

A ROYAL SCANDAL.

The fierce light of scandal now beats upon the throne of England. The long talked-of book by Sophia-Adelaide has made its appearance in Europe, and charges Queen Victoria with the murder of her husband, Prince Albert, and the proof offered in support of the theory is certainly very strong.

The author of the book claims to be the first issue of the marriage between Victoria and Albert.

It claims that when Albert married Victoria, at her request, (as the Queen had the right to select her own consort) he was at the same time the husband of the Countess de Ruess. When Albert saw his chance to step into the throne of England he put aside his morganatic wife; but the lady did not propose to be easily disposed of, and stipulated that when her child was born it should have all the rights of royalty. This Albert agreed to, and the services of Baron Stockmar, a diplomat and physician, were called into requisition.

Victoria's daughter, (the author of the book), was born on the 21st of November, 1840, and the daughter of Albert's legal wife on the 8th of same month. The children were changed, so that the Countess de Ruess was brought up, and supposed by Victoria to be her own daughter. Her own child was sent to America. Alice, the child of the Countess, married the son of William of Prussia. Afterwards, when Albert supposed he was on his deathbed, he confessed his duplicity to the Queen and there was a terrible scene. She was heard to vow vengeance, and soon afterward Albert was taken with terrible pains and died in the arms of his daughter Alice. Before he died he confided to her the secret of her life. The Queen then banished Alice from Windsor Castle, and since then has never allowed her to come back or hold any correspondence with her. While she hates Alice, and will not even allow her name mentioned in her presence, she manifests the strongest affection for her other children. After Albert's death his will, which was very long, was destroyed by the Queen, because it is alleged, it recognized his daughter by his first wife. In destroying this will Victoria violated the Statute law of the realm. While it is well known that Albert made a will, it is not even recorded. Five years after Albert's death she was one day walking up the aisle of the chapel at Windsor, when a page stepped from the crowd, and in a loud voice said to the Queen: "You poisoned your husband, and Princess Alice can prove it." The Queen fainted and was removed from the church, remaining in her room prostrated for several days. The page was arrested and declared insane. He then disappeared, and has never been heard of since, although several thousands of pounds have been spent in search for him by his relatives without avail. The London Telegraph was the only paper in London which mentioned the scene in the chapel, but years later the Queen's Master in Chancery published a book in which he repeated the charge made by the page. The annuity paid Sophia-Adelaide by Albert ceased after his death. The Queen knows Sophia-Adelaide to be her daughter, but to recognize her would be admitting the truth of her charges, and this would be also admitting that her marriage with Albert was bigamous and therefore null and void.

Sophia-Adelaide claims that the proofs of her story, now full and complete, are in the hands of the Pope of Rome; also that the Queen is secretly a Catholic and Jesuit. Were she openly so it would forfeit her right to the English throne. John Brown, it is claimed, knew this secret, and was thus able to have his own way at Windsor Castle, and so did Disraeli for the same reason. Drake's magazine, in the last issue, publishes John de Morgan's corroboration of the story, with pictures of Victoria and Sophia-Adelaide, showing a remarkable resemblance.

This is by all odds the most ro-

mantic story of modern times; rivaling any fiction that the brain could conceive. There can be little hope of concealing the facts, as the first daughter of the Queen is now preparing to make a legal fight for her rights.



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oct 2, '97

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