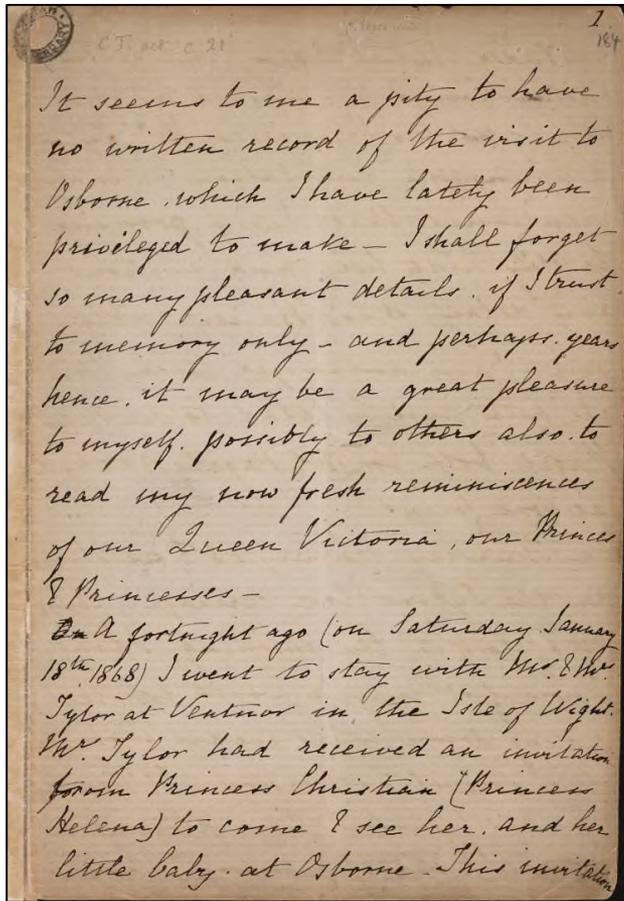


Diary of Catherine Paget

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It seems to me a pity to have no written record of the visit to Osborne, which I have lately been privileged to make - I shall forget so many pleasant details, if I trust to memory only - and perhaps years hence, it may be a great pleasure to myself, possibly to others also, to read my now fresh reminiscences of our Queen Victoria, our Princes & Princesses -

A fortnight ago (on Saturday, January 18th 1868) I went to stay with Mr. & Mrs. Tylor at Ventnor in the Isle of Wight. Mr. Tylor had received an invitation from Princess Christian (Princess Helena) to come & see her, and her little baby, at Osborne. This invitation

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included Juliet Tylor, and Lellie —
(Helena Louisa, so named by the
wish of the two Princesses) Mr. Tylor,
accepting the invitation, kindly
mentioned that I was going
to stay with her — and, without
any delay, Miss Bauer wrote
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all here will be glad to see Miss
Paget, both for Mr. Paget's sake and
as your friend" —
On Thursday, January 23rd, we started
in the Tylor's close carriage, about
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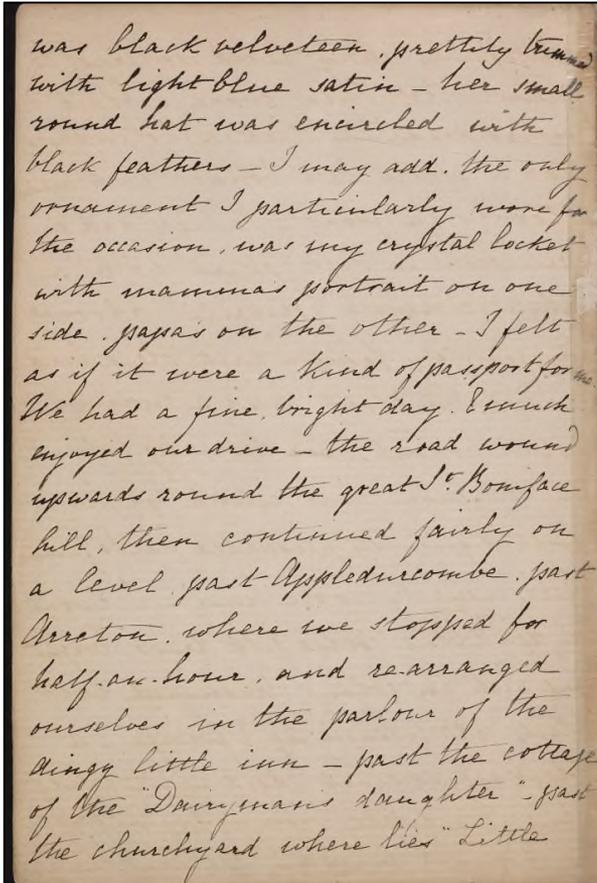
185
antiquity may lend interest to them - Mrs. Tylor wore a black velvet dress - a dark sealskin cloak and a white lace bonnet with mauve flowers in front - Juliet had a pale mauve silk skirt with a white cashmere "Garibaldi", adorned in military fashion with black braid - a sealskin cloak - and a mauve velvet bonnet, ~~over~~ showing behind the "chignon" into which we had with difficulty persuaded her to fashion her usually loose hair - I wore a dark blue corded silk dress, bright and rich in colour, ~~trimmed~~ with black jet trimming & fringe - a black velvet cloak edged with white fur & a little brown bonnet of sealskin & velvet - Lellie's dress

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was black velveteen, prettily trimmed with light blue satin — her small round hat was encircled with black feathers — I may add, the only ornament I particularly wore for the occasion, was my crystal locket with mamma's portrait on one side, papa's on the other — I felt as if it were a kind of passport for me. We had a fine, bright day. I much enjoyed our drive — the road wound upwards round the great St. Boniface hill, then continued fairly on a level past Appledurcombe, past Arreton, where we stopped for half-an-hour, and re-arranged ourselves in the parlour of the dingy little inn — past the cottage of the "Dairyman's daughter" — past the churchyard where lies "Little >>

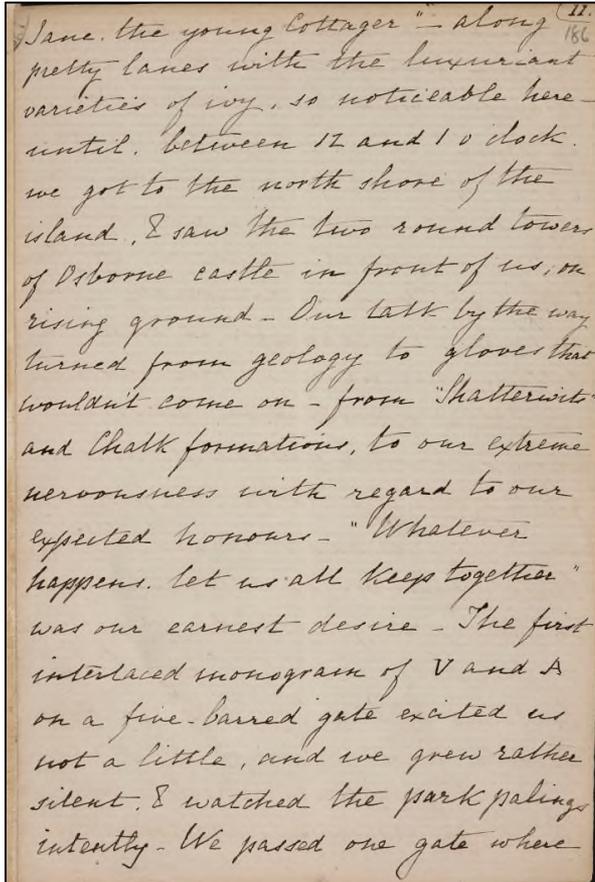
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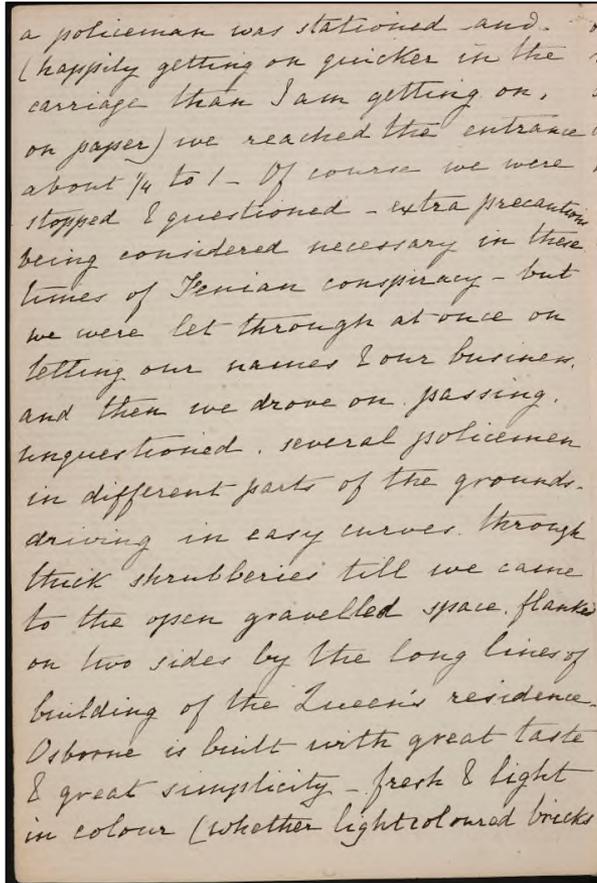
11. 1866
Jane, the young Cottager" — along pretty lanes with the luxuriant varieties of ivy, so noticeable here until. Between 12 and 1 o'clock we got to the north shore of the island, & saw the two round towers of Osborne castle in front of us, on rising ground. Our talk by the way turned from geology to gloves that wouldn't come on — from "Shatterwick" and Chalk formations, to our extreme nervousness with regard to our expected honours. "Whatever happens, let us all keep together" was our earnest desire. The first interlaced monogram of V and A on a five-barred gate excited us not a little, and we grew rather silent, & watched the park palings intently. We passed one gate where

