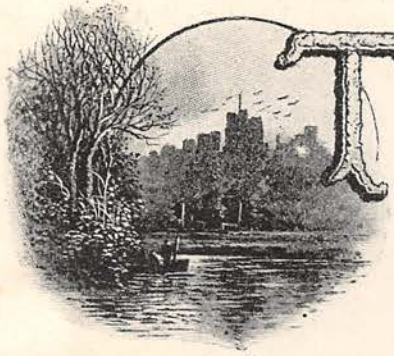


QUEEN VICTORIA'S GREAT-GRANDCHILDREN.

BY MARIE A. BELLOC.



THE Queen-Empress can claim a greater number of descendants than any three other European sovereigns. Her descendants of the second, third

and fourth generations are to be found in most of the royal houses in Europe, and of them there are none in whom she takes a keener interest than in her twenty-two British, German, Roumanian, Greek and Russian great-grandchildren.

Keen observers of her Majesty have noticed that she always wears two bracelets. The one on her right wrist contains a miniature of the late Prince Consort, in the other is inserted a portrait of the royal baby who for the time being occupies the proud position of her Majesty's youngest great-grandchild.

Frequently informed as to each child's mental and physical progress, her Majesty is also often consulted as to the best way of ensuring his or her well-being. With but few exceptions the Queen of England's great-grandchildren are given, in addition to their other names, that of Victor or Victoria, and at least a portion of each child's christening costume is always given by his or her British great-grandmother. Her Majesty never forgets a birthday, and scarcely a day passes but she gives some proof of the affectionate remembrance in which she holds the youngest of her descendants.

THE HOUSE OF YORK.

Although he is among the youngest of her Majesty's great-grandchildren there is no doubt that by far the most important little personage among them all is Prince Edward of York. Till the birth of his brother he was the only one of the Queen's great-grandsons who could claim British nationality, and probably no royal baby was ever more heartily welcomed. Congratulations were received from the most

unlikely quarters, and the following excellent parody of Mr. Rudyard Kipling's well-known lines expressed admirably the feeling with which was hailed the birth of the future King-Emperor :—

And the wind of the North will hear us where our
ice-bound flag flaunts free ;
And the wind of the South will echo the song of an
empire's glee.
By the East wind and the West wind will the tidings
glad be skirled,
Till every son of Britain will be shouting through
the world—

He's a first-class sort of infant,
And his equal we shan't see,
Though we search from Deal to Delhi,
Or from Kew to Kurrachee.

From the day of his birth everything has been done to make England's future king a national possession. He was christened Edward Albert Christian George Andrew Patrick and David, and thus every section of the United Kingdom may be said to have stood sponsor to the little prince.

The most important ceremony in which his Royal Highness has up to the present taken part has undoubtedly been his own christening. The Queen came specially from Windsor to Richmond in order to assist at the ceremony, and herself handed the royal infant to the Archbishop of Canterbury. By her Majesty's wish all the royal personages then in England, including the present Czar of Russia and his fiancée, were present at the christening. The robe worn by Prince Edward had served the same purpose at the baptism of all the Queen's children and all of her British grandchildren. Composed of the finest and softest white satin covered with Honiton lace, it is among her Majesty's greatest treasures, and only sees the light of day on very important occasions.

Prince Edward's carrying cloak may also be said to have been a garment of unique interest, for it was made of Queen Victoria's marriage veil, mounted on thick white silk and edged with baby ribbon. By way of font the golden bowl, now forming part of the regalia, in which Edward VI was baptised was used in the christening of that king's youngest royal namesake. This priceless piece of royal plate was brought to the White Lodge by the keeper of the regalia and was taken back to the Tower

immediately after the conclusion of the ceremony.

Needless to say gifts of every kind were showered on the little prince. One of the first to arrive at White Lodge was a lucky sixpence tied with narrow ribbon composed of the national colours of England, Ireland,

Alice lay sleeping when sketched by Sir Edwin Landseer, and on the writing-table of the Duchess of York is a beautiful miniature of Prince Edward in this same cradle.

