

Queenly Characteristics

A Great Lady Who Waits at Home

A Study of Queen Mary



By E.L. Harding

It is well-known that a very deep affection exists between Queen Elizabeth and Queen Mary. That affection doubtless rests upon the solid foundation of similar fine qualities which both possess. First among these is the essential fitness for the high office to which at different, troubled times, each has been called.

Neither the Queen Mother, as a daughter of the Duchess of Teck, and, in her early days, a very 'junior' Princess, nor Lady Elizabeth Bowes-Lyon, in her quiet girlhood, could easily have dreamed true dreams of her great future. The consort of King George VI has yet to win her Queenly laurels, though none can doubt her ultimate triumph if she follows in the steps of her beloved predecessor.

Long ago, the Queen Mother proved her worth. As a rather shy, and serious young woman, she struggled through her apprenticeship at the Court of St. James', first under the wing of an awe-inspiring Queen Victoria, and, later, of Queen Alexandra and her brilliant husband, King Edward VII. But there was to be ample repayment for such patient learning. When, in 1910, as Princess of Wales, she was called to take her place on the throne, it was to find herself very soon complete mistress of the art of Queenship.

A Strong Sense Of Duty
The Court of King George V and Queen Mary was not as rigorously disciplined as the Victorian Court. Nor was it as inconspicuously gay as the Edwardian. Queen Mary believed in moderation; in the middle of course. She wanted her people and her children to be as free as possible and to enjoy themselves.

Some of the old ways of life might be too strict; but some of the new were too lax. For everyone there were duties to be fulfilled. She saw to it that these were not forgotten. The most important of them have been to her country, her husband and her sons and daughter.

A sense of duty is, perhaps, the strongest urge within her. It is this, probably, more than anything else, which has made her to those legions of her subjects at home and overseas, a model, not only of what they conceive of a perfect Queen, but of fine womanhood.

The Queen Mother is known for her kind and generous heart, as much as for her powers of calm logic and commonsense. In the Duchesse of Teck's over-hospitable household, lack of money was at times more than embarrassing. Yet the Duchesse could never resist the call of poverty.

Queen Mary is equally ready to

help the needy, but she will never allow any of the many philanthropic institutions which bear her name to be run on unbusinesslike lines. She is impulsively generous, but she has no use for waste or muddle.

Sights-of-London Tours
Queen Mary knows of many pleasures to fill her more leisurely days. She is fond of the theatre and the cinema and her grandchildren are her constant joy. Living as she now does quite close to Buckingham Palace, she has the frequent companionship of Princess Elizabeth and Princess Margaret.

In the past year or so she has formed the pleasant habit of taking the little girls out for walks and often acts as their guide on sight-seeing tours about London. Soon there will be few if any museums, art galleries and other places of interest which the Royal trio have not visited together. In such a way, and in many others, Queen Mary aids their education.

A Keen Gardener
Queen Mary has a special fondness for gardening and loves all kinds of flowers. This love would seem to be quite naturally bound up in the liking she has always shown for glowing colours. It is told of her that so particular is she to obtain just the right shade of a certain colour for dress material that she will send hydrangeas or other blossoms from her garden to act as a colour guide for her gown fabrics.

There have been all too many occasions when the Queen Mother's great courage has been tested to the full. It was particularly manifest during the sad days of King George V's illness, after his death, and, again, through the crisis which led to the abdication of her eldest son.

A Guardian Of The Realm
Her earnest hopes for the welfare of the monarchy, which she in her time successfully guarded, are now vested in her second son, King George VI. She will be able to watch over him as he shoulders the heavy responsibilities which were his father's a while ago.

The big, red mansion in the Mall is alive with memories for the Queen Mother. It was here that she lived, twenty-six years ago, with her husband, the King who seldom spoke to his subjects unless he paid a tribute to his "dear wife", his great helpmate.

Their son, who has ascended the throne, showed in his memorable New Year message the same desire to praise the Queen Mother before all the world. Speaking of the responsibilities of his heritage, he said: "I shoulder them with all the more confidence in the knowledge that the Queen and my mother, Queen Mary, are at my side."

A Little Girl With a Big Future

HOW PRINCESS ELIZABETH IS BEING TRAINED FOR THE THRONE.

By Florence Menzies

A Royal Princess is not immune from life's little disappointments. She must suffer them with the rest of us as best she can. All the same, we could not but feel rather sorry for Princess Elizabeth when she bade good-bye to the King and Queen and saw them set sail for Canada without her.