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a policeman was stationed and
(happily getting on quicker in the
carriage than I am getting on,
on paper) we reached the entrance
about ¼ to 1. Of course we were
stopped & questioned - extra precautions
being considered necessary in these
times of Fenian conspiracy - but
we were let through at once on
telling our names & our business,
and then we drove on, passing,
unquestioned, several policemen
in different parts of the grounds,
driving in easy curves through
thick shrubberies till we came
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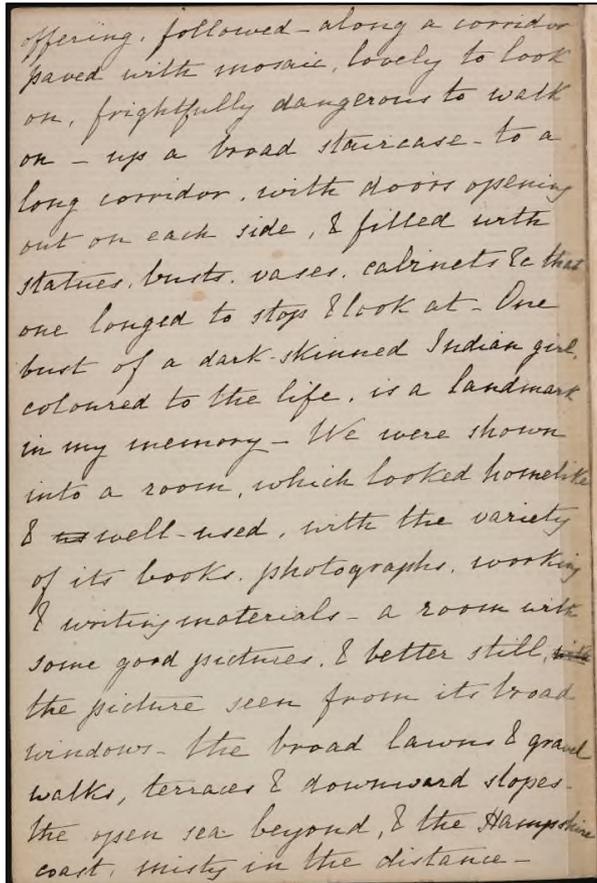
or stone, I cannot say, but with no
red tints about it) broken into
several almost separate buildings,
closely & gracefully grouped together.
We drove at first towards the door
straight before us, which was sheltered
by a large portico, under which stood
a natural-looking perambulator — but
this was the Royal entrance, not our
and, somehow finding out the
mistake in time we turned
short off, and alighted at a
humbler entrance in the block
of buildings to the right hand. We
were admitted by a very gorgeous
& alarming footman in scarlet &
blue, who obligingly received us
and led the way — and we, laden
with various neat parcels — kind
Mrs Tylor's gifts for the Princesses,
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by a very gorgeous & alarming footman in scarlet & blue,
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Leeson's >>

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offering, followed - along a corridor paved with mosaic, lovely to look on, frightfully dangerous to walk on - up a broad staircase - to a long corridor, with doors opening out on each side, & filled with statues, busts, vases, cabinets &c that one longed to stop & look at. One bust of a dark-skinned Indian girl, coloured to the life, is a landmark in my memory - We were shown into a room, which looked homelike & well-used, with the variety of its books, photographs, working & writing materials - a room with some good pictures, & better still, the picture seen from its broad windows - the broad lawns & grand walks, terraces & downward slopes - the open sea beyond, & the Hampshire coast, misty in the distance -

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186 III
Miss Bauer entered the room together with us - received us most kindly - and then took us through the suite of rooms, all handsome, comfortable, well & richly adorned - to the bedroom where we took off bonnets & cloaks. Mrs Tylor said to her what charming rooms they were & Miss Bauer answered "you must not think these are my rooms - don't you know that today you are the Queen's guests?" - We came back to the room first described & Miss Bauer, having a letter to finish, gave us a programme of the previous day's entertainment to look at. In honour of Prince Christian's birthday a charade & tableaux had been got up. The charade "Banditti" in which the actors were Princess Louise as ^{the} Mme Malibran Lind Scricini (or some such name) Prince Arthur with a drum -

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Prince Leopold with a violin & ~~two~~
two daughters of General Grey in other
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Bauer said, looked lovely, talked
a clever patois of Italian, German,
French &c & sang a song with great
charm - Band & ditty were two
scenes - in the last scene, the whole
word "Banditti" Prince Leopold
acted the landlord of a Swiss inn,
& Princess Louise & Miss Grey were
two unprotected females - For the
tableaux, the performers names
were not given, but I believe
they were the same as in the charade.
The story represented, in 3 or 4
tableaux, was the Finding of the
true Cross by the Empress Helena.
We did not wait long, before a tap
came at the door, and as it opened
Miss Bauer said "Princess Beatrice"
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a graceful, upright little lady with clear delicate complexion, large grey eyes, very light in colour — and long smooth hair which hung in fair profusion down to her waist behind. In feature, I thought her strikingly like Princess Alice — She wore a simple checked silk dress, of a brown tint, made low, trimmed only with a flounce — under it, a white muslin chemisette came up to her throat & down to her wrists — She wore a gold locket in the form of a bee — and a double band of bright blue velvet across her head — She was very quiet & selfpossessed in all her movements, but had, I fancied, rather a nervous way of speaking & laughing. She shook ^{hands} with each of us in turn — accepted with frank expressions of pleasure, the little doll's dressing-case Mrs. Tylor had brought her. "much

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prettier than anything ^{like it} I have" — and at Miss Bauer's suggestion, went and fetched two fine dolls ^{in order} to play with Lellie — The stately little child's manner is remarkably that of a princess — but so by nature, not affectation — and she & Lellie sat on a big sofa, & played with the dolls — gravely & shyly — Another knock at the door, & Princess Christian came in — kissed Mrs Tylor warmly, then shook hands with each of us, & sat herself down by the table. One cannot call her good looking — her features are not very regular, & her complexion is not good — but there was a great charm in her hearty, kindly manner — best expressed by the word "jolly" — She spoke very pure English, but with a sort of foreign distinctness of enunciation. She wore a black silk skirt, with a simple Garibaldi merino jacket of French grey — with one of the now >>

