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We repair and renovate all kinds of Furs.

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ALEXANDRINA VICTORIA, REG.

Character of the Queen of England in Public and Private.

SKETCH OF HER YOUNGER DAYS.

Called to the Throne—Courtship and Marriage—Death of the Prince Consort—A Religious Queen—Royal Family.

The Queen.

No country has a better reason to respect and exalt women than England, for Elizabeth and Victoria have been her two most powerful rulers. Elizabeth was the daughter of Henry VIII, by his queen Anne Boleyn, for whom he divorced his lawful queen, Catherine, Elizabeth, the "Virgin Queen," was a half sister to "Bloody Mary," whom she succeeded in 1558. Dickens says of Elizabeth: "Her countenance was strongly marked, but, on the whole, commanding and dignified; her hair was red, and her nose something too long and sharp for a woman's. She was not the beautiful creature her courtiers made out; but she was well enough, and no doubt looked all the better for coming after the dark and gloomy Mary. She was well educated, but a round about writer, and rather a hard swearer and coarse talker. She was clever but cunning and deceitful, and inherited much of her father's violent temper." But, considering the general character of rulers three centuries ago, Elizabeth was in the main a good queen, and during her reign of forty-four years England made great advancement in material prosperity, literature and the firm establishment of the Protestant religion. Besides many great travelers, statesmen and scholars, the Elizabethan reign produced Bacon, Spenser, and Shakespeare. Elizabeth died March 24, 1602, in the 70th year of her age, and the 45th of her reign. To Englishmen that was not so long ago, but to us it is a long time—five years before the first feeble settlement at Jamestown. Elizabeth was learned and clever, but deceitful, crafty, and largely irreligious, and was a whimsical old maid without natural family affection. It could hardly be known one day what her mind would be the next, if, indeed, her present intentions could be divined; and she thought but little of boxing the ears of a minister that displeased her. She had more force of character than Victoria, but the force she had was not so well balanced. But it is of

VICTORIA that I desire more especially to write in this letter. Only two other English monarchs have occupied the throne so long—Henry III, who reigned a little over 56 years, and George III, who occupied that august position nearly 60 years.

Alexandrina Victoria was born in Kensington Palace, May 24, 1819. She is the daughter of the duke of Kent by the Princess-dowager, of Leiningen, a sister of Leopold king of Belgium. The duke of Kent was the son of George III, hence Victoria is the grandchild of him from whom we obtained our freedom in

the revolution. Shortly after the birth of Victoria

her parents went to reside at the pretty watering place of Sidmouth. The duke was a kind man, and loved his little "Dina," and returning one day from a walk in which a storm had overtaken him, he sat down to play with the little princess a few moments, before changing his clothing, and contracted a cold from which he died. Thus, when but a few months old, Victoria was left fatherless. Although she was a king's granddaughter, few people thought that the little princess would ever be the queen of England. She had two uncles who were older than her father, both of whom would heir the crown before him, and they would probably have children. Still the duke of Kent believed that his little daughter would one day sit upon her grandfather's throne. He would hold her up in his arms and say to his friends: "Look at her well; she will yet be queen of England!" Her mother had her well educated in view of the possible greatness that awaited her. As she grew older, and one after another died who came between her and the throne, the people of England began to believe that the Princess Victoria would one day be their queen, and parliament voted \$50,000 per annum to fit her for that high position. When she walked on the pier at Brighton, or on the sands at Bamsgate, many would come to see her and look at her with admiring eyes. But she was wholly ignorant of the cause of their admiration, as her mother had wisely kept the secret from her.

Finally everybody between her and the throne had died but her uncle, William IV., and as he was childless, it was certain that she would be the queen. When she was twelve years of age, her mother thought it best that she should know all. So she placed in her English history book a genealogical table giving the line of descent from

WILLIAM THE CONQUEROR to her own name. When Victoria came in and saw this list she said to her governess: "What is this? I never saw it before." "It was not thought necessary that you should," replied the governess. When the princess read the list she said: "I see I am nearer the throne than I thought was. I will be glad to know now why you want me so much, to learn my lessons, and to take pains with my Latin. I learned it before because you wished it, but I understand all better now."

