

ROYALTY IN REALITY

THE STUDIOUS DUKE



It has often been rumoured that the Duke of York will accept the Governorship of one of the Dominions, and his name has also been connected with the Viceroyalty of India. His own personal popularity, and his natural gifts and the charm of the Duchess of York, would make such an appointment no unwise choice.

"BERTIE IS THE STUDIOUS MEMBER OF THE FAMILY!" WAS A REMARK MADE BY THE KING IN REFERENCE TO HIS SECOND SON, THE DUKE OF YORK. IN THIS ARTICLE HE IS REVEALED AS AN EARNEST AND METHODICAL YOUNG MAN, THE EXACT OPPOSITE IN TEMPERAMENT TO THE HEIR APPARENT. ~ ~ HIS BOOKS, LOVE OF QUIET, HOBBIES, AND HIS AMAZING RESEMBLANCE IN TEMPERAMENT TO THE LATE PRINCE CONSORT MAKE UP AN INTIMATE PICTURE OF THE STUDIOUS DUKE, WHILST THE INFLUENCE OF MARRIAGE UPON HIS CHARACTER, WHICH IS REVEALED PERHAPS FOR THE FIRST TIME, MAKES FASCINATING READING

IT is not unusual for two sons, with only a relatively short period between their birthdays, to differ considerably in characteristics. Many stories and plays have been written on this theme, and, indeed, it is a fact which invariably arrests attention wherever it exists.

Thus it is that those who know the Royal Family frequently remark upon the difference between the Prince of Wales and the Duke of York. Though divided in age only by some eighteen months, and though they were educated side by side, their characters are markedly different. Comparisons are notoriously odious, and contrasts are not always edifying. It is, therefore, unnecessary to catalogue here, in opposing columns, the virtues of these two excellent young men. Remembering that even Princes are fallible, let it suffice that each has qualities which the other lacks, and, together, they command the admiration of every section of the public.

It is related that once, in their childhood days, King George offered his two sons the choice of an apple or a picture book. The future Prince of Wales selected the apple, but the younger boy, "Bertie," chose the book. Here, at quite an early stage in life, the Duke's preference for things of the mind was apparent. Since boyhood he has been a voracious reader. Nowadays, he confines himself almost exclusively to serious works on economics, civics, and industrial questions. No book is "dull" if it deals with these topics.

The Duke loves facts; he is not afraid of them. As a realist, he will face any problem, however difficult, dull, or painful it be, and he will get right to the heart of it. Were a man of republican views to tell the Duke that he had no use for kings and princes, I can imagine the Duke turning with a smile and saying, "Do sit down and tell me all about it."

Where, why and how, are words constantly on his lips when he is engaged on a tour of inspection.

An Amusing Story

IN this spirit of inquiry he goes everywhere. He has always been extraordinarily observant, and of this valuable trait a most amusing story is told, although I have not yet found anyone who would swear to its accuracy. Unconfirmed history has it that on one occasion the young Princes and their parents were lunching with King Edward. During the meal, "Bertie" made an attempt to say something to his grandfather. The King, who was occupied in conversation, corrected the boy in a kindly way, saying that

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Though Royalty are often endowed with honorary scholastic degrees, in the case of the Duke of York these are often well-deserved, for he has a great love of study for its own sake.



The Duke's love-match appealed to the romance that is innate in us all, and he and the Duchess are always popular figures wherever they may go.

NEXT MONTH THE HAPPY DUCHESS

"It is no light matter to enter the Royal circle," confided the Duchess of York to one of her friends. Soon afterwards she was exalted from being the daughter of a Scottish nobleman to become the wife of a Royal Duke.

Queen Mary does not conceal her love and admiration for her daughter-in-law, and recently declared: "She is the life and soul of every gathering." But just how this has been accomplished is a tribute to the peculiar charm and tact of the Duchess, for right from the first she realised she had a difficult task before her.