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to Papa, and her always calling him
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with Mrs Tylor about M^{me} Roland - "poor
Rolly!" as she said - who had been
governess with them for many years.
She promised to send her baby to
see us - and added - "Mrs Tylor, mamma
wishes to see you after luncheon" - To
Mrs Tylor's "Dear Princess Christian,
I shall be so frightened - do tell me

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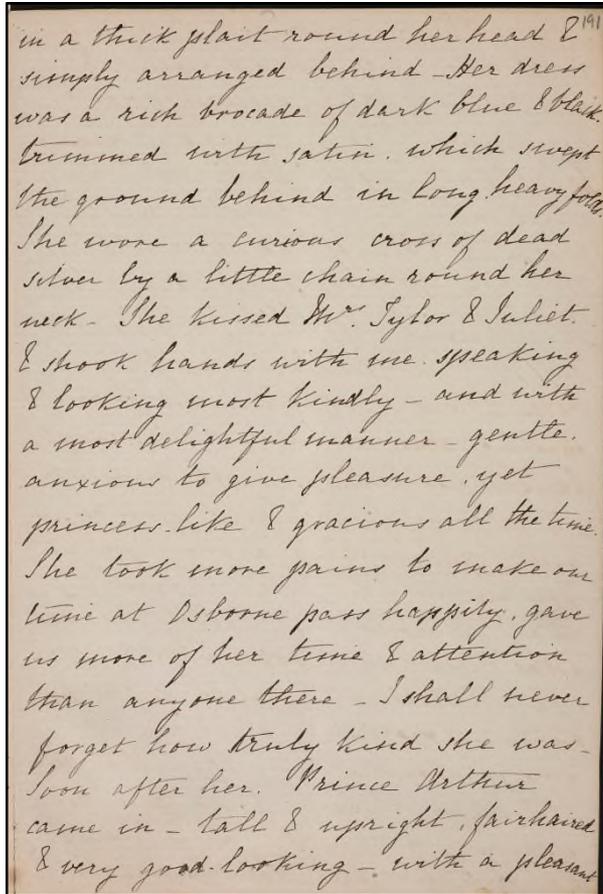
how to behave!" she answered by fairly laying her head down on the table, & laughing merrily - "Oh" she said "now I think mamma is the least formidable of persons" - Promising to see us again, she took her leave - and soon after, by a door at the side of the room, Princess Louise entered - Tall & graceful in figure more than any other of the Royal family, she is also far the most perfect in beauty - and, were she no princess, everyone would praise & delight in her noble, handsome face - so refined & well proportioned in every feature, so bright with all the thoughtfulness of its expression - Her eyes are like those of the Prince of Wales, and even more soft & handsome - and a luxuriant fair hair was coiled

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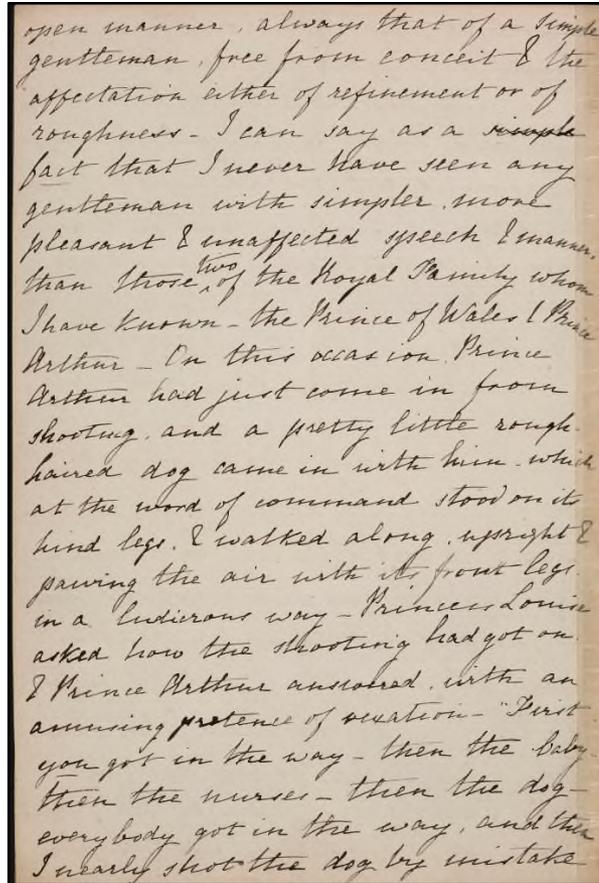
in a thick plait round her head & simply arranged behind. Her dress was a rich brocade of dark blue & black, trimmed with satin, which swept the ground behind in long, heavy folds. She wore a curious cross of dead silver by a little chain round her neck. She kissed Mr. Tylor & Juliet, & shook hands with me, speaking & looking most kindly - and with a most delightful manner - gentle, anxious to give pleasure, yet princess-like & gracious all the time. She took more pains to make our time at Osborne pass happily, gave us more of her time & attention than anyone there - I shall never forget how truly kind she was. Soon after her, Prince Arthur came in - tall & upright, fair haired & very good-looking - with a pleasant

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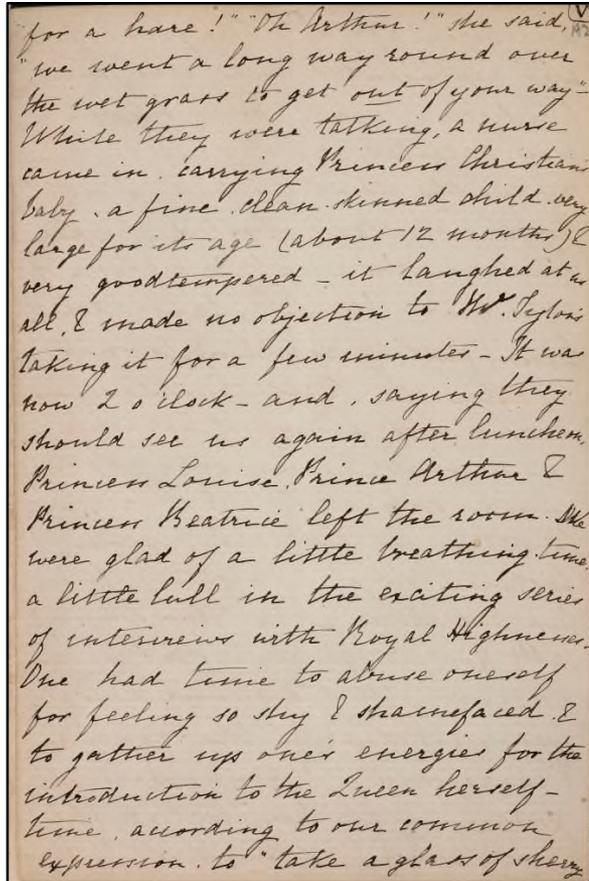
open manner, always that of a simple gentleman, free from conceit & the affectation either of refinement or of roughness - I can say as a simple fact that I never have seen any gentleman with simpler, more pleasant & unaffected speech & manner, than those ^{two} of the Royal Family whom I have known - the Prince of Wales & Prince Arthur - On this occasion, Prince Arthur had just come in from shooting, and a pretty little rough-haired dog came in with him, which at the word of command stood on its hind legs, & walked along, upright & pawing the air with its front legs, in a ludicrous way - Princess Louise asked how the shooting had got on, & Prince Arthur answered, with an amusing pretence of vexation - "First you got in the way - then the baby, then the nurses - then the dog - everybody got in the way, and then I nearly shot the dog by mistake >>

