Prince of Wales, the Duke and Duchess of York, the Princess Victoria of Wales, the Duchess of Fife, and the Duke of Fife. Near to this is another Royal square, that in which H.R.H. the Duchess of Albany's signature is given, with those of her son and daughter, the young Duke of Albany and the Princess Alice. The signatures here are those of the Duke of Teck, the Princes Adolphus and Alexander of Teck, and the Princess Adolphus of Teck.

The peerage is represented by numerous names, distinguished in many instances by honourable service in the State. Here are the Duke of Norfolk, Lord Ashbourne, the Duke of Westminster, the Duchess of Westminster, Duchess of Newcastle, Marquis and Marchioness of Tweeddale, Marquis of Salisbury, Earl of Aberdeen, Countess of Aberdeen, the Marquis of Londonderry, K.G., Lord Russell of Killowen, Lord Chief Justice of England, who, as Sir Charles Russell, was the most brilliant advocate at the Bar, Field-Marshal Lord Roberts, Lord Kitchener of Khartoum, the hero of the Soudan, and many others.

In the world of politics the Prime Minister has already been mentioned. Other names more especially known in the political arena are Mr. Joseph Chamberlain, Secretary of State for the Colonies; Sir Matthew White Ridley, Bart., the Home Secretary; Sir Edward Clarke, Q.C., M.P.; Sir Robert Finlay, Q.C., M.P.; Mr. W. Willis, Q.C., M.P.; the late lamented Sir Frank Lockwood, and a number of other Q.C. M.P.'s.

His Grace the Lord Primate of Ireland leads off the list of dignitaries of the Church who have given their autographs "in the sweet cause of charity." The roll of bishops and their wives includes the Bishop of





London and Mrs. Creighton, the Bishop of Chichester and Mrs. Wilberforce, the Bishop of Manchester and Mrs. Moorhouse, Archbishop O'Brien (of Halifax), and then there are also the Dean of Winchester and Mrs. McClure, Canon Barnett and Mrs. Barnett, Canon Elwyn, Canon Duckworth, Canon Murray, and Canon Allen.

Civic names are here in large number, and include Sir Faudel Phillips (Lord Mayor, 1896-7) and Lady Faudel Phillips, Sir Horatio Davies (Lord Mayor, 1897-8) and Lady Davies; Sir Henry Knight, who was Lord Mayor of London 1882-3; Aldermen R. C. Halse (the late), F. P. Alliston (of Beckenham), Alfred C. Newton, Clarence R. Halse, and Under Sheriff Webster Glynne.

The Bench and Bar are represented by a singularly distinguished list of names. Here are among those who occupy seats on the Bench: The Lord Chief Justice Russell, Lord Esher, Master of the Rolls, Sir Joseph Chitty, Sir Richard Henn Collins, Sir Ford North, Sir James Stirling, Sir Robert Romer, Sir James Charles Matthew, Sir Robert Samuel Wright, Sir Arthur Kekewich, Sir Gainsford Bruce, Sir Arthur Moseley Channell, and

last, but not least, that stern judge who has tried and sentenced more criminals than any other living man, Sir Henry Hawkins, now Lord Brampton. At the Bar we have, besides the Q.C. M.P.'s already mentioned, Mr. Graham Hastings, Q.C., Mr. Arthur Jelf, Q.C., Sir R. T. Reid, Q.C., Mr. J. W. Wheeler, Q.C., Mr. Lawson Walton, Q.C., Mr. Ernest Levett, Q.C., and Mr. F. A. Bosanquet, Q.C.

Art has distinguished representatives in the names of Sir E. J. Poynter, President of the Royal Academy; Alma-Tadema, Briton Rivière, Frank Dicksee, Luke Fildes, Val Prinsep, Andrew Gow, J. MacWhirter, Henry Wells, Hubert Herkomer, E. Onslow Ford, H. H. Armstead, J. W. Waterhouse—all R.A.'s. Another painter whose name is indelibly written in

the annals of art, although he was never admitted to the charmed circle of the "Forty" of Burlington House, is the late Sir Edward Burne-Jones. Other names whose paintings have many admirers are Solomon J. Solomon, A.R.A., who has lately been engaged in painting the decoration for the Royal Exchange; Arthur Hacker, the figure painter; James Guthrie, R.S.A.,





Adams, the song-writer, etc., etc.

Among other notable men and women who have appended their autographs may be mentioned Sir Wilfred Laurier, Premier of Canada; Admiral Sir Nowell Salmon, C.C.B., V.C.; Admiral Sir James Erskine, K.C.B.; Admiral Commerell, G.C.B., V.C.; the Hon. Alfred Lyttelton; Sir Frederick Falkner, Chief Recorder of Dublin; Lieutenant-Governor Daley, of Nova Scotia; his Eminence Cardinal Logue, Archbishop of Armagh; Mr. R. D. Blackmore, the novelist; Sir W. H. Broadbent, Bart., M.D.; Countess Balzain, great-niece of the Emperor Napoleon; Mr. W. H. Preece, C.B., F.R.S.; Sir Henry Irving; John Ruskin, etc., etc.

one of the leading portrait painters of the newer school, etc.

In the world of Music the autographs are numerous, and we scarce know where to begin. Sir Arthur Sullivan, Sir J. F. Bridge, conductor of the Royal Albert Hall, and organist of Westminster Abbey; Sir George Martin, organist of St. Paul's Cathedral; Sir Arthur Mackenzie, conductor of the Philharmonic Society, and Principal of the Royal Academy of Music; Sir George Grove; Sir Walter Parratt, organist of St. George's Chapel Royal, Windsor; Dr. Ebenezer Prout, musical professor of Dublin University; Dr. W. Creser, composer to the Queen, and organist of Chapel Royal, St. James's; Mr. August Manns, the veteran musical director of the Crystal Palace; and Mr. William H. Cummings, Principal of the Guildhall School of Music. Coming to notable singers, we have a very full list of names familiar to music-lovers of the present day: Madame Albani, Madame Belle Cole, Madame Alice Gomez, Miss Ada Crossley, Miss Clara Butt, Miss Evangeline Florence, Miss Macintyre, Madame Blanche Marchesi, Mr. Charles Santley, Mr. Edward Lloyd, Mr. Ben Davies, Mr. Hayden Coffin; Mr. John Thomas, harpist to the Queen; Stephen

So remarkable a treasure must in future years become more and more valuable. As we have seen, while it has been in preparation, several of those who have signed it—the Duchess of Teck, the mother of our future Queen; Sir Edward Burne-Jones, whose works will live for all time; and genial Sir Frank Lockwood—have passed away, and their autographs remain only to recall them to memory.