I WILL BE GOOD." It was the great desire of William IV. to live until Victoria became of age—eighteen—so that she could at once assume the reins of government, and this desire was granted. May 24, 1837, the princess was eighteen, and June 20, at 2 o'clock in the morning, King William was gathered to his fathers. Immediately three carriages set out from Windsor to Kensington, containing the archbishop of Canterbury, the earls of Albemarle, and Sir Henry Hilford, the royal physician. They reached Kensington about 5 in the morning, their mission to inform Victoria that she was queen. They knocked and thumped and rang a long time before they could arouse the porter at the gate; they were again kept waiting in the courtyard, and then turned into of the lower rooms, and seemed forgotten by everybody. They again rang the bell and desired that the attendant of the Princess Victoria be sent to inform her that they desired to see her on an important business. The attendant returned and said the princess was in such a sweet sleep that she did not wish to disturb her. Then they said: "We come to the queen on business of state, and even her sleep must give way to that." So she was awakened, and in a few minutes came down to them in a loose, white, night-dress and shawl, her night-cap thrown off, and her hair fall-

ing upon her shoulders, her stockingless feet in slippers, with tears in her eyes, but calm and collected. As soon as they had told their errand, the young queen turned to the archbishop and said: "I BEG YOUR GRACE TO PRAY FOR ME." Then they all knelt together in prayer. Soon after she called for paper and indited a letter of condolence to the widow of the late king, which she addressed "To the Queen of England." Upon seeing this, her majesty said: "Your majesty, you are the queen of England." "Yes," she replied, "but the widowed queen is not to be reminded of the fact first by me." No marvel that a young queen beginning her reign in such a spirit should become so great. Victoria reigned a year and four days before her coronation, but she was publicly proclaimed queen on the next day after William IV. died, and from this time her reign is dated.

The chief ruler of such a nation was in a responsible and perilous position, and none felt this more than the young queen herself. It was felt by her friends and counselors that she should have a good and wise husband to give her such support in her imperial duties as no mere minister of state could do. But who was the proper man for her to marry? This was a question very difficult to answer. About this time the queen was subjected to the annoyances of many foolish men who wanted to marry her. Some time such persons would stoop her horse in Hyde park, and then and there pour out their derisions; sometimes they would find their way into Windsor Castle itself and present a written proposal. But soon the queen's affections were won by a suitor of a very different sort. It had long been the desire of her grandmother that she should be wedded to her cousin, Prince Albert of Saxe-Coburg, Albert and his brother Ernst had visited Victoria at Kensington when she was seventeen, and he was the same age. The cousins were then well pleased with each other, and Albert is said to have been in love with the princess from that time; but her love seems not to have been so positive until the prince visited her when she was queen, and he had grown into a tall, handsome young man of twenty. Both the young people were now together in love with each other, but how could they become engaged? Prince Albert was below the queen in station, and could not make love to her or ask her to become his wife. It was clear that

end. God be my stay! Ever your faithful grandson."

According to the newspapers of that time the stature of the queen and the prince were four feet eight inches, and five feet eleven inches. The queen is now five feet high and quite stout. Their marriage was generally acceptable to the English people, and the young people were well provided in beginning housekeeping. The prince's salary was fixed by parliament at \$150,000 per annum, the queen's at \$1,000,000, and her "pin money" at \$300,000. Enormous as this may seem to us it was a reinforcement upon the past. The salary of the Georges was \$5,000,000, and that of William IV. \$2,500,000 per annum.

VICTORIA'S MARRIED LIFE was a happy one. Albert was a kind husband and a wise statesman, helping the queen to bear the burden of the empire. Nine children were born into them—Princess Alice, and Prince Leopold (duke of Albany)—are dead. The living children are the empress-dowager of Germany, prince of Wales, duke of Edinburgh, Princess Louise, Prince Arthur (duke of Connaught), and Princess Beatrice.

The queen's permanent dwelling place is Windsor castle, her winter home is Osborne, in the Isle of Wight, and her summer residence is Balmoral, in the highlands of Scotland. Besides these Buckingham palace is her London home. To sum up the queen's character, she has always been

MERCIFUL. Early in her reign a soldier was condemned to be shot for desertion, and when his death warrant was presented to her to be signed, she said to the duke of Wellington: "Have you nothing to say on behalf of this man?" "Nothing; he has deserted three times." "Think again, your grace." Seeing how earnestly the queen was, the duke replied: "He is certainly a bad soldier, but there was somebody who spoke as to his good character, and he may be a good man for aught I know." "Oh, thank you, a thousand times," exclaimed the queen, as with eager hand she wrote "Pardon" across the fatal page. Other incidents could be given, but space forbids: Yet she has