Probably no child in the world has been so often photographed and painted as has little Prince Edward. One of the most



From a photo by]

PRINCE EDWARD OF YORK.

[W. & D. Downey.

Scotland and Wales. The Queen presented him with the quaint wooden cradle originally made for the Princess Royal, which became in turn the possession of each of her brothers and sisters. This historic bassinet would now be considered quite old fashioned; the cradle itself is raised on rockers and made of richly carved wood gilded. In it Princess

popular photographs ever taken in England was that entitled "Four Generations," which showed the Queen seated and nursing the few days' old baby while behind her stood the Prince of Wales and the Duke of York. Among the most successful delineators of his Royal Highness has been the Marchioness of Granby, who has made some beautiful

studies of him at various periods of his short existence.

The second son of the Duke and Duchess of York was born on December 14 of last year—a day hitherto saddened by the most mournful associations for the royal family, it being the anniversary, not only of the death of the Prince Consort, but also of the Princess Alice. It was doubtless owing in a certain measure to this fact that the youngest of the Queen's great-grandsons was given Albert as his first name. He was christened on February 17, 1896, at the Church of Saint Mary, Sandringham, being named Albert Frederick Arthur George. Among his sponsors were the Queen, the Princess of Wales and the Empress Frederick, the Crown Prince of Denmark, the Duke of Connaught and Prince Adolphus of Teck. The ceremony was performed by Dr. Sheepshanks, Bishop of Norwich; the font used was a golden bowl given to the Duke and Duchess of York on their marriage by the City of Edinburgh.

LADY ALEXANDRA AND LADY MAUD DUFF.

Till the birth of Prince Edward of York, Lady Alexandra Duff was heiress presumptive to her great-grandmother. Indeed for nearly four years the Duke of Fife's eldest daughter was fifth in the succession, and the prob-

ability of her ultimately becoming Queen of England and Empress of India was much discussed.

Born in London on May 17, 1891, it was decided after much deliberation that the Prince of Wales's first grandchild was only to bear the rank and title of a duke's daughter, and in this connection it is interesting to note that a child who might

possibly have become Queen of England is not considered a princess of the blood royal.

There was at one time a suggestion that a special title should be bestowed on the Duchess of Fife's little daughter; but both the duke and duchess expressed a wish that she should not be given the title of Royal Highness.

Lady Alexandra Duff was christened at the Chapel Royal, St. James's. The Queen was her chief sponsor, her other godmother being the Queen of Denmark, for whom the Princess of Wales acted as proxy. Her

godfathers were the Prince of Wales and the late Duke of Clarence, and she was given the names of Alexandra Victoria Alberta Edwina Louise. The water used on this occasion was brought from the Jordan by Lord Rowton, and the baby's christening robe was trimmed with a piece of rich Irish lace which was an heirloom in the Fife family. The Duchess of Fife's second child, Lady Maud Duff, is growing very like her



From a photo by

[W. & D. Downey.]

THE DUCHESS OF FIFE'S CHILDREN: ALEXANDRA VICTORIA ALBERTA EDWINA LOUISE DUFF, AND MAUD ALEXANDRA VICTORIA GEORGIA BERTHA DUFF.

mother's favourite sister and her own namesake. Both little girls are thoroughly Scotch and spend a certain portion of each year in their father's native land, either at New Mar Lodge on Deeside or at Duff House. The duchess, who strongly resembles the Princess of Wales, is a most affectionate and

Victoria of Hesse, spent much of her youth with the Queen, and her eldest child, Princess Victoria Alice Elizabeth Julia Mary, was born at Windsor on February 25, 1885. Princess Louis' second child, also a daughter, was born at Schloss Heiligenberg on July 13, 1889. Her youngest child and only son, Prince Louis Victor George Henry Sergius, was born at Darmstadt on November 6, 1892. Unlike their cousins, Princess Beatrice's children, the Louis Battenbergs rarely stay very long in one place. They lead the life of so many naval officers' children, for Princess Louis has always preferred to accompany her husband whenever it is possible.