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for a hare!" "Oh Arthur!" she said, ^v
"we went a long way round over
the wet grass to get out of your way".
While they were talking, a nurse
came in, carrying Princess Christian's
baby, a fine, clean-skinned child, very
large for its age (about 12 months) &
very goodtempered - it laughed at us
all, & made no objection to Mrs. Tylor
taking it for a few minutes - It was
now 2 o'clock - and, saying they
should see us again after luncheon,
Princess Louise, Prince Arthur &
Princess Beatrice left the room. We
were glad of a little breathing time,
a little lull in the exciting series
of interviews with Royal Highnesses.
One had time to abuse oneself
for feeling so shy & shamefaced, &
to gather up one's energies for the
introduction to the Queen herself -
time, according to our common
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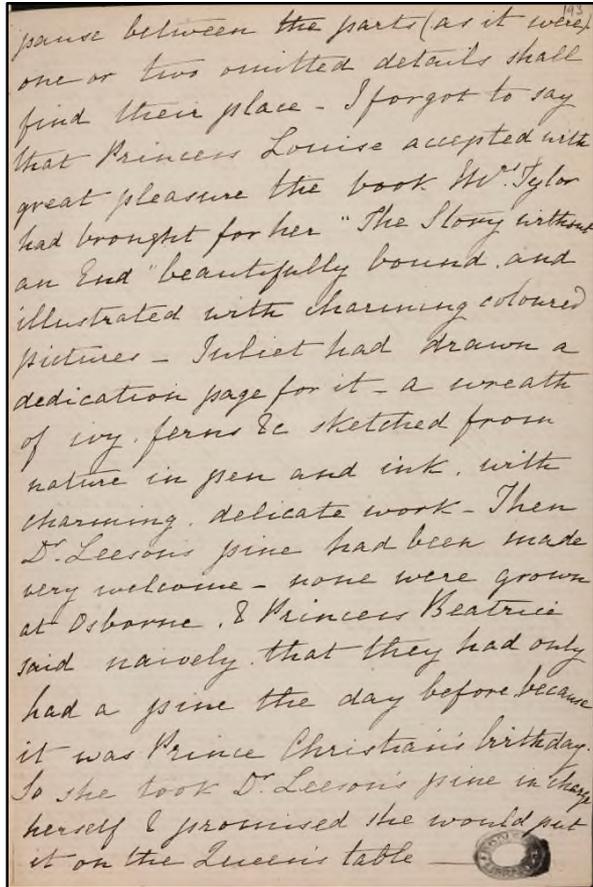
and begin again" - The glass of sherry was represented by a very elaborate luncheon. I will persevere in my very detailed style of writing, and say exactly what we had to eat. Soup first - cutlets - boiled chicken - roast mutton - sea kale - game of some kind (I think) - tart - delicious lemon pudding, recalling to one's memory the Tyrol "mehlspeisen" - cheese - and dessert of hothouse grapes & other fruit, & fancy cakes. To drink we had sherry, claret, & seltzer water. To attend on us, two serious footmen in plain clothes - We lunched alone with Miss Bauer & Mlle Norelle, governess to Princess Beatrice - All the china and glass was marked with the royal crown & monogram - A fine Spanish picture by Phillips was in the room where we lunched. In this

>> and begin again". The "glass of sherry" was represented by a very elaborate luncheon. I will persevere in my very detailed style of writing, and say exactly what we had to eat. Soup first — cutlets — boiled chicken, roast mutton, sea kale, game of some kind (I think) — tart — delicious lemon pudding, recalling to one's memory the Tyrol "mehlspeisen" — cheese — and dessert of hothouse grapes & other fruit, & fancy cakes. To drink, we had sherry, claret, & seltzer water — to attend on us, two serious footmen in plain clothes. We lunched alone with Miss Bauer & Mlle Norelle, governess to Princess Beatrice. All the china and glass was marked with the royal crown & monogram. A fine Spanish picture by Phillips was in the room where we lunched. In this >>

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pause between the parts (as it were) one or two omitted details shall find their place - I forgot to say that Princess Louise accepted with great pleasure the book Mrs Tylor had brought for her "The Story without an End" beautifully bound and illustrated with charming coloured pictures - Juliet had drawn a dedication page for it - a wreath of ivy, ferns &c sketched from nature in pen and ink, with charming, delicate work - Then Dr Leeson's pine had been made very welcome - none were grown at Osborne, & Princess Beatrice said naively, that they had only had a pine the day before because it was Prince Christian's birthday. So she took Dr Leeson's pine in charge herself & promised she would put it on the Queen's table -

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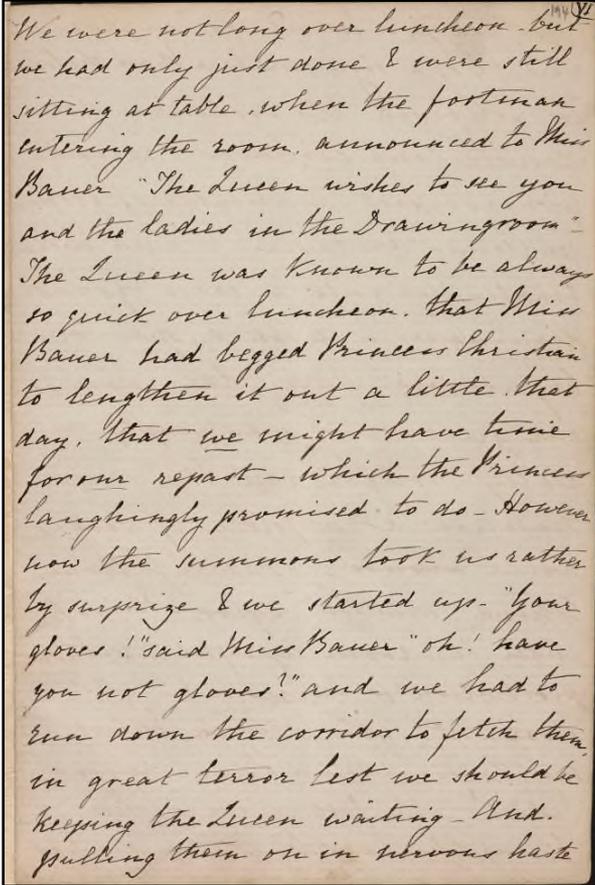
When we were not with the Princesses it seems, as far as I can remember, that our talk was of them, more or less. We heard thus from Miss Bauer, that the Queen had taken the most lively interest in the charade &c and in all the preparations required that she intended making another step towards public life, by holding drawing rooms in the course of the season - that her health was very good especially in cold bracing weather, but that she could not stand heat, and was besides subject to sad, overpowering nervous headaches after any special exertion - Of Princess Christian, Miss Bauer said, that nothing could be happier than her married life - her character & tastes were such as would not have been likely to attract - and she herself was not one to be attracted by - a younger man - With Prince Christian she was entirely happy.

>> When we were not with the Princesses it seems, as far as I can remember, that our talk was of them, more or less. We heard thus from Miss Bauer, that the Queen had taken the most lively interest in the charade &c and in all the preparations required, that she intended making another step towards public life, by holding drawing rooms in the course of the season, that her health was very good, especially in cold bracing weather, but that she could not stand heat, and was besides subject to sad, overpowering nervous headaches after any special exertion. Of Princess Christian, Miss Bauer said, that nothing could be happier than her married life — her character & tastes were such as would not have been likely to attract — and she herself was not one to be attracted by — a younger man. With Prince Christian she was entirely happy. >>

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We were not long over luncheon, but we had only just done & were still sitting at table, when the footman entering the room, announced to Miss Bauer "The Queen wishes to see you and the ladies in the Drawingroom". The Queen was known to be always so quick over luncheon, that Miss Bauer had begged Princess Christian to lengthen it out a little that day, that we might have time for our repast - which the Princess laughingly promised to do. However now the summons took us rather by surprize & we started up. "Your gloves!" said Miss Bauer "oh! have you not gloves?" and we had to run down the corridor to fetch them, in great terror lest we should be keeping the Queen waiting. And, pulling them on in nervous haste

>> We were not long over luncheon, but we had only just done & were still sitting at table, when the footman entering the room, announced to Miss Bauer "The Queen wishes to see you and the ladies in the Drawingroom". The Queen was known to be always so quick over luncheon, that Miss Bauer had begged Princess Christian to lengthen it out a little, that day, that we might have time for our repast, which the Princess laughingly promised to do. However, now the summons took us rather by surprize & we started up. "Your gloves!" said Miss Bauer "Oh! have you not gloves?" and we had to run down the corridor to fetch them, in great terror lest we should be keeping the Queen waiting. And, pulling them on in nervous haste >>

