THACKERAY'S LECTURES ON THE GEORGES. I GEORGE THE FOURTH.

Montinued from the last issue of THE EVENING

In Twiss' amusing Life of Eldon, we read how, on the death of the Duke of York, the old Chancellor became possessed of a lock of the defanct prince's hair; and so careful was he respecting the authenticity of the reliet, that Bessy Eldon, his wife, sat in the room with the young man from Hamlet's who distributed the ringlets into separate lockets, which each of the Eldon family afterwards wore. You know how, when George IV came to Edinburgh, a better man than he went on board the royal yacht to welcome the king to his kingdom of Scotland, seized a goblet from which his majesty had just drunk, vowed it should remain for ever as an herricom in his family, and clapped the precious glass in his pocket, and sat down on it and broke it when be got home. Suppose the good sheriff's prize subroken now at Abbottsford, should we not smile with something like pity as we beheld it? Suppose one of those lockets of the no-Popery prince's hair offered for sale at Christie's, quot libras e duce summo inventes? how many pounds would you find for the illustrious duke?
Madame Tussaud has got King George's coronation robes; is there any man now alive who would kiss the hem of that trumpery? He sleeps since thirty years; do not any of you, who remember him, wonder that you once respected, and buzza'd, and admired him?

To make a portrait of him at first seemed a matter of small difficulty. There is his coat, his star, his wig, his countenance simpering under it; with a slate and a piece of chalk I could at this desk perform a recognizable likeness of him. And yet, after reading of him in scores of volumes, hunting him through old magazines and newspapers, having him here at a bail, there at a public dinner, there at races, and so forth, you find you have nothing—nothing but a coat, and a wig, and a mask smiling below it-nothing but a great simulacrum. His sire and grandsires were men. One knows what they were like; what they would do in given circum stances; that, on occasion, they fought and de-meaned themselves like tough, good soldiers. They had friends whom they liked according to their natures; enemies whom they hated fiercely; passions, and actions, and individualities of their own. The sailor king who came after George was a man; the Duke of York was a man, big, burly, loud, jolly, cursing, courageous, But this George, what was he? I look through all his life, and recognize but a bow and a grin. I try and take him to pieces, and find silk stockings, paddings, stays, a coat with trops and a fur collar, a star and blue ribbon, a pocket handkerchief prodigiously scented, one of Truebest's nutty-brown wigs reeking with oil, a set of teeth, and a huge black stock, under-waistcoats, more under-waistcoats, and then nothing. I know of no sentiment that he ever distinctly nttered. Documents are published under his name, but people wrote them; private letters, but people spelt them. He put a great George P. or George R. at the bottom of the page, and fancied he had written the paper: some bookseller's clerk, some poor author, some man did the work; saw the spelling; cleaned up the slovenly sentences, and gave the lax, maudlin slipslop a sort of consistency. He must have had an individuality; the dancing master whom he emulated, nay, surpassed—the wig-maker who curled his toupee for him—the tailor who cut his coats, had that. But about George, one can get at nothing actual. That outside, I am certain, is pad and tailor's work; there may be something behind, but what? We cannot get at the character; no doubt never shall. Will men of the future have nothing better to do than to unswathe and interpret that royal old mummy? I own I once used to think it would be good sport to pursue him, tasten on him, and pull him down. But now I am ashamed to mount and lay good dogs on, to summon a full field, and then to hunt the poor game. On the 12th of August, 1762, the forty-seventh

that an heir to George III was born. Pive days afterwards the king was pleased to pass letters patent under the great seal, creating H. R. H. the Prince of Great Britain, Electoral Prince of Brunswick-Luneburg, Duke of Cornwall and Rothsay, Earl of Garrick, Baron of Benfrew, Lord of the Isles, and Great Steward of Scotland, Prince of Wales, and Earl of Chester, All the people at his birth thronged to see this lovely child; and behind a gilt China sereen railing in St. James' Palsce, in a cradle surrounded by the three princely ostrick feathers, the royal infant was laid to delight the eyes of the lieges. Among the earliest instances of homage paid to him. I read that "a curious Indian bow and arrows were sent to the prince from his father's faithful subjects in New York.'

anniversary of the accession of the House of

Brunswick to the English throne, all the bells in London pealed in gratulation, and amounced

He was fond of playing with these toys: an old statesman, orator, and wit of his grandfather' and great-grandfather's time, never tired of his business, still eager in his old age to be well at court, used to play with the little prince, and fall down dead when the prince shot at him with his toy bow and arrows, and get up fall down dead over and over again, to the in-creased delight of the child. So that he was fattered from his cradle upwards; and before his little feet could walk, statesmen and courtiers were busy kissing them.