A MIND OF HER OWN, is stern and unyielding in her duty, and very dignified in her manner. She is the queen of a great realm, and not a mere figurehead, and even her own children must observe the formalities of her court. The prince of Wales must remain a subject of the queen while she lives. While the queen does not directly either make or execute the laws, yet her spirit and character pervade everything, and her will is generally respected. Law she can do no wrong and is subject to no statutory law. The queen and the prince consort were very DOMESTIC IN THEIR HABITS, and had much personal oversight in the training of their children. While they were indulged in every real want, yet they were justly and religiously brought up. As an example of how the children were taught to regard the feelings and rights of others, it is said that two of the princesses when very young went into a room in which a servant was polishing a grate. The girls insisted on helping her, but when they gained possession of the brushes, they left the grate and blacked the woman's face. When the queen discovered this she made the princess first go and beg the servant's pardon, and then go to a shop and, out of their pocket money, purchase her a new dress. The princesses afterward said that they rather enjoyed making presents to the woman, but asking her pardon they certainly did not like. The queen was a devoted wife, and in the year 1861 was her first sorrow.

Early in that year her mother died, and on Saturday, the 14th of December, the prince consort was called into the presence of the Prince of Peace.

(Good little wife, were his last loving words to the queen as he kissed her and then rested his head upon her shoulder. A little later the queen bent over him and said: "Es is kleinis fruuchen." (It is little wife. The prince could not speak but bowed his head in response. Without apparent suffering he sank to rest. Since that time Victoria has never entirely thrown aside her mourning. For twenty-seven years she has been the "widowed queen," and is bound to her people by many common ties. But the crowning glory of Victoria's life is that she has always been

A GOD-FEARING SOVEREIGN. From a child she has been taught to fear God, and we can but say—happy happy are the people, and great is the ruler whose god is the Lord. But Victoria is by no means perfect, nor has she always been universally beloved. From 1810 to 1815 she lived in great splendor and extravagance while many of her subjects were suffering from want. And this has been to a greater or less extent true ever since she ascended the throne. All her wars, too, can scarcely be justified upon Christian principles, but just how far she has been responsible for them we may not know.

The fifty-one years of her reign have been marked with improvements and wonders. Indeed the world has about doubled its importance during that time. But of this we cannot speak now. In great men of every walk in life the reign has been prolific. Scott and Coleridge were but five years gone when Victoria came to the throne; Wordsworth, Southey, Macaulay, Herschel, Faraday, Wellington, Peel and Darby lived deep into her reign; and Tompion, Browning, Carlyle, Mill, Ruskin, DeQuincy, Foucault, Gladstone, Disraeli, Dickens, Thackeray, Hood, Jerrold, George Eliot, Huxley, Darwin, Tyndal, Spurgeon, Farrar, and others, properly belong to the Victorian reign.

Current literature: According to the Critic the late Professor Proctor was a literary Poo Bah of the highest rank. In every number of his journal, Knowledge, he used to appear in half a dozen different roles at one time. As editor and R. A. Proctor, he wrote on astronomy and mathematics; as Edward Clodd, he discussed dreams and evolution; as Thomas Foster, he criticized and carried to its undoubted logical conclusion DeToussaint's unfinished novel of "Edwin Drood," and then anonymously criticized and refuted the said Thomas Foster. He was whist editor, chess editor, and any other sort of editor demanded by the occasion, and at the same time he was writing for magazines and newspapers.

No Christmas Table should be without a bottle of Angostura Bitters, the world renowned appetizer of exquisite flavor. Beware of counterfeits. It is said that the government clerks in Washington are turning into republicans so fast that the exertion seriously injures their health. Mrs. James Brown Potter and Dr. Wolf

Mansfield's American actors have gone home.

Mme. Emma Nevada has been singing "Lakme" with signal success in Madrid. Sarasate has been giving concerts in Switzerland and meeting with his customary success.

An English dramatist is doing Will Carleton's "Betsy and I Are Out," for a one-act curtain raiser. Bits are out announcing the advent in London of a new American actress, Marie Gordon, in society parts.

In W. J. Scanlan's new drama of "Myles Aron," one of the important roles will be played by a little girl.

E. H. Sothern and the Lyceum theater success, "Lord Chumley," will appear in Washington, D. C., this week.

Miss Minnie Dupree has been engaged for next season by Mr. Gillett, and will create the chief comedy part in his new play.

A law suit this week revealed the fact that Sophie Eyre borrowed money at 60 per cent to keep up her brief career on the stage.

"The Lottery of Love" continues to make new friends and admirers at Daly's theater, New York. Its success is unquestioned.

Miss Fanny Davenport has created a sensation in Boston with "La Tosca," and the big Boston theater is crowded at each performance.

After an extended tour through Mexico and the far west, Prof. Herrmann, the musician, returns with new developments in the black art.