Of course, she had wanted to go with them. Particularly, she had wanted to meet all those other little girls across the sea who speak her own language, probably play her favourite games, and lead happy, carefree lives not so very different from her own.

What is more important, she had heard that these girls and boys in the great Dominion over the Atlantic had wanted just as much to meet Elizabeth. Indeed, the only cheerful thought just now for the Princess must be of a great treat in store for her. Unoubtedly, one day in the not-too-distant future, she will visit Canada.

No Shadows Over Childhood

We believe, we trust, that there are many other treats awaiting this little girl in the days to come. They will help to counteract some of the tremendous responsibilities which then, must be hers. How easy it would be for the 'big future' to overshadow the happy childhood of Princess Elizabeth.

Fortunately we need have no fears on this score. Thanks to the Queen's wise training, our thirteen-year-old Princess is not unduly impressed by the fact that she may one day ascend to the throne. She is not unduly impressed by the knowledge that she must tackle certain subjects more seriously than other children of her age. For her, languages are of great importance, as are the arts of a Royal hostess and the mastery of constitutional history.

Naturalness The Keynote

Albeit innocently enough, she and her younger sister, Princess Margaret have worked for their popularity, and in so doing, mastered a task of which most children know nothing. Princess Elizabeth has already learned to keep her two selves quite separate. One is concerned with her important public duties as a princess and the other with her private life as a normal, happy little girl.

Nothing gives the Queen greater pleasure than to hear her daughters praised for their utter lack of affectation.

"That is what I like to hear" Her Majesty replies. "The children must be natural above all else."

A Plan Of Education

In the nurseries and schoolroom in Buckingham Palace a homely atmosphere prevails. The Queen is a well-kept perfect mother. Nothing in the children's education which can be attended to by herself is delegated to others. As little Lady Elizabeth Bowes-Lyon took her lessons at home under her mother's guidance, so has Princess Elizabeth. She will continue to do so, though now that she is out of the nursery stage, her education can no longer be a purely personal matter for her father and mother to settle.

After her twelfth birthday, the Cabinet approved the whole plan of the Princess's education, which the King and Queen had drawn up in consultation with Queen Mary. The scheme covers the next six years. The Princess will not go to school, but various teachers will visit Buckingham Palace and instruct her under the general supervision of her mother and her capable governess, Miss Crawford.

Another Queen Victoria?

Many people have often remarked upon how cool and self-possessed is Princess Elizabeth. In this innate quality it may be that she resembles her great-great-grandmother. Having been introduced to the child, a famous admiral regarded her searchingly and said: "I thought I was looking at Queen Victoria." The natural ease which is hers will aid her greatly in the years to come.

The elder Princess is more serious and deliberate than the younger, towards whom Elizabeth has always shown a deep protective love. She has watched over her young sister, stopped her from sitting on cold stone walls without the protection of a rug, applauded her successful efforts to dance and sing—two accomplishments in which the 8-

Queen Elizabeth

Wife, Mother and Partner in Sovereignty

By Ursula Protheroe

Speaking of the Queen when she was still Duchess of York, the Bishop of Birmingham put into words some years ago a belief which will find expression on many lips to-day. "What the Duchess's smile has done for the British Empire", he said, "we shall find out in the years to come".

The "Little Duchess"

When the bride of the then Duke of York drove through London one April morning sixteen years ago, her face was unfamiliar to many thousands of her well-wishers who lined the streets to wave and cheer.

Only a few were close enough to the Royal carriage to tell with any certainty what exact shade of blue were her eyes. Was she a brunette? The majority could not be sure, though they were soon to know that her eyes were a light blue-grey and her way hair a dark brown.

But from this first glimpse of the "Little Duchess", as she was affectionately to be called, there could have been none who were not caught and held by the peculiar sweetness and frankness of her smile. Then it was, as it still is, more arresting than her prettiness, her graceful clothes, her quiet dignity.

A Question Of Status

The young bride had been Lady Elizabeth Angela Marguerite Bowes-Lyon. She is the youngest daughter of a Scots peer, the Earl of Strathmore.

In the early days of her marriage some acted upon the mistaken idea that as the Duchess was not of Royal birth there was no need to curtsy to her when they were presented.

For the King's son to marry a commoner was so unusual that the mistake may be easily understood. But it was quickly realised that the wife of a Royal Prince takes her husband's rank.