There is a pretty picture of the royal infaut—

a beautiful buxom child-asleep in his mother's lap, who turns round and holds a finger to her lip, as if she would bid the courtiers around the baby's slumbers. From that day until his decease, sixty-eight years after, I suppose there were more pictures taken of that personage than of any human being who ever was born and died—in every kind of uniform and every possible court dress-in long fair hair, with powder, with and without a pigtailin every conceivable cocked hat-in dragoon uniform-in a field-marshal's clothes-in a Scotch kilt and tartans, with dirk and claymore (a stupendous figure)—in a frogged frock coat with a fur collar and tight breeches and silk stockings-in wigs of every color, fair, brown, and black-in his famous coronation robes finally, with which performance he was so much in love that he distributed copies of the picture to all the courts and British embassies in Europe, and to numberiess clubs, townhalls, and private friends. I remember, as a young man, how almost every dining-room had his portrait. There is plenty of biographical tattle about

the prince's boyhood. It is told with what as-tonishing rapidity he learned all languages, ancient and modern; how he rode beautifully, sang charmingly, and played elegantly on the violencello. That he was beautiful was patent to all eyes. He had a high spirit; and once, when he had a difference with his father, burst into the royal closet and called out "Wilkes and liberty for ever!" He was so clever that he confounded his very governors in learning; and one of them, Lord Bruce, having made a false quantity in quoting Greek, the admirable young prince instantly corrected him. Lord Brace could not remain a governor after this humilia tion; resigned his office, and to soothe his feel-ings, was actually promoted to be an earl! It the most wonderful reason for promoting a man that I ever heard. Lord Bruce was made an earl for a blunder in prosody, and Nelson

was made a baron for the victory of the Nile.

Lovers of long sums have added up the milhous and millions which in the course of his brilliant existence this single prince consumed. Besides his income of £50,000, £70,000, £100,000, £120,000 a year, we read of three applications to parliament; debts to the amount of £160,000. £650,000; besides mysterious foreign loans whereof he pocketed the proceeds. What did he do for all this money? Why was he to have If he had been a manufacturing town, or a opulous rural district, or an army of five thousand men, he would not have cost more. one solitary stout man, who did not toil, nor

spin, nor fight—what had any mortal done that he should be pampered so? In 1784, when he was twenty-one years of age, Cariton Palace was given to him, and furnished by the nation with as much luxury as could be devised. His pockets were filled with he said it was not enough; he flung it out of the window; he spent £10,000 a year for the coats on his back. The nation gave him more money,

and more, and more. The sum is past counting. He was a prince most lovely to look on, and christened Prince Florizel on his first appearance in the world. That he was the handsomest prince in the whole world was agreed by men, and alas! by many women.

I suppose he must have been very graceful. There are so many testimonies to the charm of his manner, that we must allow him great elegance and powers of fascination. He and the King of France's brother, the Count d'Artois, a charming young prince who danced deliciously on the tight-rope—a poor old tottering exiled king, who asked bespitality of King George's successor, and lived a while in the palace of Mary Stuart—divided in their youth the title of first genilemen of Europe. We in England, of course, gave the prize to our gentleman. Until George's death, the propriety of that award was scarce questioned, or the doubters voted rebels scarce questioned, or the doubters voted rebels and traitors. Only the other day I was reading in the reprint of the delightful Noctes of Christopher North. The health of THE KING is drunk in large capitals by the loyal Scotsman. You would fancy him a hero, a sage, a states-man, a pattern for kings and men. It was Wal-ter Scott who had that accident with the broken glass I spoke of anon. He was the king's Scot-tish champion, rallied all Scotland to him, made loyalty the fashion, and laid about him fiercely with his claymore upon all the princes' enemies. The Brunswick had no such defenders as those two Jacobite commoners, old Sam Johnson, the Lichfield chapman's son, and Walter Scott, the Edinburgh lawyer's.

Nature and circumstance had done their utmost to prepare the prince for being spoiled the dreadful duliness of papa's court, its stupid amusements, its dreary occupations, the mad-dening humdrum, the stifling sobriety of its routine, would have made a scapegrace of a much less lively prince. All the big princes bolted from that castle of ennui where old King George sat, posting up his books and droning over his Handel; and old Queen Charlotte over her snuff and tambour frame. Most of the sturdy, gallant sons settled down after sowing their wild oats, and became sober subjects of their father and brother-not ill liked nation, which partons youth'ul irregularities readily enough for the sake of pluck, and un-

affectedness, and good humor.

