

HEIR APPARENT TO BRITISH THRONE



George Frederick Ernest Albert, eldest son of King Edward, on his succession to the throne of England, will be known to posterity as "The Sailor King," on account of his training and service in the British navy. The above latest, never-before published photograph of the next king, showing him in his naval uniform, is therefore worthy of note.

The prince of Wales, second son of King Edward and heir to the throne, was born at Marlborough house on June 3, 1865. His brother, the duke of Clarence, was seventeen months older, and the royal children passed their boyhood days together. They entered the navy as cadets in 1877, spending two years on the Britannia. In 1879 they joined the Bacchante under the command of the Earl of Clanwilliam. In their cruise to the Mediterranean, and subsequently to the West Indies, the two princes underwent practically the same hardships as those borne by the other cadets. The prince, then known simply as Prince George of Wales, was made sublieutenant in 1884 and joined H. M. S. Canada on the North American station. In October of the following year he became a full lieutenant. In 1889 he was presented with his first command, Torpedo Boat No. 79, during the naval maneuvers. While in charge of this craft he gave valiant service to a vessel in distress. On May 6, 1890, he commissioned the first class gunboat Thrush and spent a year therein on the North American station, visiting Canada and the West Indies. Upon his return to England in 1891 he was promoted commander. His

last command was H. M. S. Crescent, in which, during 1898, he visited many seaport towns of Ireland and England.

Prince George was created duke of York, earl of Inverness, and Baron Killarney in 1892. During this year he became heir apparent to the throne through the death of the duke of Clarence. Prior to the death of his brother, Prince George is reputed to have contracted a morganatic marriage with the daughter of Admiral Seymour. The marriage occurred without the sanction of his parents, and under the English law was invalid. All the documents containing any reference thereto were destroyed, and neither Admiral Seymour nor his daughter ever made any reference thereto, the subsequent sudden advancement of the admiral being attributed to the discretion he manifested in the matter.

On the death of his brother, who was engaged to Princess May of Teck, rumors connecting the name of Prince George and the princess became prevalent. It seemed to be the wish of the English people that Prince George and Princess May, both great favorites, should marry. The princess of Wales objected to the marriage, although she had given her consent to an alliance be-

tween her oldest son, the duke of Clarence, and Princess May. Queen Vic-

toria became as sincere an advocate of the marriage as the people. Prior to the announcement of the espousal of Princess May by Prince George the archbishop of Canterbury proclaimed from the steps of the chapel royal that there was no ecclesiastical or legal obstacle to the union. The marriage was celebrated on July 6th, in the chapel royal, St. James. The ceremony was brilliant, being attended by all the members of the royal family, the emperor of Russia, then czarowitz, and the king and queen of Denmark.

Four children have been born as the result of the union, three boys and one girl. The eldest, now heir apparent to the throne, was born on June 23, 1894, and was christened after the patron saints of the islands and his grandfather, Edward Albert, Christian George Andrew Patrick David. A second son, Prince Albert, was born in 1895, a daughter, Princess Victoria, in 1897, and Prince Henry William, the youngest child, in 1900.

Although he always has led an active life the health of Britain's new ruler is said not to be good. Having stepped into the shoes of his brother as heir presumptive to the throne he soon was called upon to take the position of his father in the royal courtesies and as royal representative, the age of the prince of Wales having forced him to yield to the younger man the somewhat arduous duties. The world-tour taken last year by the duke and duchess of York is believed to have benefitted his health somewhat. Upon his return he was created prince of Wales.

England's next ruler has never been done justice to by photography. A brighter or more pleasant expression than his can scarcely be imagined. Good humor beams from his countenance and fun from his twinkling, merry blue eyes. A most simple mannered and pleasant personage, he is entirely free from "side" and ever has appeared much bored by the formalities rendered necessary by his exalted position. "A downright pleasant gentleman," as he was once described by a jolly tar with whom he had an interview. He had the reputation of being a "little wild" in his youth, but after the death of his brother he sobered down. Many amusing anecdotes are told of him.

On one occasion he and his brother were at a ball given in their honor at a West Indian town. Prince George devoted himself exclusively to the pretty girls, while Prince Albert Victor was left to do the honors to the old ladies and wall-flowers of uncertain age. This became monotonous after awhile to the elder brother, who proceeded to remonstrate with Prince George. The latter resented this interference with his pleasures, and exclaiming to his brother, "Oh you go off in a corner and sing 'God save your grandmother,'" returned to the pretty girls.

A story is told of how, on the day of his little son's christening, busy as he was, he ran across an old servant who had been associated with the duke of Clarence and himself at the time of their boyish cruise around the world. This man, coming down the hill at Windsor, raised his cap like the others to the prince, who promptly turned to have a word or two with his old acquaintance and accept his congratulations on the family event.

Though not without tact and kindness of manner he lacks the genial good-fellowship which was so distinguished a characteristic of his father. For this reason his companions and associates have ever been a far different set from those of King Edward and remains to be seen what influence they will have over him in the exalted position to which he has been called.

GREEN GABLES.



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