

EDWARD VII. AS A BABY

ALL ABOUT THE CHILDHOOD OF THE BRITISH MONARCH.

THE STORY OF HIS BIRTH.

Duke of Wellington Was the First to See Him.

BAPTIZED IN JORDAN WATER

Some of the Noble Ladies Present

Then Drank of the Water—Queen Victoria on Child Education—The Amusements of a Baby King—New Light on the Life of a Mighty Ruler of a Great People.

Copyright, 1902, by Frank G. Carpenter. LONDON, June 22.—I give you to-day a letter on the babyhood and boyhood of the English monarch, who will be crowned on the 26th of this month. The advance sheets of a new life of the king before me, and a large part of my information comes from them.

The king first opened his eyes in Buckingham Palace at twelve minutes before 10 o'clock on Tuesday morning on the 10th of November just sixty-one years ago. A little baby girl had come before him, but his advent made all England ring. The very birth was a matter of ceremony.

When it was known that he was coming, dispatches were sent out from the palace to the chief ministers and officers of state to be present. The archbishop of Canterbury, the Duke of Wellington, the bishop of London, and a large number of others came post haste, and there were a score of eminent physicians in attendance.

The prince was born in a room in the northwest corner of the palace. The high officials were kept in an ante-room at the back of the room, and the nurse, Mr. Looock, the queen's physician, and Mrs. Lilly, the nurse, were in the chamber.

The first person among the waiting nobles to see the baby was the Duchess of Kent, but a moment later he was brought out in the arms of the nurse and shown to the lords of council. The first person who had a good look at him was the Duke of Wellington, who bent his gray head down over the rosy-cheeked infant and asked, in tones of intense eagerness:

"Is it a boy?" "It is a prince, your grace," replied the proud nurse.

As soon as the announcement was made cannon were fired in the parks and in the Tower. The bells of London and all over England were rung for joy, and the following bulletin was posted on the palace gate:

"The queen was delivered of a prince this morning at five minutes past 10 o'clock. Her majesty and the infant prince are perfectly well. "JAMES CLARK, M. D. "CHARLES LOOCK, M. D. "ROBERT ROUSSEAU, M. D. "RICHARD BLAGDEN, M. D. "Buckingham Palace, Tuesday, 11.20 A. M., Nov. 9, 1841. ENGLAND WILD WITH JOY.

England went wild with joy at the birth of the royal baby. "God save the Queen!" was sung at all the theatres. The Lord Mayor gave a banquet, at which the health of the Prince was drunk three times in succession, and Punch published a poem on the princeling, two verses of which were as follows:

Huzza! We've a little Prince at last, A roaring royal boy; And all day long the booming bells Have rung their peals of joy. And the little park guns have blazed away And made a tremendous noise, Whilst the air hath been filled since eleven o'clock With the shouts of little boys.

And we have taken our little bell, And rattled and laughed, and sang as well— Roo-too-tait! Shallaballa! Life to the Prince! Fallalalalal!

And the little Prince, when he grows a boy, Will be taught by men of lore, From the "dusty tome" of the ancient sage.

As kings have been taught before, But will there be one good, true man near To tutor the infant heir? To tell him the world was made for all, And the poor man claims his part.

We trust there will; so we'll rattle our bell, And shout and laugh, and sing as well— Roo-too-tait! Shallaballa! Life to the Prince! Fallalalalal!

THE BABY DUKE. King Edward started in life as a Duke. As the eldest son of the Queen he became the Duke of Cornwall at his birth, and at first he was known as "The little Duke." He was a healthy baby and justly. His nursery was just next to the Queen's bedroom, and his father, Prince Albert, divided his time between the Queen and the baby. It was he who from time to time lifted Queen Victoria from her bed to take her into the nursery, and he who carried little Edward on the back when he had the colic. The baby was better-looking than his sister, the Princess Royal, nicknamed by Queen Victoria "Little Puss."

Queen Victoria frequently speaks of him in her journals. In 1841 she writes to her uncle, the King of the Belgians: "I wonder very much whom our little boy will be like. You will understand how fond are my prayers to see him, and how his father, in every, every respect, both body and mind."

EDWARD'S FIRST CORONATION. This coronation is not the first King Edward has had. He was crowned Prince of Wales when he was a baby and hardly a year old. The title of Prince of Wales dates back to the conquest of Wales by Edward I, when Wales was annexed to the crown of England. Edward's second son was born in Wales, and it was said that the King promised to give the Welsh

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chieftains, if they would permit, a Prince born in Wales and unable to speak a word of English. He presented the Prince before he could speak at all, and they thereupon swore fealty to the Prince of Wales.