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I pitied poor Juliet, as her gloves were 1/4 of a size smaller than she liked) we followed the footman down stairs, along corridors & round corners. past a number of gorgeous gentlemen in livery — and were finally led into a large, grand drawing room with a spacious bay window — Here — the room to our great relief was empty — it really brought me the same sensation as a piece of good news would ~~arouse~~, when I, following behind, saw Mrs. Tylor & Miss Bauer enter the room upright, without prostration or reverence! — We stood — Mrs. Tylor between Juliet & me, Lellie & Miss Bauer beyond Juliet, to the left — in a line, facing the door by which we had

>> (I pitied poor Juliet, as her gloves were 1/4 of a size smaller than she liked) we followed the footman downstairs, along corridors & round corners, past a number of gorgeous gentlemen in livery — and were finally led into a large, grand drawing-room with a spacious bay window. Here, the room to our great relief was empty — it really brought one the same sensation as a piece of good news would [arouse], when I, following behind, saw Mrs Tylor & Miss Bauer enter the room upright, without prostration or reverence! We stood, Mrs Tylor between Juliet & me, Lellie & Miss Bauer beyond Juliet, to the left, in a line, facing the door by which we had >>

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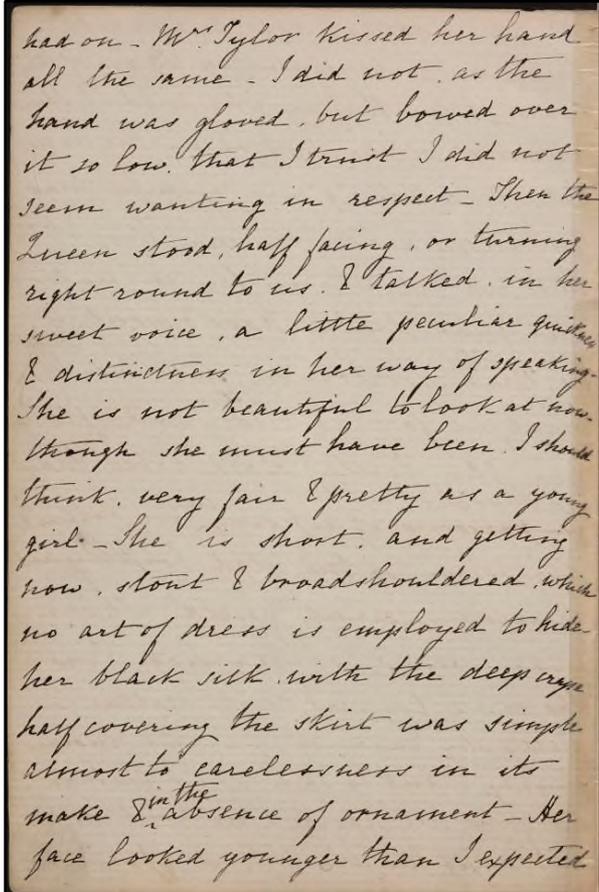
entered. another door to our left - ¹⁴⁵
"The Queen will come in by one of these
doors" Miss Bauer whispered. " & then
we must all bow at once - She is not
at all likely to give you her hand.
but if she does you may kiss it" -
We waited a very few minutes
and then, by the door opposite to
us, Princess Louise, with her kind
beautiful face, entered - and after
her the little, black-robed lady
~~at sight~~ ^{at sight} of whom, ^{we} ~~in~~ outward
expression of the glad loyalty and
reverence learnt & held all our
lives, bowed or curtsied low -
She came forward with rather a
pretty shy manner, smiling, moving
quickly - and to each of us in turn
she gave her hand - without however
removing the black kid gloves she

>> entered, another door to our left. "The Queen will come in by one of these doors" Miss Bauer whispered, "& then we must all bow at once. She is not at all likely to give you her hand, but if she does you may kiss it". We waited a very few minutes and then, by the door opposite to us, Princess Louise, with her kind beautiful face, entered — and after her the little, black-robed lady [in presence] at sight of whom, we, in outward expression of the glad loyalty and reverence learnt & held all our lives, bowed or curtsied low. She came forward with rather a pretty shy manner, smiling, moving quickly, and to each of us in turn she gave her hand, without, however, removing the black kid gloves she >>

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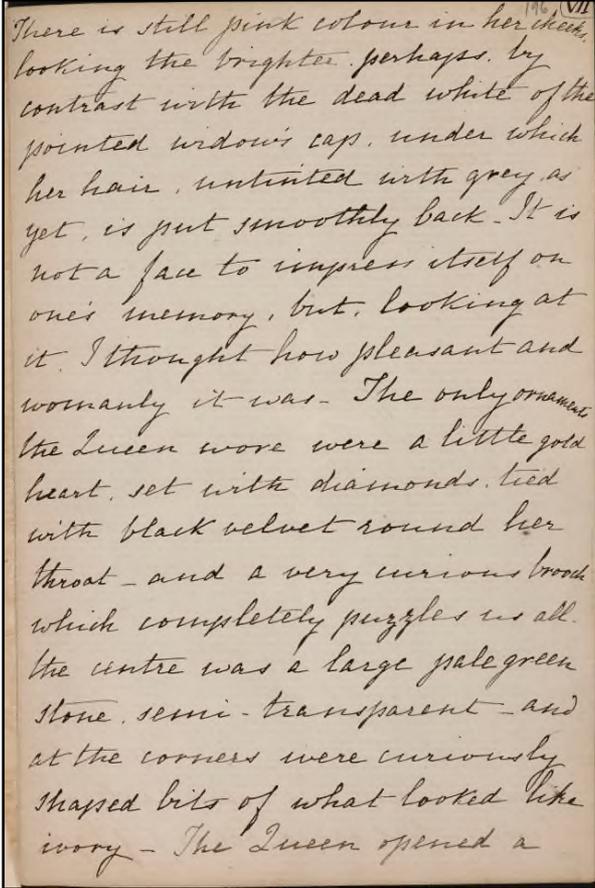
had on - Mrs Tylor kissed her hand
all the same - I did not, as the
hand was gloved, but bowed over
it so low, that I trust I did not
seem wanting in respect - Then the
Queen stood, half facing, or turning
right round to us. & talked, in her
sweet voice, a little peculiar quickness
& distinctness in her way of speaking.
She is not beautiful to look at now,
though she must have been, I should
think, very fair & pretty as a young
girl - She is short, and getting
now, stout & broadshouldered, which
no art of dress is employed to hide -
her black silk, with the deep crepe
half covering the skirt was simple
almost to carelessness in its
make & ^{in the} absence of ornament - Her
face looked younger than I expected

>> had on. Mrs Tylor kissed her hand all the same. I did not, as the hand was gloved, but bowed over it so low, that I trust I did not seem wanting in respect. Then the Queen stood, half facing, or turning right round to us, & talked, in her sweet voice, a little peculiar quickness & distinctiveness in her way of speaking. She is not beautiful to look at now, though she must have been, I should think, very fair & pretty as a young girl. She is short, and getting now, stout & broadshouldered, which no art of dress is employed to hide — her black silk, with the deep crepe half covering the skirt was simple almost to carelessness in its make & in the absence of ornament. Her face looked younger than I expected. >>

