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EDITORIAL.

ON July 5, 1866, Her Royal Highness the Princess Helena was married to Prince Christian of Schleswig-Holstein, and consequently on Sunday next she celebrates her Silver Wedding. From all sides congratulations and good wishes will be offered to Her Royal Highness, who is without doubt one of the most universally respected and beloved Princesses whom England has ever known. Different times have different manners; but nothing marks so vividly the change which has in the last fifty years taken place in the English nation as the

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difference between the position now adopted by members of the Royal Family and that which their predecessors held for generations previously. It cannot be alone the result of the more general diffusion of wealth which has, so wonderfully fused class with class and so obliterated caste distinctions, but in all probability it is largely due to deeper causes which within the past few years, have developed a more kindly and humanitarian spirit amongst all ranks of the community. Whatever the causes may be, the effect has been that English Princes and Princesses now accomplish an extraordinary amount of actual hard work for the benefit of others, and—reverting curiously enough to the ancient type when the Prince was the chosen leader of the people—they now voluntarily take the lead in works of usefulness and benevolence. Probably few people realise the enormous amount of personal labour, time, and thought which they expend for their fellow-subjects, week after week and month after month. The careless reader of the daily paper, for example, reading how one of the Princes had laid the foundation-stone of a new Hospital, seldom comprehends the amount of trouble it had entailed upon him. First he was solemnly petitioned to perform the ceremony, and must inquire whether the Institution was worthy of his support, why the new Hospital was to be built, and many other details. Having given his consent, and found in his busy life a date which will suit the authorities and himself, there would be numberless letters on a hundred details connected with the ceremony, each of which must be considered and discussed.

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