

The young Princess returned to England at the age of 18, and it would seem as if the experience that falls to the lot of the well-born English girl was destined to be hers. For some weeks the Duchess of Teck took a furnished house in Chester Square. It was from that quietest of social oases that her Majesty first went out into London Society though she did not attend a drawing room until the following Spring when she was present at several Royal functions. But pleasure even then was not allowed to play too great a part in the future Queen's life. The Duchess of Teck, after her return from Italy, threw herself with abundant energy into all the charitable work then occupying the thoughtful section of society. She and her daughter became manager of an important branch of the Ladies Needlework Guild, and the young Princess devoted many hours, that she might have spent in a more amusing fashion, with the members of the Children's Happy Evenings Association.

A wise, vigilant and devoted mother to her six children, those who compose the Queen's intimate circle are well aware that, sincere as is her Majesty's interest in everything concerning Greater Britain, she felt with an almost terrible intensity the parting and the long separation from her children which her own and the King's tours of the Colonial Empire involved. Every mother, whatever be her rank, will understand what these long absences must have meant to one who is in every sense so imaginatively alive as is the Queen. But this is only one of the many things which puts her Majesty into closest touch with the women of the nation indeed, the only section of the world with which the Queen seems to be quite out of sympathy is that very small circle of men and women who appear to love only with a view to extracting the last ounce of selfish amusement and unhealthy excitement out of life.

It is not inappropriate here to mention what, indeed, may be gathered from Queen Mary's character, that the importance of deeper and more sacred matters is not overlooked. Whatever the King and Queen Mary may be, they are strict in attendance at Divine Service on Sunday. When at Frogmore they were always to be seen at the parish church at Windsor, or at the Military Service at Holy Trinity, accompanied by their children. They avoided ceremony, taking part in the service as ordinary members of the congregation, and mingling with their fellow worshippers as they left the church.

In appearance Queen Mary is above medium height, of good figure, and possesses considerable grace. She is a clever conversationalist, has an active well informed mind and is fond of all out-door sport.

Intense devotion to home life, vivacity and a keen imagination are characteristics which make for the popularity of Queen Mary. Her Majesty's lengthy tour of Canada in 1901, when, as the Duchess of York, she, with her husband, visited scores of towns and cities, and were seen at close range by thousands of people, is remembered as revealing a personality whose influence will radiate with wholesomeness from the exalted throne she now occupies.

"I am encouraged by the knowledge that I have in my dear wife one who will be a constant helpmate in every endeavor for our people's good," was the conclusion of King George's first speech after ascending the throne. This moving allusion struck the keynote to the new Queen's Character and ideals of life.

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