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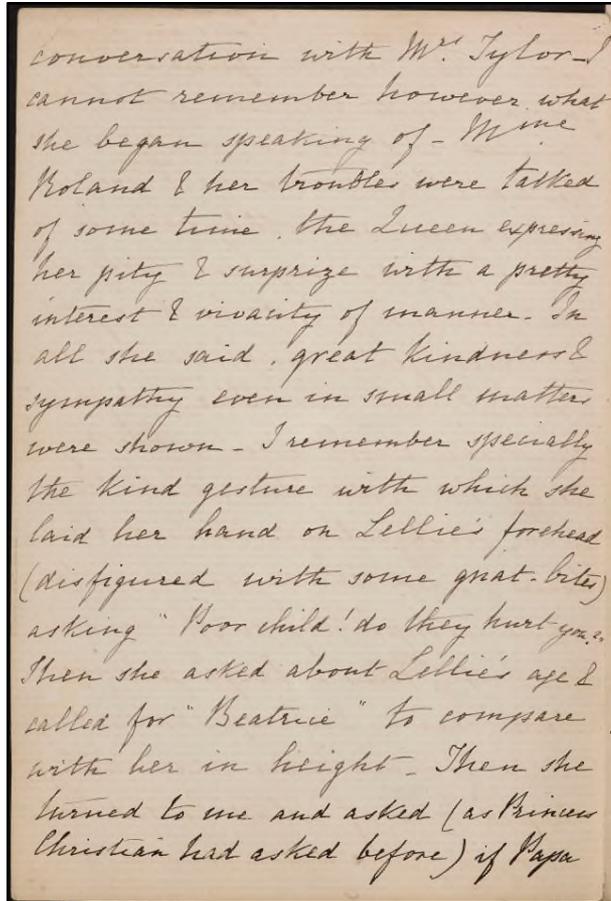
There is still pink colour in her cheeks, looking the brighter, perhaps, by contrast with the dead white of the pointed widow's cap, under which her hair, untinted with grey, as yet, is put smoothly back. It is not a face to impress itself on one's memory, but, looking at it, I thought how pleasant and womanly it was. The only ornaments the Queen wore were a little gold heart, set with diamonds, tied with black velvet round her throat - and a very curious brooch which completely puzzles us all. The centre was a large pale green stone, semi-transparent - and at the corners were curiously shaped bits of what looked like ivory - The Queen opened a

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conversation with Mr. Tylor - I cannot remember however what she began speaking of - Mme Roland & her troubles were talked of some time, the Queen expressing her pity & surprize with a pretty interest & vivacity of manner. In all she said, great kindness & sympathy even in small matters were shown - I remember specially the kind gesture with which she laid her hand on Lellie's forehead (disfigured with some gnat-bites) asking "Poor child! do they hurt you." Then she asked about Lellie's age & called for "Beatrice" to compare with her in height - Then she turned to me and asked (as Princess Christian had asked before) if Papa

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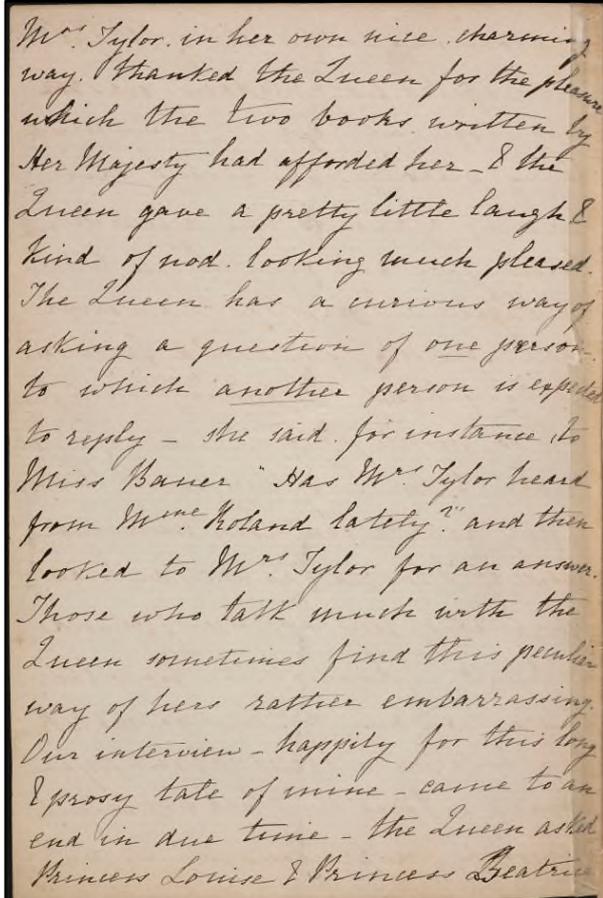
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was coming to the Isle of Wight.
"I'm afraid not, madam" was ~~the~~
my eloquent reply - Very much
to my pleasure. The Queen said,
turning again to me a few minutes
later "you are very much like
Mr. Paget" - I wished to answer
that Her Majesty could have said
nothing kinder, ~~nothing~~ ^{which} would give
me so much pleasure & delight, but
I do not know if she made this out
of my rather confused murmurings,
and if I looked as foolish & as
ashamed of my absence-of-mind
as I felt. I don't know how the
Queen saw any likeness in me to Papa.
Our interview lasted about $\frac{1}{4}$ of an
hour, & so long as I had not to talk,
I enjoyed the precious minutes immensely.

>> was coming to the Isle of Wight. "I'm afraid not, madam" was my eloquent reply. Very much to my pleasure, the Queen said, turning again to me a few minutes later "You are very much like Mr Paget". I wished to answer that Her Majesty could have said nothing kinder, nothing which would give me so much pleasure & delight, but I do not know if she made this out of my rather confused murmurings, and if I looked as foolish and as ashamed of my absence-of-mind as I felt, I don't know how the Queen saw any likeness in me to Papa. Our interview lasted about 1/4 of an hour & so long as I had not to talk, I enjoyed the precious minutes immensely. >>

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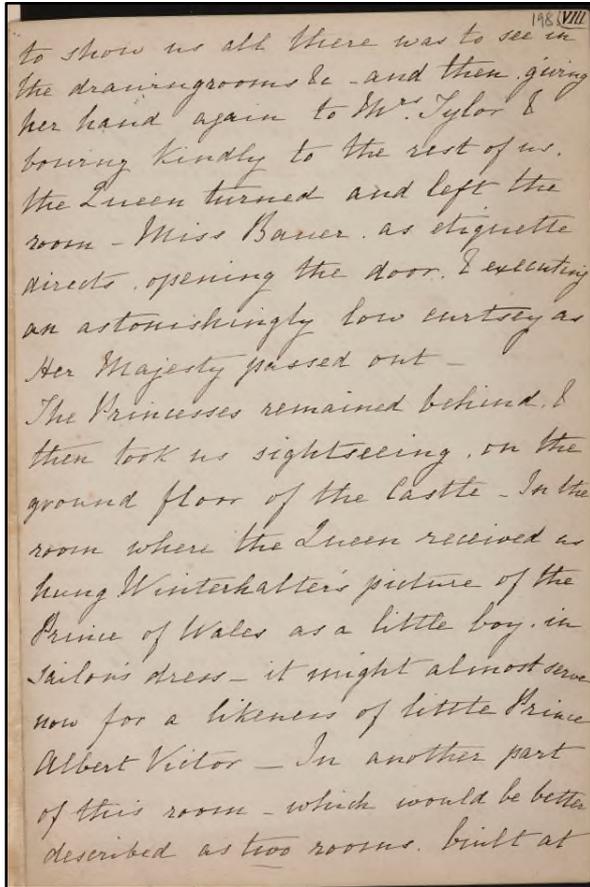
M^{rs} Tylor, in her own nice, charming way, thanked the Queen for the pleasure which the two books written by Her Majesty had afforded her - & the Queen gave a pretty little laugh & kind of nod, looking much pleased. The Queen has a curious way of asking a question of one person, to which another person is expected to reply - she said, for instance to Miss Bauer "Has M^{rs} Tylor heard from M^{me} Roland lately?" and then looked to M^{rs} Tylor for an answer. Those who talk much with the Queen sometimes find this peculiar way of hers rather embarrassing. Our interview - happily for this long & prosy tale of mine - came to an end in due time - the Queen asked Princess Louise & Princess Beatrice

>> Mrs Tylor, in her own nice, charming way, thanked the Queen for the pleasure which the two books written by Her Majesty had afforded her, & the Queen gave a pretty little laugh & kind of nod, looking much pleased. The Queen has a curious way of asking a question of one person to which another person is expected to reply — she said, for instance, to Miss Bauer “Has Mrs Tylor heard from Mme Roland lately?” and then looked to Mrs Tylor for an answer. Those who talk much with the Queen sometimes find this peculiar way of hers rather embarrassing. Our interview, happily for this long & prosy tale of mine, came to an end in due time — the Queen asked Princess Louise & Princess Beatrice >>

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to show us all there was to see in
the drawingrooms &c. and then giving
her hand again to Mr. Tylor &
bowing kindly to the rest of us.
The Queen turned and left the
room - Miss Bauer, as etiquette
directs, opening the door, & executing
an astonishingly low curtsy as
Her Majesty passed out -
The Princesses remained behind, &
then took us sightseeing, on the
ground floor of the Castle - In the
room where the Queen received us
hung Winterhalter's picture of the
Prince of Wales as a little boy, in
sailor's dress - it might almost serve
now for a likeness of little Prince
Albert Victor - In another part
of this room - which would be better
described as two rooms, built at