THE GERMAN EMPEROR'S FAMILY.

William II is the first king of Prussia to whom six sons have been born in an uninterrupted line. Large families however have always been the rule and not the exception among the Hohenzollerns, the Elector Albert Achilles having had twenty-one children and King Frederick William seven sons and seven daughters.

As most people know, the present German Emperor is the proud father of seven children—six sons and a daughter. Of these the most important from every point of view is the Crown Prince, now a fine-looking lad of fourteen. He was born at the Marble Palace, Potsdam, at a time when his father was only heir-presumptive to the then German Emperor. Still the birth of William the First's great-grandson was celebrated with much pomp throughout the German Empire,



From a photo by]

Princess Louise.

Prince George.

[Hughes & Mullins, Ryde.
Princess Alice.

THE CHILDREN OF PRINCE AND PRINCESS LOUIS OF BATTENBERG.

devoted mother, and spends much of her leisure with her children.

PRINCE LOUIS OF BATTENBERG'S CHILDREN.

Owing to the fact that Prince Louis of Battenberg has entered the English navy and so become to all intents and purposes an Englishman, his three children have a right to consider themselves as forming part of the group of her Majesty's British great-grandchildren. Their mother, *née* Princess

and his young mother, even then known far and wide for her kind heart and womanly tact, sent to all the maternity wards of Berlin in order to find out how many boys had been born on the same day as her son. To each of these lucky little mortals was sent a complete layette, and thus the birth of their future emperor became a personal matter for congratulation in all the poorer quarters of the town.

The prince, who was given the names of Frederick William Victor Augustus Ernest, was christened, as have been his five succeeding brothers and his little sister, in a marvellous mediæval font of Silesian beaten gold enriched with long rows of names—for all the Hohenzollerns have a right to be baptized in this historic baptismal bowl. Prince William, for so he was known till his father became emperor, was also cradled in the bassinet which once contained the infant form of Frederick the Great. This quaint wooden cradle is kept in the Berlin museum, but is occasionally taken out in order to accommodate for a short period some royal baby considered worthy of the honour. When this occurs the name of the cradle's latest occupant is embroidered across the tiny quilt.

On July 7, 1883, was born Prince William Eitel Frederick Christian Charles. He has up to the present time shared the education of his elder brother. He was followed in quick succession by Prince Adalbert Ferdinand Beringer Victor, born July 14, 1884; Prince Augustus William Henry Gunther Victor, born January 26, 1887; Prince Oscar Charles Gustavus Adolphus, who was born July 27, 1888, and Prince Joachim Francis Humbert, the

first of the Kaiser's children born after his accession, and the only prince in the direct line who can boast of being a Berliner by birth, for he was born in the capital on December 17, 1890.

The German Emperor's only daughter, born in the autumn of 1892, two years after Prince Joachim, was hailed with great rejoicings, and the fact that her birth took place in her father and mother's early married home, the Marble Palace, gave them both great pleasure. She was christened Victoria, after her great-grandmother, grandmother and her mother, and Louise after the good

Queen of Prussia—whose personality is so closely entwined with that of the history of her country—and Adelaide Matilda Charlotte, in memory of divers relations.

Even those who sympathise but little with the Emperor as a statesman and ruler must admit that he has proved himself to be a model husband and father. Notwithstanding his many duties and the all-absorbing cares of state with which he is surrounded, his Imperial Majesty always finds time

to occupy himself actively with the education and well-being of his children. Not a week goes by but he has long conversations with their tutors, during which the princes' various mental peculiarities and aptitudes are thoroughly discussed. William II, unlike most modern fathers, has a great horror of all that savours of over-work and brain fatigue. He early made it a principle that his children should never have their minds cultivated at the expense of their bodies, and it is evident to all those who are brought into contact with the imperial family that the young princes are to be made, above all, soldiers and men of action.



From a photo by]

[Flinger, Berlin

THE GERMAN EMPEROR'S SEVEN CHILDREN.

