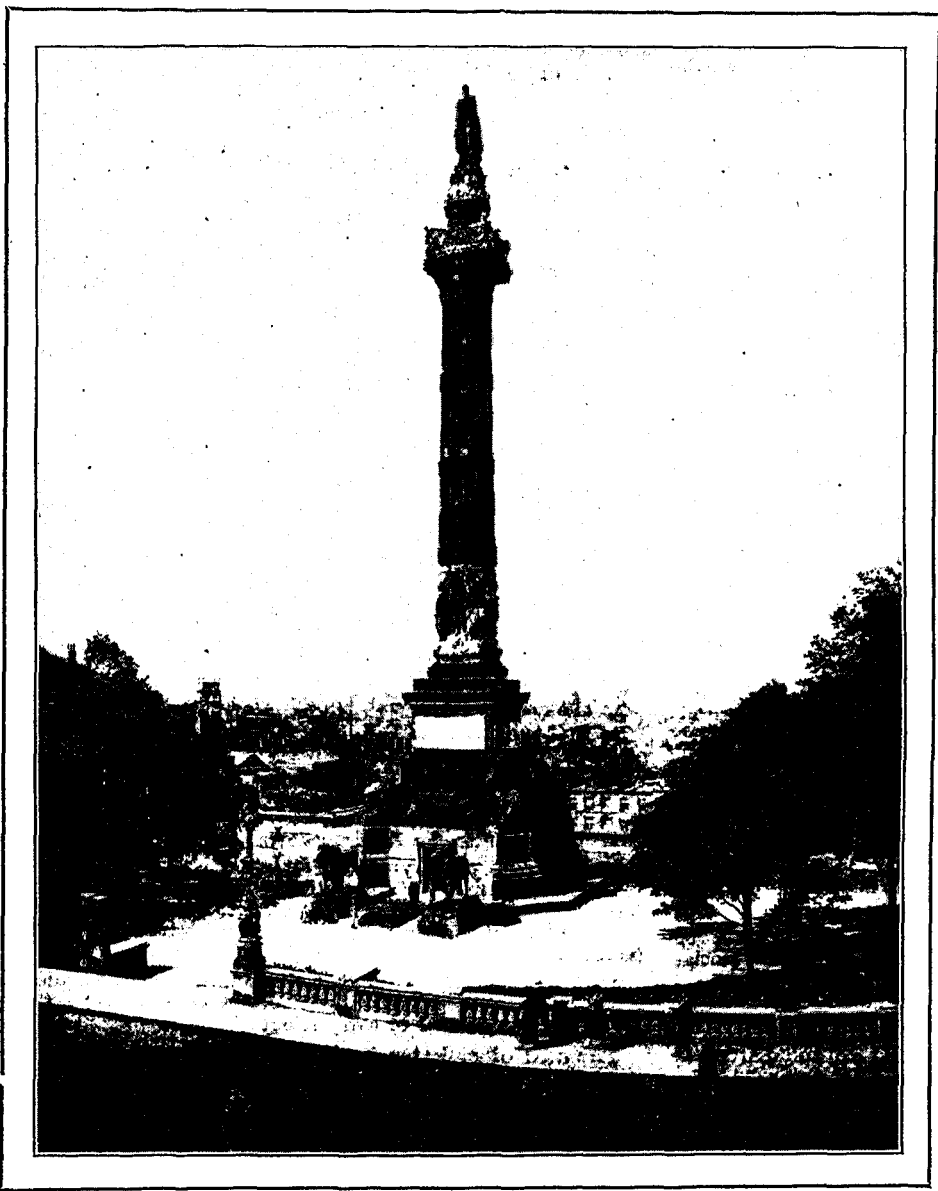


**THE CONGRESS COLUMN, BRUSSELS.**

The beautiful Congress Column in Brussels was erected to the memory of the Assembly which founded the Kingdom of Belgium and placed Prince Leopold of Saxe-Coburg on the throne. The Column is fifty yards high, and is surmounted by a bronze statue of Leopold I, the much loved uncle of our great Queen Victoria. At the corners of the pedestal are four allegorical figures representing the Freedom of the Press, of Education, of

**ROYAL LOVERS AT THE PALACE OF LAEKEN.**

"The Delightful Profession," by H. E. Wortham—a biography of King Edward VII—has a special interest for the British members of the recent International Congress of Nurses who were so charmingly received by the Queen of the Belgians at the Royal Palace of Laeken. How many of them knew that Britain's future monarch as Prince of Wales was formally affianced to the "Sea-King's daughter," the lovely Princess Alexandra, at this Palace? Here is the Story.



**THE CONGRESS COLUMN, BRUSSELS.**

Wreath in centre placed "with profound homage" before the Flame of Remembrance to the Unknown Belgian Soldier, by the National Council of Nurses of Great Britain and the Nurses of the Dominions, on July 16, 1933.

Worship and of Union. The Unknown Belgian Soldier was solemnly inhumated at the foot of the Column on November 11th, 1922. The Flame of Remembrance was lighted there for the first time on November 2nd, 1924.

It was with sorrowful emotion that members of the International Council of Nurses placed their "wreaths of profound homage" before the Flame of Remembrance on July 16th, 1933.

"The first steps in the matter had long been taken by the faithful Uncle Leopold. Three years before he had surveyed the field, and drawn up a list of seven German princesses, eligible to become the Prince's bride. Fifth among those names stood that of the Princess Alexandra, whose Teutonic extraction had been neutralised by her upbringing in Copenhagen, where her father resided as heir to the throne of Denmark in virtue of his wife.

The Princess Royal, entering with a young married woman's zest into the business of match-making, satisfied herself that the reports of the Princess's charm were not exaggerated, and thenceforth backed the princely damsel in the discreet competition for the very eligible hand of her brother.

After the Prince's first encounter with his bride to be, romantically staged in the cathedral of Speier, the two older generations, King Leopold and Baron Stockmar, the Queen and the Prince Consort, were able to agree with the Princess Royal's foresight. They made a pair, so much was plain. The Prince was not unsusceptible to the Princess's beauty, neither she to his charm. It was indeed backed by the public as a romantic affair. The youth of the bride and bridegroom, his geniality and high spirits, her extreme beauty and unaffected simplicity, and sweetness of character, everything helped to quicken the popular sympathy.

Although the decisive steps were taken by the Queen, impelled to action by the knowledge that the Tsar was casting covetous eyes in the same direction for his son and heir, and aided by King Leopold, at

whose Palace of Laeken the young pair were formally affianced, the Prince of Wales yet enjoyed some of the reactions of a lover. He did not see much of his bride-elect, for that would have run counter to the canons of such a courtship. But the Prince was moved by sentiments natural to his youth to remark on his undeserved happiness, and wrote to his former Governor's widow that 'he felt a new interest in everything now that he had someone to live for.'

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