

BRITISH CEREMONIES AND COURT ETIQUETTE.

An a companion-picture to the "Inner Life of the British House of Commons," which appeared in the August number of the Northern Monthly, I now bring before the reader a few other reminiscences, which, as an illustration of state ceremonies, court etiquette, and that jealous regard for old fogyism still so religiously preserved by aristocratic England, will doubtless prove interesting on this side the Atlantic.

slight performance, for the amusement of the lookers-on. His "getting up" took the form of a somewhat suggestive of Professor Anderson, and altogether, he has a decided "hanky" appearance. Had he made a grimace, struck an attitude, and exclaimed:—"Here we are as we used to war," it would not in the least have caused surprise; and he actually seems to tear himself away from the assembled company, regretting that he could not do something funny, and as though it is only the fact of the Queen being close at his heels that keeps him in anything like order. Behind the Queen is a bevy of maids of honor, and though it is not permitted to say that any lady can be homey, it cannot be denied that the Queen's maids of honor on this auspicious occasion might easily have been more beautiful. Possibly her Majesty thought it judicious to keep Albert out of the way of temptation. The Prince of Wales and Prince Alfred, who walk with Lord Palmerston, are scarcely noticed—lost in the attractiveness of the juvenile Premier. Silver sticks in waiting and yeomen of the guard, in themselves a show when alone, bring up the rear, but are not seen, eclipsed by what has gone before. Scarcely more than a minute elapsed before another procession enters—that of the bridegroom; and here the Prussian uniforms and military splendor shine in all their glory. The young Prince appears serious and reserved, but acknowledges gracefully the salute given him by the company. He presents the appearance of a well-bred young man, quite self-possessed, but aware that something more serious than usual is going on.

The canopy, which is lined with rich white silk, and which the royal arms are richly emblazoned. Three chairs are placed upon the dais, that intended for the Queen being, of course, the most ornate, and covered with gold embroidery upon a crimson ground, and displaying the royal arms. On either side of the dais, and completely filling the space to the galleries, a profusion of exotics and the choicest plants send forth their refreshing perfumes, and nature and art are thus so charmingly allied that neither seems to suffer from the union.

The words now ran round, "They're coming." Presently a horseman, who, it is clear to all, is a trumpeter, appears in sight, but the indescribably costumed individual who accompanies him is evidently a marvel to that large portion of the crowd whose duty has betokened them to be from the provinces. This is a herald, and, having done his share in exciting the risibility of the lookers-on and the awe of the country-folk, who take him to be at least a Souldan or a Caliph, he passes on, and all eyes are now directed to the approaching train of carriages, each drawn by six horses and containing the royal household. The last of these has passed, and now comes a pause. The Queen is at hand. Along the balconies and from the window handkerchiefs are fluttering, hats waving, and thousands of throats are shouting loud "huzzas." A detachment of picked body-guards slowly ride by, and are followed by the "beef-eaters" in their ludicrously quaint Elizabethan costumes; and lo! the eight cream-colored steeds upon whom devolves the honor of conducting the Majesty of England are in sight. With costly purple trappings, these magnificent animals stalk proudly along, as if conscious of the high duty intrusted to them. At the head of each, on either side, walks a groom in powdered wig and scarlet livery, and now the gorgeous state carriage of crystal and gold is before us. The Queen, seated on the right of the Prince-Consort, and wearing a coronet, looks young and happy. Little dreaming of the bereavement which in a few short hours she is doomed to suffer, her Majesty bows from side to side, and smiles, as she passes, at some observation just made to her by one of her ladies of honor; but no one seems to know or care who she is. The Queen is the great object of attraction, and, seeing her, the spectators are satisfied.

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