The Crown Prince is very musical—a talent which he inherits from many of his forbears, notably his great-grandfather the late Prince Consort. He began learning the violin when he was only five years old, and is now a fine performer. This is fortunate, for as the years go on he will find it difficult to devote much time to purely civilian accomplishments. Already he is being thoroughly grounded in the art of military tactics, and whenever it is possible he is present when his father receives the army chiefs in conference or reviews a portion of his immense army. Indeed the three eldest sons of the German Emperor all hold the rank of lieutenant in the First Regiment of the Guards, and all possess the Order of the Black Eagle.

The Crown Prince and Prince Eitel have now passed out of their private tutor's hands; they are being educated at Ploen, in Holstein, where they are among the most diligent pupils of the Military School, a famous institution established in the fine old fortress. A number of professors belonging to the Kiel University also give them special lessons. The two princes will remain at Ploen four years, that is, till 1900. They will then proceed to Bonn, where both their father and their grandfather lived happy student lives for a while. It is not improbable that Prince Eitel will spend a couple of years at Oxford, for William II has a great belief in English education, and he has on more than one occasion showed his marked admiration for British university life. The Crown Prince will become an active member of the German army as soon as he is considered strong enough to do so, but he is at present extremely delicate. It is said that the Emperor intends closely to associate his son with the Imperial Government, and that it was with this object in view that he lately purchased Count von Tugenheim's villa in Potsdam. This beautiful house will become the official residence of the Crown Prince as

soon as his father considers him of an age to undertake the responsibilities of a separate establishment.

Prince Adalbert is to follow his uncle Prince Henry's naval career, and appropriately enough he showed even in his infancy a marked predilection for all that concerns the sea and maritime affairs.

Everything is done to encourage this taste, and among his most cherished personal possessions is a beautiful miniature model of the yacht *Hohenzollern*, presented to him as a Christmas gift by his father and mother.

Following the excellent traditions of the British royal family, the German Emperor and Empress have always done everything in their power to preserve among their children a simplicity of life rarely to be found in the nurseries and schoolrooms of those born to great wealth. The young princes are always encouraged to speak their minds freely—except of course when strangers are present—and the Emperor has directed that any questions asked by the Crown Prince and his brothers should be answered as simply and truthfully as possible, and never shirked or explained in an inadequate manner.

Each Christmas, and on many other occasions, such as a birthday or festival, after the young princes and their little sister have been shown the many splendid gifts sent to them from their relations and friends, a selection is made, and all that are not wanted are sent off to the Berlin hospitals to be distributed to the sick children.

The Empress spends a great deal of her time with her younger children. All their clothes are made under her direct supervision, and every matter concerning their welfare is to her of the deepest moment.

Although German is of course habitually spoken in the royal nurseries and schoolrooms, the Emperor's children regard English in almost the same light as they do their mother tongue. They always speak that



From a photo by]

[Kegel, Cassel.

PRINCESS VICTORIA LOUISE.
(Only daughter of the German Emperor.)

language to their governess—a young English lady—and they are familiar with all the story-books dear to English children.

Princess Victoria Louise is adored by her brothers, especially by her chosen friend and companion, little Prince Joachim. The two children are often photographed together, and the most prominent object in the Empress's boudoir is a pretty group showing the brother and sister nestling up to one another. This was executed to the order of the Emperor by a well-known Prussian sculptor, and presented by his Majesty to his wife on her birthday.

The youngest child of William II strongly resembles her mother, being plump, fair, and blue-eyed, in fact an ideal German baby.

A GREAT HEIRESS.

The Queen's eldest great-grand-child is the daughter and only child of the hereditary Prince and Princess of Saxe-Meiningen. She has always been an important personage in the German royal family, especially as her mother, *née* Princess Charlotte of Prussia, is by far the most accomplished of the Empress Frederick's daughters.

