

**QUEEN VICTORIA:
A SOUVENIR OF
THE RECORD REIGN**

Published @ 2017 Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd

ISBN 9780649345847

Queen Victoria: A Souvenir of the Record Reign by David Williamson

Except for use in any review, the reproduction or utilisation of this work in whole or in part in any form by any electronic, mechanical or other means, now known or hereafter invented, including xerography, photocopying and recording, or in any information storage or retrieval system, is forbidden without the permission of the publisher, Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd, PO Box 1576 Collingwood, Victoria 3066 Australia.

All rights reserved.

Edited by Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd.
Cover @ 2017

This book is sold subject to the condition that it shall not, by way of trade or otherwise, be lent, re-sold, hired out, or otherwise circulated without the publisher's prior consent in any form or binding or cover other than that in which it is published and without a similar condition including this condition being imposed on the subsequent purchaser.

www.triestepublishing.com

DAVID WILLIAMSON

**QUEEN VICTORIA:
A SOUVENIR OF
THE RECORD REIGN**

QUEEN VICTORIA:

A Souvenir of the Record Reign.

BY

DAVID WILLIAMSON.



TORONTO: WILLIAM BRYCE.

1897.

f



Portrait by W. J. Baynes

Queen Victoria, 1840

Victoria R.



Photo by]

[Hughes & Mullins, Ryde.

THE QUEEN IN HER ROBES OF STATE.

Queen Victoria.

CHAPTER I.

THE QUEEN'S DAILY LIFE.



HE early life of the Queen is so familiar to most of her loyal subjects, that I make no apology for devoting the first chapter in this biography to an account of Her Majesty's life at the present day.

Millions of people who know nothing of Court ceremonials and the arduous duties of a Sovereign have an abiding interest in the personal life of Queen Victoria. They are, in many cases, better acquainted with the relationships of the Royal Family than with their own genealogical tree, and could "pass with honours" an examination in the ties which bind the Queen to

H V P

Queen Victoria.

the different Courts of Europe "unto the third and fourth generations." This deep interest in her concerns has been earned by the Queen in her capacity as Wife, Mother, Widow, Grandmother, and Great-Grandmother, and not simply because she is Queen of Great Britain and Ireland, and Empress of India. The daily record of the *Court Circular* is to many the chief item in a daily newspaper, although that presents the faintest picture of the Queen's day's work. For few realise what a busy woman the Queen is. To her there comes no interval of holiday, no respite from official duties, no day on which she may be



[From a Photo by]

[Russell.]

DUKE OF CONNAUGHT.

DUKE OF SAXE-COBURG-GOHA

GERMAN EMPEROR.

PRINCE OF WALES.

HER MAJESTY THE QUEEN.

THE EMPRESS FREDERICK.

A FAMILY GROUP.

said to be "off duty." It may surprise some people to learn that she appends her signature to about fifty thousand documents a year, a task which is not performed until the contents of each has been ascertained. The Queen has grown more business-like with each year of her reign, and more regardful of the importance of each act to which she gives authority. Woe betide the official who has not taken the trouble to master the precedents for any ceremonies, or has failed to observe the punctilious rules which govern it. Yet it must not be imagined that the Queen is a martinet who never deviates from a set programme. Not long ago, a well-known physician was entering the Royal presence in order to receive knighthood. He was suffering severely from gout, and the Queen noticed the pain, which was evident in his slow walk. "Pray don't think of



[Photo by]

[J. Russell.]

THE QUEEN, WITH HER DAUGHTERS THE EMPRESS FREDERICK
AND PRINCESS HENRY OF BATTENBERG.

order to be married. The date of the wedding had been postponed more than once to meet the wishes of the Royal Mistress, but at last the day for quitting the Castle had come. The Queen sent for the young woman, and after giving her kindly counsels, fastened on her wrist the gold bracelet, locked it, and, retaining the key, said: "Now, though you are leaving me, you will still be my servant, and every time you look at this locked bracelet you must remember her who has the key."



THE LAST PORTRAIT OF THE QUEEN PRIOR TO HER MARRIAGE.
From the picture by WILLIAM FOWLER.

The Queen has a dislike of change, and many of her servants have been several years with her. When they retire, they receive every consideration, either in the shape of a pension, or in appointment to some post. Nor are they then forgotten, for the Queen's memory of faces is proverbial, and years afterwards some gate-keeper has been astonished by Her Majesty's thoughtful enquiries.

The daily routine of the Court is always being varied by interesting incidents, but in its main features the Queen's day is spent in the following fashion. She has been an early riser ever since that first morning of her reign, when at six o'clock she appeared to the Archbishop of Canterbury, the Lord Chamberlain, and the Marquis of Conyngham "in a loose white nightgown and shawl, her nightcap thrown off, and her hair falling upon her shoulders, her feet in slippers, tears in her eyes, but perfectly collected and dignified." When the Queen has taken