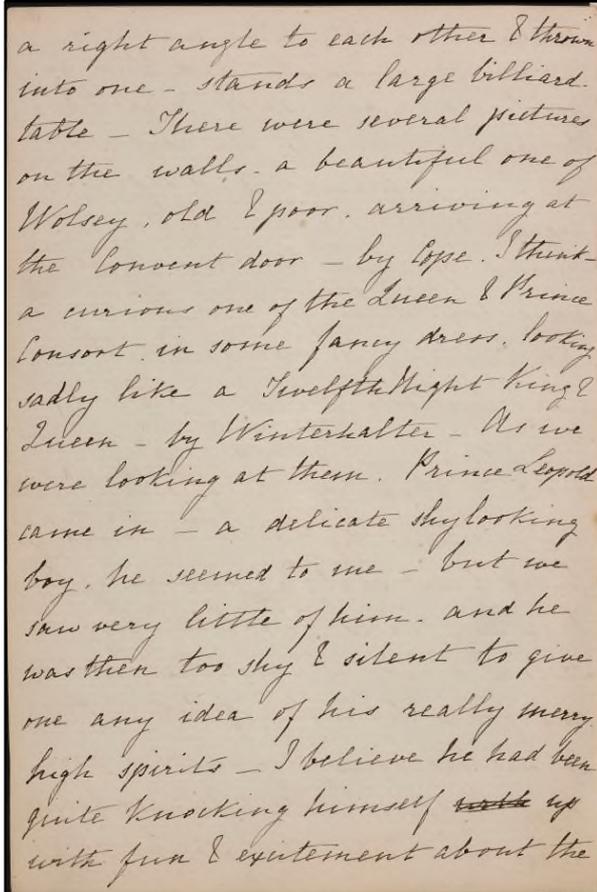
>> to show us all there was to see in the drawingrooms &c, and then, giving her hand again to Mrs Tylor & bowing kindly to the rest of us, the Queen turned and left the room. Miss Bauer, as etiquette directs, opening the door, & executing an astonishingly low curtsy as Her Majesty passed out.

The Princesses remained behind, & then took us sightseeing, on the ground floor of the Castle. In the room where the Queen received us hung Winterhalter's picture of the Prince of Wales as a little boy, in sailor's dress — it might almost serve now for a likeness of little Prince Albert Victor. In another part of this room, which would be better described as two rooms, built at >>

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a right angle to each other & thrown into one - stands a large billiard table - There were several pictures on the walls - a beautiful one of Wolsey, old & poor, arriving at the Convent door - by Cope. I think a curious one of the Queen & Prince Consort in some fancy dress, looking sadly like a Twelfth Night King & Queen - by Winterhalter - As we were looking at them, Prince Leopold came in - a delicate shy looking boy, he seemed to me - but we saw very little of him, and he was then too shy & silent to give me any idea of his really merry high spirits - I believe he had been quite knocking himself ~~with~~ up with fun & excitement about the

>> a right angle to each other & thrown into one, stands a large billiard table. There were several pictures on the walls, a beautiful one of Wolsey, old & poor, arriving at the Convent door, by Cope, I think, a curious one of the Queen & Prince Consort in some fancy dress, looking sadly like a Twelfth Night King & Queen, by Winterhalter. As we were looking at them, Prince Leopold came in — a delicate shy looking boy, he seemed to me — but we saw very little of him, and he was then too shy & silent to give me any idea of his really merry high spirits. I believe he had been quite knocking himself ~~with~~ up with fun & excitement about the >>

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Charades on the previous day -
From the billiard-room we went
again along the beautiful brightly
paved corridors to the "Council-room"
a very long handsome room where
the entertainment of the previous
evening had been given - One end
of the room - where hung Landseer's
great picture of deerstalking, which
one sees so often engraved - was
filled with chairs still - and at
the other end was the stage with
the scenery still there of the last
tableau - a distant view of the
city of Jerusalem, beautiful
palm-trees at the sides - and
a rough wooden cross lying in
an opening broken through the
boards of the stage in front. All

>> charades on the previous day. From the billiard-room we went again along the beautiful, brightly paved corridors, to the "Council-room" a very long handsome room, where the entertainment of the previous evening had been given. One end of the room, where hung Landseer's great picture of deerstalking, which one sees so often engraved, was filled with chairs still, and at the other end was the stage, with the scenery still there of the last *t*ableau, a distant view of the city of Jerusalem, beautiful palm-trees at the sides, and a rough wooden cross lying in an opening broken through the boards of the stage in front. All >>

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the scenery, which looked beautiful & effective even by daylight, was the work of Princess Louise's own hands - helped by suggestions from Mr. Theodore Martin (Helen Faucit) who was then at the Castle, nursing her husband after his accident on the ice - Princess Beatrice now had to say goodbye to us, and go off to her lessons - Princess Louise still remained with us - we were then upstairs again in the room to which we had at first been shown - She brought her album to show us - in which she had drawn many very pretty designs as frames for the photographs of her friends - One lady was looking out of a window surrounded with creeping plants with a birdcage hanging at the

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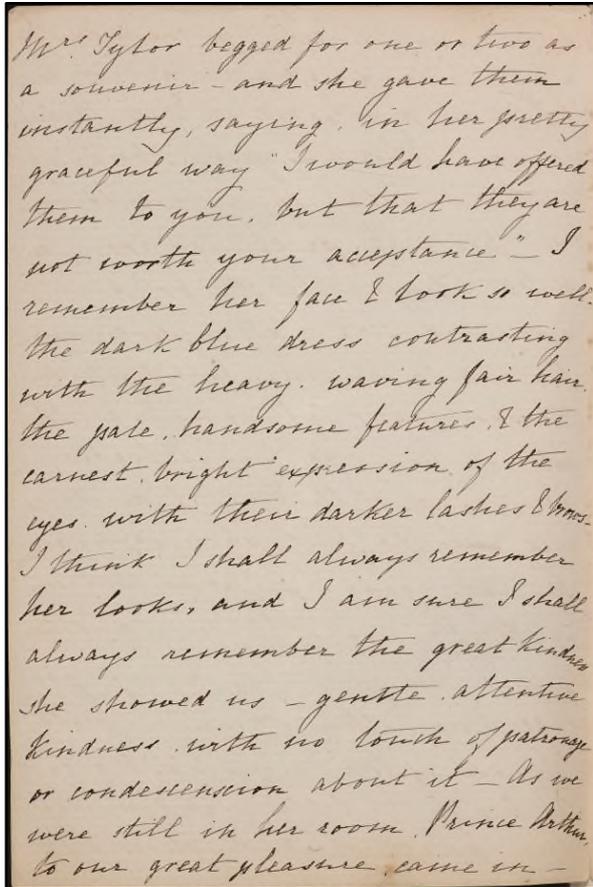
200 12X
side - another lady's portrait was in a frame standing on an artist's easel. When we had looked at these Princess Louise, with very great, charming kindness, asked if we would come & see her own particular room - a pretty, bright little boudoir, furnished with endless photographs, brackets & ornaments, of which she showed us all which could interest us - one frame had a photograph of the Duke of Edinburgh, and ~~was~~ the best photograph - almost the only good one I have ever seen - of the Prince of Wales - another which she gave me, saying "you will know this" was a pretty likeness of the Princess of Wales. She had on the table some remarkably large violets, which she showed us.