The young princess, who was born on May 12, 1879, was christened Victoria Feodora Marie. She spent her childhood in the beautiful Schloss Heiligenberg, in the Thuringian mountains; but since the marriage of the present Duke of Saxe-Meiningen to an actress, now bearing the title of Freifrau von Heldburg, the hereditary Duke and Duchess have preferred to spend the greater portion of each year in Berlin, where they possess a very fine town house, which in more than one respect recalls an English rather than a German mansion.

Princess Feodora is a distinguished-looking girl, and is said to be the only one of the younger members of the royal family who bears the slightest resemblance to the late Empress Augusta. She is exceedingly musical, and under the tuition of Fraulein Marie Wurm has become an accomplished pianist. She also devotes a certain portion of her time to painting.

Owing to the relative position of Meiningen and Coburg, Princess Feodora, when living in the country, spends much of her leisure with the Duke and Duchess of Saxe-Coburg's

younger children; and when her father and mother are travelling she is always confided to the care of her grandmother, the Empress Frederick, who bestows on her the same affection and personal attention that she formerly gave to her own daughters.

Princess Feodora will in time become one of the greatest—if not the greatest—



From a photo by

[Russell.]

PRINCESS VICTORIA FEODORA OF SAXE-MEININGEN.

heiresses in Europe, and her marriage is already the subject of anxious consideration, the more so that, in addition to her vast wealth, her position as eldest niece of the German Emperor makes her a very desirable *parti*.

THE PRINCES OF HESSE-CASSEL.

Among the youngest of her Majesty's German great-grandchildren are the two little sons of the Prince and Princess Frederick

Charles of Hesse-Cassel. Prince Frederick William Sigismund Victor will not be three years old till November 23 next, and his brother, Prince Maximilian Frederick William George Edward, is a year younger. Their mother, who is the youngest sister of the German Emperor, is very fond of England, and her children are being brought up with great simplicity in their beautiful country home, Schloss Rumpenheim.

PRINCE WALDEMAR OF PRUSSIA.

Prince Waldemar of Prussia may be said to be doubly connected with Queen Victoria, for both of his parents are her grandchildren, his father being the second son of the Empress Frederick and his mother the daughter of Princess Alice.

Prince Waldemar, who was named after his father's brother, the little prince whose death in 1879 was so deeply mourned by his mother, then Crown Princess of Germany, was born on March 20, 1889, at the royal schloss at Kiel. De-

stined for a naval career, the prince from infancy has been accustomed to the sea. His mother, Princess Irene, is devoted to yachting, and her son also shares her love of horses and animals.

Prince Waldemar leads a far simpler existence than that of his little imperial cousins. He is especially fortunate in his home. The royal schloss at Kiel is one of the most interesting and picturesque of royal residences, having been built in the thirteenth

century and enlarged by Catherine II of Russia, and is, as may be imagined, full of historical associations. Owing to his being an only child, the prince is the constant companion of his father and mother, and accompanies them on all their travels. He is a great favourite with our Queen, and can speak English as well as German.

A PRINCE WITH ONLY ONE NAME.

Prince Charles, or Carol, of Roumania possesses among royal babies the unique distinction of having only one name. He was born on October 3, 1893, before his

pretty young mother (*née* Princess Marie of Edinburgh) had completed her eighteenth year. Both he and his little sister—christened Elizabeth, after the poet-queen of Roumania—were born at Pelesch, which is one of the most beautiful royal residences in the world, and is situated in the heart of the Carpathian mountains.

Prince Carol was Queen Victoria's seventeenth great-

grandchild, and she takes a special interest in his welfare, the more so because his mother, Princess Ferdinand of Roumania, is known to be very fond of England. It was owing to her express desire that her eldest son was provided soon after his birth with an English nurse. This important person, whose position is a very agreeable one, is a young widow whose husband, an engineer, died shortly before the birth of her child. The Crown Princess heard of her through



From a photo by

AN IMPERIAL GROUP, INCLUDING THE GERMAN EMPEROR AND EMPRESS AND FAMILY, PRINCE AND PRINCESS HENRY OF PRUSSIA, AND PRINCE WALDEMAR.