The following is from the letters patent making the present King Edward Prince of Wales:

"We do enoble and invest him with the said principality and earldom by giving him with the sword, by putting a coronet on his head and a gold ring on his finger, and also by delivering a gold rod into his hand, that he may preside there and may direct and defend those parts; to hold for him and his heirs, Kings of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland, forever."

BAPTIZED IN JORDAN WATERS.

The young prince was christened on January 25, 1842. The King of Prussia, Frederick William IV, was present, and acted as godfather, and there were other royal personages at the ceremony. The baptism took place in Windsor chapel, the font having been newly gifted for the occasion. The water used came from the River Jordan. It had been kept in bottles for fifteen years, having been brought from Palestine and made a present to the queen. It was perfectly clear and showed no signs of its age. The ceremony took place at 1 o'clock, the baby being brought into the church in a palanquin. No end of other people were present, and all wore their finest uniforms. The Duchess of Buccleuch handed the baby to the Archbishop of Canterbury, who held him up and addressed the King of Prussia, as the child's godfather, saying:

"Name this child."

The king loudly said: "Albert Edward."

Then the archbishop went on as he sprinkled him:

"I baptize thee, Albert Edward, in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost. Amen."

He then read the baptismal service to his close. It is said that the baby raised his hand as the holy drops touched his forehead, but that otherwise he acted very well. He wore at the time a rich white satin cloak, lined with ermine, and a christening robe, the lace upon which was worth \$5,000.

As soon as the service was over the choir burst out in a hallelujah chant.

After this Queen Victoria and the royal baby retired. The rest of the party stayed to sample the Jordan water. The ladies dipped their handkerchiefs into it, some sprinkled themselves and a few tasted it and found it salty. At this time one of the ladies who was present wrote in her diary:

"The archbishop of Canterbury read the service well, though he appeared very nervous. The title of Prince of Wales is a beautiful baby, with fine eyes. He is a lively and intelligent as most children of six months."

A BIG CHRISTENING CAKE.

After the return of the party to the castle there was an entertainment at which the christening cake was cut and each guest given a piece. The cake was as big around as a four barrel and four feet in height. It was adorned with figures representing Britannia, Justice, Plenty and other mythological characters.

The festivities ended in a banquet in Windsor Castle, at which the royal gold and silver plate was used. There were covers for 150, and each guest had a servant in livery to wait upon him. The banquet concluded at 9 o'clock, with a toast to the Prince of Wales, which was drunk standing. At the same time festivity and drinking went on all over England. Dinners were given to the poor and at these each guest had roast beef and plum pudding and a pint of porter to drink the health of the prince.

KING EDWARD'S BABYHOOD.

The first year of King Edward's life was passed at Windsor Castle. The Queen had great trouble in finding the right kind of nurses for him and in using the nursery department of the palace properly managed. Baron Stockmar, the physician of the King of Belgium, was then one of the noted authorities on child education, and he advised the Queen as to how the young Prince should be brought up. He said that a man's education should begin the first day of his life, and he wrote a long letter as to how Baby Edward, then 6 months old, should be trained.

Queen about the same time told Lord Melbourne that she had trouble in securing a lady of rank and title to take care of the young man, and asked Lord Melbourne to suggest one. He replied that a lady of rank should be at the head

of the nursery establishment, and upon his suggestion Lady Lyttleton was made governess to the royal children. This was when the Prince of Wales was 5 months old.

Lady Lyttleton had been a lady-in-waiting to Queen Victoria. She was very fond of children and was a finely educated woman. She took charge of the future King for six years and had much to do with his training, though the Queen came in frequently and gave the directions. Her Majesty lamented that she could not be with her children all the time, and once wrote: "It is made to know that my occupations prevent me being with my children when they say their prayers." She thought it most important that the children should be brought up in a simple and domestic way as possible, and said they should be as much as possible with their parents.

QUEEN VICTORIA ON CHILD TEACHING.

Queen Victoria was very particular as to the religious teaching of her children. She did not care to have the horrors of eternal damnation impressed upon their youthful minds, but wished them to know that God is love. About this time she made the following memorandum in referring to the prince: "I am quite clear that she should be taught to have great reverence for God and religion, and that she should have the feeling and devotion which her Heavenly Father encourages His earthly children to have for Him; and no one of fear and trembling, but of love and reverence of creeds, and not think she can only pray on her knees or that those who do not kneel are less fervent and devoted in their prayers."