>> side — another lady's portrait was in a frame standing on an artist's easel. When we had looked at these, Princess Louise, with very great, charming kindness, asked if we would come & see her own particular room, a pretty, bright little boudoir, furnished with endless photographs, brackets & ornaments, of which she showed us all which could interest us — one frame had a photograph of the Duke of Edinburgh, and [also] the best photograph, almost the only good one I have ever seen, of the Prince of Wales — another which she gave me, saying “you will know this” was a pretty likeness of the Princess of Wales. She had on the table some remarkably large violets, which she showed us. >>

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Mrs Tylor begged for one or two as a souvenir - and she gave them instantly, saying, in her pretty graceful way "I would have offered them to you, but that they are not worth your acceptance" - I remember her face & look so well. the dark blue dress contrasting with the heavy, waving fair hair. the pale, handsome features, & the earnest, bright expression of the eyes, with their darker lashes & brows. I think I shall always remember her looks, and I am sure I shall always remember the great kindness she showed us - gentle, attentive kindness, with no touch of patronage or condescension about it - As we were still in her room, Prince Arthur, to our great pleasure, came in -

>> Mrs Tylor begged for one or two as a souvenir, and she gave them instantly, saying, in her pretty graceful way "I would have offered them to you, but that they are not worth your acceptance". I remember her face & look so well, the dark blue dress contrasting with the heavy, waving fair hair, the pale handsome features, & the earnest, bright expression of the eyes, with their darker lashes & brows. I think I shall always remember her looks, and I am sure I shall always remember the great kindness she showed us — gentle, attentive kindness, with no touch of patronage or condescension about it. As we were still in her room, Prince Arthur, to our great pleasure, came in, >>

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²⁰¹
dressed for riding - but he seemed
in no hurry & stayed with us - ~~Some~~
thing was said about Princess
Louise's modelling - and begging
us to excuse a room in a mess -
she took us to a room of hers on
the other side of corridor - & here she
showed us a bust of Princess Beatrice
she had lately done - life size - & not
only a perfect likeness, but very
graceful & pretty in expression -
then a profile medallion likeness
in high relief, of Lady Churchill.
Prince Arthur got the things
down, & put them up again on a
high cabinet, & held them for us
to see, turning them to get the
best light, as readily & carefully
as a servant might have done.
Over the mantelpiece in this room

>> dressed for riding, but he seemed in no hurry & stayed with us. Something was said about Princess Louise's modelling, and, begging us to excuse a room in a mess, she took us to a room of hers on the other side of corridor, & here she showed us a bust of Princess Beatrice, she had lately done, life size, & not only a perfect likeness, but very graceful & pretty in expression — then a profile medallion likeness, in high relief, of Lady Churchill. Prince Arthur got the things down, & put them up again on a high cabinet, & held them for us to see, turning them to get the best light, as readily & carefully as a servant might have done. Over the mantelpiece in this room >>

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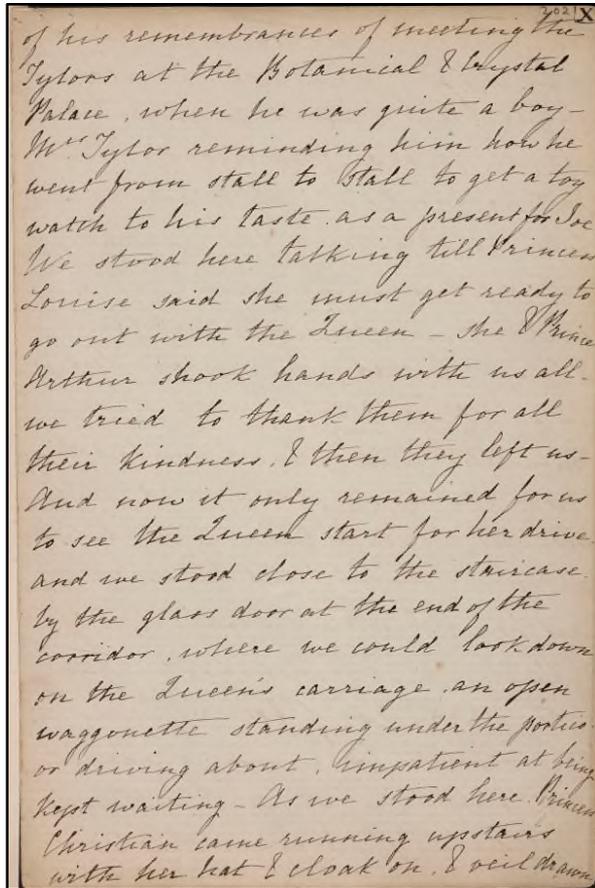
was a glorious photograph, from the original fresco, of Leonardo da Vinci's "Last Supper" — & smaller photographs of Spagnoletto's "St. Mary of Egypt" & other choice pictures. Prince Arthur showed his thorough good breeding again as we left the room — Princess Louise of course went first, and he stood holding the door open for us — and though Mrs Tylor ~~fell~~ ^{fell} back, & told him she could not walk before a Prince — he "being a gentleman" (as Miss Bauer said with a little "double entendre") stood quietly there till we had all passed out before him — We went into one of the recesses of the corridor then — looked at a moonlight picture of Balmoral & then all stood by a beautiful inlaid marble table — Prince Arthur talking >>

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of his remembrances of meeting the
Tylors at the Botanical & Crystal
Palace, when he was quite a boy —
Mr Tylor reminding him how he
went from stall to stall to get a toy
watch to his taste, as a present for Joe.
We stood here talking till Princess
Louise said she must get ready to
go out with the Queen — she & Prince
Arthur shook hands with us all —
we tried to thank them for all
their kindness, & then they left us —
And now it only remained for us
to see the Queen start for her drive,
and we stood close to the staircase,
by the glass door at the end of the
corridor, where we could look down
on the Queen's carriage, an open
waggonette standing under the portico,
or driving about, impatient at being
kept waiting — As we stood here, Princess
Christian came running upstairs
with her hat & cloak on, & veil drawn >>

>> of his remembrances of meeting the Tylors at the Botanical & Crystal Palace, when he was quite a boy — Mrs Tylor reminding him how he went from stall to stall to get a toy watch to his taste, as a present for Joe. We stood here talking till Princess Louise said she must get ready to go out with the Queen — she & Prince Arthur shook hands with us all, we tried to thank them for all their kindness, & then they left us. And now it only remained for us to see the Queen start for her drive, and we stood close to the staircase, by the glass door at the end of the corridor, where we could look down on the Queen's carriage, an open waggonette standing under the portico, or driving about, impatient at being kept waiting. As we stood here, Princess Christian came running upstairs with her hat & cloak on, & veil drawn >>

Diary of Catherine Paget

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down - her dress now a fashionable short dress of black silk. her cloak a striped black & white rough jacket - she had come for a few hearty, kind parting words - asked how baby had behaved. & after a few minutes talk ran off downstairs again - We returned to our post of observation. I busily looked out. were interrupted by a tall gentleman with a gray moustache who came down the staircase from the upper storey. and said gravely - "The Queen" - we didn't at once comprehend him. He waved his hand & again said calmly "The Queen". Somehow we guessed then. & ran as if for our lives to take shelter in a passage near at hand. while the last of us. tumbling over the dresses of the foremost. just caught

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Diary of Catherine Paget

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sight of the black robed figure sweeping
downstairs. I think the Queen saw us,
but she took no notice, & passed out
through the glass door — amused
enough I daresay at having caught
us all from behind, staring for
her in front. Miss Bauer was much
dismayed! The Queen had in fact
been up to see Mr Theodore Martin.
A few minutes later we ventured
again to our look-out & saw the
Queen & Princesses start for their
drive — the old servant Brown on
the box — Prince Arthur riding by
the side —
This is all I have to tell directly
afterwards, ^{about 4 o'clock} we started from Osborne,
with many thanks to kind Miss Bauer
and I need hardly say, talked with
great delight & gratitude of our happy
day, all the way back to Ventnor.
Catherine Paget
February - 1868 -

>> sight of the black robed figure sweeping downstairs. I think the Queen saw us, but she took no notice, & passed out through the glass door — amused enough I daresay at having caught us all from behind, staring for her in front. Miss Bauer was much dismayed! The Queen had in fact been up to see Mr Theodore Martin. A few minutes later, we ventured again to our look-out & saw the Queen & Princesses start for their drive, the old servant Brown on the box, Prince Arthur riding by the side.

This is all I have to tell — directly afterwards, about 4 o'clock, we started from Osborne, with many thanks to kind Miss Bauer, and, I need hardly say, talked with great delight & gratitude of our happy day, all the way back to Ventnor.

Catherine Paget —

February, 1868 —