Miss Rose Coghlan's engagement at the Star theater in Boston with "La Tosca," and she will present "Joelyne" for the first time to a New York audience.

Mr. Willard Spencer's "Little Tycoon" company has just returned from a successful western tour, and will now play a month's engagement in New York.

The latest novelty in the way of an amusement is a burlesque concert by all the prominent burlesque players in London. Alfred Cammerer of New York arranged it.

Mosses, Gilbert and Sullivan have received from America for royalties on "The Yeomen of the Guard" since its first production, the handsome sum of \$10,800.

MUSICAL AND DRAMATIC.

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Mosses, Booth and Barrett give an especial revival of "Julius Caesar" at the Fifth Avenue theater on Monday.

Hopper have been advertising each other out west. The comedian threatens publicly to become an actor of romantic parts in order that he may play Duane to the lady's Patsy, and the lady sends big bouquets, which are passed over the footlights of the theater in which Hopper is singing.

RELIGIOUS. The M. E. church of Washington Territory plans to locate its university at Tacoma. A wing of the main building, to cost \$5,000, is to be erected at once.

In New York 70,000 Italians and 30,000 Spaniards are almost destitute of the Protestant gospel and of means of fitting themselves for American citizenship. Father Grafton, who has had the reputation of being one of the highest of the High Churchmen in America, is invited to the position of the bishop of Fond du Lac.

A church for deaf mutes has just been consecrated at Philadelphia. It is the only one of the kind in America, and the only one in the world entirely managed by the deaf. Rev. Dr. Boyd Nincom has formally accepted the assistant bishopric for the "Protestant Episcopal church of southern Ohio. His consecration will take place January 25.

The Chinese government threatens to drive all missionaries out of Peking and Canton in retaliation for the bill which has been adopted excluding the Chinese from the United States. The Rev. John Williams, a colored Baptist preacher of Hopkinsville, Ky., last Sunday baptized 122 converts in one hour and ten minutes. This is said to be the best record ever made in baptisms.

The recent Catholic congress held at Zurich, Switzerland, was a great success. The members decided to convocate a general assembly of Swiss Catholics next year for the purpose of founding an association in defense of the church and the holy father. The Methodist Episcopal church has two missionaries in Italy, twenty-five native preachers, 888 church members, sixteen Sunday schools and 382 scholars. In Mexico they have nine missionaries, thirty-three native preachers, 926 church members, 740 probationers, thirty Sunday schools and 1,322 scholars.

IMPIETIES. You can't save a sinner, brethren, by talking away his pinch of fine-cut. Do not draw funny pictures on the fly-leaf of your neighbor's prayer book.

Sunday school teacher—What is the fruit of the tree of knowledge? Boston boy—Beans! Don't walk up the center aisle on your heels; because your shoes squeak. Let them squeak.

A Chicago bishop declares that progressive culture is not a profitable game. Probably the good bishop never gets the first prize. "Mamma," said little Ethel, after returning from church where a number of converts had received in the fold, "I want to get converted, too."

Chicago has now on exhibition the skin of the serpent, that tempted Eve. The snake was on a visit to that city, and went out of business in disgust at finding himself so far behind the times in all forms of glided vice.

Leave business behind you. Don't insist upon closing up a wheat deal with a business acquaintance who has the paw behind you then and there. If a subscription card is left in your pew don't write a promise to pay \$5 a month for twenty years on it over your enemy's name.

Dakota minister (much excited, to county sheriff)—Go up to the two Orphans saloon, quick! I hear that Poker Smith just shot three men! Sheriff—Can't do it. I am going after a man that stole two horses. Min.—Oh, I beg your pardon. I'll join you as soon as I can run up to the paragon and get my Winchester.

A good old colored brother thus sent word to the bishop to send a minister out to preach in his church in Alexandria Valley last Sunday: "Send us a bishop to preach. If you can't send us a bishop send us a sliding elder; if you can't send us a sliding elder send us a stationary preacher; if you can't send him send us a circus rider; if you can't spare him send us a locus preacher; if you can't spare a locus preacher send us an ex-hauster." That settled it, and he got a preacher.

HOSPE'S PIANO WEEK!

Special Sale of New Instruments.

Mottled Walnut Hale Pianos for \$300 only.	Mahogany Hale Pianos for \$300 only.
Rosewood upright Pianos for \$275 only.	Emerson upright Pianos for \$325 only.
Upright Kimball Pianos, for \$225 only.	Grand Upright Hallet & Davis Pianos, Greatly Reduced.

TELEPHONE WEEK ONLY.

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