[Selle, Potsdam.]

an East-End clergyman's wife, and an attaché was sent to London in order to escort her to Roumania, where she has proved herself in every way worthy of the trust reposed in her.

PRINCESS ELIZABETH OF HESSE.

Princess Elizabeth Marie Alice Victoria of Hesse is, like her cousin Prince Waldemar of Prussia, doubly descended from the Queen of England. She was born on March 11, 1895, and is thought to resemble already her

not least Queen Victoria; and two grandmothers, the Empress Frederick and the Queen of Greece. He can boast of the imposing number of forty-five aunts and uncles belonging to three generations, and to four of the greatest nations in the world.

Both Prince George and his brother Alexander, who will be three years old on December 1 next, were baptised and are being brought up in the Greek Orthodox



From a photo by]

[Maudy, Bucharest.

PRINCESS ELIZABETH AND PRINCE CAROL.
(The two children of the Crown Princess of Roumania.)

maternal grandmother the Grand Duchess of Coburg.

THE GREEK PRINCES.

Not the least attractive of her Majesty's great-grandchildren is Prince George Dekelia of Greece, now a beautiful child of six years old. Few children in any rank of life possess so many relations. Although only boasting one grandfather—the King of Greece, of whom the little prince is of course the heir-presumptive—he still counts among his living forbears two great-grandfathers, the King of Denmark and the Grand Duke Constantine; three great-grandmothers, the Queen of Denmark, the Grand Duchess Constantine, and last but

Church. With the exception of these two princes, and their sister born last month, the children of the Crown Prince of Roumania, and the Empress of Russia's tiny daughter, the Grand Duchess Olga, all her Majesty's great-grandchildren belong either to the Lutheran Church or to the Church of England.

THE GRAND DUCHESS OLGA OF RUSSIA.

The Grand Duchess Olga of Russia is the youngest of her Majesty's great-granddaughters. She was born on November 15 of last year, a few weeks before her cousin, Prince Albert of York; and probably no royal child has ever been looked for more eagerly or welcomed more tenderly than Czar Nicholas the Second's first-born.



From a photo by]

[Uhlenhuth, Coburg.

PRINCESS ELIZABETH.

(Daughter of the Grand Duchess of Hesse.)

Shortly after the happy event the Czarina wrote to one of her sisters : " Everyone except ourselves seems disappointed that the baby was not a boy ; but for us there is no question of sex ; our child is simply a gift from God." And already the Russian people seem to share the young mother's feeling, for the baby princess is very popular, and her portrait hangs in many a peasant home in the country districts of Holy Russia. She has developed into an exceedingly pretty infant, strongly resembling her mother, who is, as most people know, one of the handsomest of Queen Victoria's granddaughters.

The layette prepared for the little Grand Duchess was far more elaborate than that used by Prince Edward of York. Never was a baby better provided for. As a matter of fact Her Imperial Highness will not require any new clothes for two or three years, for, in addition to a set of thirty-six dozen of each little garment required during infancy — all embroidered with washing silk, and whenever possible trimmed with the finest lace — were an immense number of little frocks and short coats composed of quilted silks and velvets

and trimmed with the richest furs, every outdoor garment having a hood or cap to match. Tiny shoes, made of different coloured leathers and lined with lamb's wool, were also a feature of this miniature trousseau, and on every article was embroidered a crown.

The imperial christening took place at Tzarskoe Selo on the birthday of the Dowager Empress, and on the anniversary of the Czar and Czarina's wedding day. The Grand Duchess, lying on a crimson satin cushion, was carried to the chapel by Princess Galitzin. Her godmothers were Queen Victoria, the Empress Frederick, the Queen of Greece and the Empress Dagmar ; and almost immediately after her birth the Grand Duchess received from her sponsors, notably from the Queen-Empress of England, a number of beautiful and useful gifts.



From a photo by]

[Merlin, Athens.

CROWN PRINCE AND PRINCESS OF GREECE AND THEIR CHILDREN, PRINCE GEORGE AND PRINCE ALEXANDER.