The boy is father of the man. Our prince signalized his entrance into the world by a feat worthy of his future life. He invented a new shoe-buckle. It was an inch long and five inches broad. "It covered almost the whole instep, reaching down to the ground on either side of the foot." A sweet invention! lovely and useful as the prince on whose foot it sparkled. At his first appearance at a court ball, we read that "his coat was pink silk. white cuffs; his waistcoat white silk, embroi-dered with various colored foil, and adorned dered with various colored foll, and adorned with a profusion of French paste. And his hat was ornamented with two rows of steel beads, five thousand in number, with a button and loop of the same metal, and cocked in a new mili-What a Florizel! Do these details seem trivial? They are the grave incidents of his life. His biographers say that when he commenced housekeeping in that splendid new palace of his, the Prince of Wales had some windy projects of encouraging literature, science, and the arts; of having assemblies of literary characters, and societies for the encouragement of geography, astronomy and botany, nomy, geography, and botany! Fiddlesticks! French ballet dancers, French cooks, horse jockeys, bufloons, procurers, tailors, boxers, tencing-masters, china, jewel, and gimcrack merchants, these were his real companions. At first he made a pretense of having Burke, and Pitt, and Sheridan for his friends. But how could such men be serious before such an empty scapegrace as this lad? Fox might talk dice with him, and Sheridan wine; but what else had these men of genius in common with their tawdry young host of Carlton House? That fribble the leader of such men as Fox and Burke! That man's opinions about the Consti-tution, the India bill, justice to the Catholics about any question graver than the button for a waistcoat or the sauce for a partridge—worth anything! The friendship between the prince and the Whig chiefs was impossible. They were hypocrites in pretending to respect him, and if he broke the hollow compact between them, who shall blame him? His natural companions were dandles and parasites. He could talk to a tailor or a cook; but as the equal of a great statesman, to set up a creature lazy, weak, indolent, besotted, of monstrous vanity, and levity incurable—it is absurd. They thought to use him, and did for a while; bus they must have known how timid he was: how entirely heartless and treacherous, and have expected his desertion. His next set of friends mere table companions, of whom he grew tired too, then we hear of him with a very few select toadles, mere boys from the school or the Gnards, whose sprightliness tickled the fancy of the worn-out voluptuary. What matter what friends he bad? He dropped all his friends; he never could have real triends. An heir to the throne has flatterers, adventurers who hang about him, ambitious men who use him; but friendship is denied him.

And women. I suppose, are as false and selfish in their dealings with such a character as men. Shall we take the Loporello part, flourish a catalogue of the conquests of this royal Don Juan, and tell the names of the favorites to whom, one after the other, Prince George flung his pocket handkerchief? What purpose would it answer to say how Perdita was pursued, won, deserted, and by whom succeeded? What good knowing that he did sctually marry Mrs. Fitzherbert according to the rites of the Roman Catholic Church ; that her marriage settlements have been seen in London; that the names of the witnesses to her marriage are known. This sort of vice that we are now come to presents no new or fleeting trait of manners. bauchees, dissolute, heartless, fickle, cowardly, have been ever since the world began. This one had more temptations than most, and so much

may be said in extenuation for him. It was an unlucky thing for this doomed one, and tending to lead him yet farther on the road to the deuce, that, besides being lovely, so that women were fescinated by him, and heir apparent, so that all the world flattered should have a beautiful voice, which led him directly in the way of drink; and thus all the pleasant devils were coaxing on poor Florizel: desire, and idleness, and vanity, and drunkenness, all clashing their merry cymbals and bidding him come on.

We first hear of him warbling sentimental ditties under the walls of Kew Palace, by the moonlight banks of Thames, with Lord Viscount Leporello keeping watch lest the music should be disturbed.

Singing after dinner and supper was the universal fashion of the day. You may fancy all Mngland sounding with chorusses, some ribald, some harmless, all occasioning the consumption of a prodigious deal of fermented liquor. "The jolly muse her wings to try no frolic flights

But round the bowl would dip and fly, like swallows round a lake, sang Morris in one of his gallant Anacreontics,

to which the prince many a time joined in chorus, and of which the burden is, "And that I think's a reason fair to drink and

This delightful boon companion of the prince ound "a reason fair" to forego filling and drink ing, saw the error of his ways, gave up the bowl and chorus, and died retired and religious. The prince's table, no doubt, was a very tempting one. The wits came and did their utmost to amuse him. It is wonderful how the spirits rise the city. rise, the wit brightens, the wine has an aroma, when a creat man is at the head of the table. Scott, the loval cavatler, the king's true liegeman, the very best raconleur of his time, poured out with an endless generosity his store of old world learning, kindness, and humor. Grattan contributed to it his wondrous eloquence, fancy, feeling. Tom Moore perched upon it, for a while, and pixed his most exquisite little love-tunes to it, fixing away in a twitter of indignation alterwards, and attacking the prince with bill and claw. In such society, no wonder the sitting was long, and the butler tired of drawing corks. Remember what the usages of the sitting was long, and the butler tired of drawing corks. Remember what the usages of the time were, and that William Pitt, coming to the House of Commons after having drunk a bottle of port wine at his own home, would go into Bellamy's with Dundas, and help finish a couple

[To be continued in our next issue]

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will leave this port every two weeks alternately,
touching at Havana returning, for treight and pasnetgers. touching at Havana returning, for treight and pasnetigers.
The TIOGA will leave for New Orleans on SATURDAY, August 3, at 8 o'clock A, M., from Pier No. 18
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The STAR OF THE UNION will leave New Orleans for this port July 20.
Through bills of moing signed for freight to Mobile,
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Through passage tickets soid and freight taken for
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