Prince Edward was educated in the same way as to religious matters, but as far as I can learn he was by no means a little saint. He was noisy during teething, and did all sorts of things that other children do.

THE AMUSEMENTS OF A BABY KING.

The royal children had all sorts of amusements which were chosen on the Sea, where the Queen lived in the summer. Each child had its flower and vegetable garden in which to grow the things that the King had a carpenter shop, in which he used a set of tools marked with his name. He had a little museum, where he kept botanical specimens, butterflies, stuffed birds, and stones. He had also a boat to sail at low tide. Shows were held at the palace for the children and at one time Tom Thumb came and performed for them and the Queen. He danced the hornpipe, and some of the American songs, the little Prince of Wales watching him, seated in his favorite oak chair.

Now and then the prince went out to see the ships, and when he arrived at the age of 6 he was made a midshipman and a uniform was given him. He appeared in his new suit before the officers and sailors and then began to play about the deck. The suit was of white duck, and it soon became soiled. This was Saturday night, and the captain of the ship knew that the Queen expected the little Prince to wear his new suit, so he mustered the next morning, and that he had no other, at least so Prince Edward told him. The captain solved the question by putting Prince Edward to bed and washing the suit himself. He dried them by the fire, and then sat on the deck with them, so that his future Majesty came to muster in proper attire.

HIS FIRST PANTS.

King Edward had his first pants on his 6th birthday. The cloth was very light and fine, the jacket of a bright blue, and the trousers were of the same color, made plain, with plaited fronts. He had also a white satin waist cloth and later on a Highland suit of plaid.

The Prince was early taught to ride, and had almost as many accidents as other boys. A visitor to Windsor Castle when he was 8 years old says that Edward had then disfigured his face by falling on an iron bar gate. In the fall he bleached the bridge of his nose and both eyes, but luckily broke no bones.

THE FISH AND THE FISHER BOY.

THE FISH AND THE FISHER BOY. He was a boy of spirit and it is related that once when he was running about on the beach at Osborne he noticed a lad picking up clams. He had his basket already full, but Prince Edward in looking at it accidentally kicked it over. Thereupon the fisher boy grew angry and he young Prince a kick. The Prince, although he was not so large as his opponent, went for him with his fists, and in a moment the two had rolled over and were rolling over and over. The Prince was getting the best of the fight when the gardener came up and separated the combatants. Prince Albert, Queen Victoria's husband, had seen the fight afar off, but he did not interfere. When the future King was brought to him he reported to him for having meddled with the lad's basket, and thereupon, so the story goes, Prince Edward took some of his own pocket money and gave it to the fisher boy.

THE FARMER AND HIS PITCHFORK.

A somewhat similar incident of pocket money for trespassing is told in connection with the Prince of Wales when he was a little older. It was while he was doing his first hunting not far from Windsor Castle. He and a number of other boys were riding across country and they got into the estate of a farmer named Hedges. Hedges objected to any one coming into his fields. He penned the boys in and demanded a fine of a sovereign for damages before he would let them out. One of the boys told him that he was detaining the future King of England, but he replied:

"I don't care for that. Prince or no Prince, I will have my money."

The farmer had a pitchfork in his hands and the boys naturally concluded that the safest thing was to pay, and pay they did.

ONLY A BOY AFTER ALL.

I might give a score of stories about the King's boyhood, but none of them are different from those told of the average boy all the world over. The Prince, as you see, the King was a very ordinary baby, and by no means an extraordinary boy. For all his wonderful education he has done well in the world, and it remains to be seen whether he will be more than ordinary as a King.

FRANK G. CARPENTER.

THE VALLEY OF VIRGINIA.

Agricultural Notes—Weddings—Jos. W. Hawkins' Great Affliction.

WOODSTOCK, VA., June 21.—(Special.) Wheat harvest in Shenandoah county was commenced during the past week. On account of the light yield the death of hands in this section will not be felt as much as was apprehended. The harvest well. He wore at the time a rich white satin cloak, lined with ermine, and a christening robe, the lace upon which was worth \$5,000.

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MAYER & PETTIT, Southern Furniture and Carpet Co. COR. BROAD AND FOUSHEE STS.

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