Without this knowledge, however, there is little doubt that the delightful informality of the Duchess of York, blended as it was with a dignity befitting the wife of the King's second son, was sufficient to call forth at once that respect which, with or without Royal status seemed to be naturally due to her.

A Wish To Please All

But other qualities in her character were to be appreciated to the full by all who came into touch with her. Her vivacity and desire to please were apparent to all.

It is said of the Queen that at one time she was very eager to shingle her hair, but on learning that the King, her father-in-law did not like the fashion, she gave up the idea simply to please him.

Tales abound which reveal her blessed gift of being a good listener, as well as a bright and witty conversationalist. Her interests are wide and she has proved herself possessed of a firm grasp of public as well as of domestic affairs. All these gifts serve her well in her capacity as hostess, a role in which she excels.

The Queen is fond of reading, particularly history and memoirs. She is musical and an excellent dancer. It scarcely needs mentioning that she is attached to animals and that her great love of dogs is one she has passed on to her children.

Perhaps sports on the whole do not appeal very much to the Queen. But she is a fair golfer and a sound tennis player.

Simple Home

Just as Queen Mary likes to visit her favourite shops unattended

year-old Princess excels. Elizabeth at times sings loudly and lustily, but not always, it is to be feared, in tune. Margaret Rose takes after her mother in her love of music and after her father in that she is already mechanically minded.

Princess Elizabeth has a remarkable memory and can, on occasion, show an imperiousness which has to be firmly checked. To offset this, there are few who do not praise her charm, her dignity, her quick intelligence and her ready tact.

so does Queen Elizabeth, without any fuss or formality. Like the Queen Mother, too, our new Queen has a genius for home-making. Into Buckingham Palace she has brought the same sense of well-ordered comfort which prevailed in the grey, stucco-fronted houses in Piccadilly where she lived as Duchess of York.

It is significant that, as the first of the Royal Duchesses, this great little lady had always striven to guard the simplicity and privacy of her home. She did not wish it to appear from the outside any different from the four or five other unpretentious mansions in the area. For this reason it bore no name, but just the number "145".

Happy Days At Glamis

Queen Elizabeth was born in 1900. She has never been to school, but her education was ably supervised by her mother. She led a happy, simple childhood, much of it at the Scottish family seat of the Strathmores.

The spacious grounds of Glamis Castle provided a grand playground for the future Queen of England and her brothers and sisters.

If the War clouded her later childhood days, when her home became a 'Tommy's' hospital, her contact with suffering did much to develop the innate maternal instinct in her nature. It developed, as well, a wide sympathy and patient kindness.

One felt that her happiness must have been nearly complete when, in 1926, her first daughter, Princess Elizabeth was born.

But only eight months later the young mother was to know what deep sacrifices she might be called upon to make in serving her husband, and, through him, the Home Country and Empire.

Empire Visits

A tour round the world, primarily to open the first Parliament in the new Australian capital of Canberra, brought about a separation from her baby.

Queen Mary, having herself suffered partings from her children when they were in their nursery states, came to the rescue with a most helpful suggestion. She would take charge of her grandchild for six months. This she did and earned the deep gratitude of her son and daughter.

The Australian tour was not the first overseas visit which the Queen, as Duchess of York, had taken with her husband. Her earlier visit to East Africa was planned more as a pleasure than an official trip. It was in East Africa that she enjoyed her first safari.

But the Australian tour was memorable. Among other things, for the initiation she underwent into the art of public speaking.

The Queen has since shown an aptitude for making short speeches. Her voice is clear and rather high-pitched, and she speaks without a trace of nervousness.

It is not difficult to realise that, wherever she has met her future subjects overseas, the Queen has been acclaimed by them with enthusiasm. And she, in turn, has enjoyed her journeys through the Empire, as such a warm nature as hers naturally cultivates all opportunities of forging new links in friendship.

The Queen's First Care

The question of her children's food is of paramount interest to the Queen, and her vigilance in this side of her domestic life has done much to assure the vigorous health of the little Princesses.

She has also given her constant attention to the King's health, which has at times needed great care. In the matter of his speech impediment, no praise is too strong to award the Queen for the understanding way in which she has helped him to overcome this handicap.

By every possible means she has proved herself a perfect helpmate to the King. His welfare, one feels confident, is safe in her gracious keeping. She holds it as a sacred trust. Long may she live to love and aid him.