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## EDITORIAL.

### THE PRINCESS ELIZABETH COMES OF AGE.

Her Royal Highness The Princess Elizabeth came of age on April 21st, 1944, when she attained her 18th birthday. Owing to war there were no special celebrations. She spent the day in the country with her family.

The King and Queen gave a private family luncheon party—and in the evening there was a dance in honour of the occasion, when the guests were mainly young Servicemen and friends of the Princess.

Her Royal Highness went to Windsor Castle to be present at a special parade of the Grenadier Guards of which regiment she is Colonel—a function she evidently enjoyed immensely.

In the Grand Quadrangle of the Castle the Princess wearing her favourite coat of hyacinth blue with her "Guards" peaked hat, and standing on a dais, took the salute as the Guardsmen marched past. Afterwards she inspected them.

Princess Elizabeth went forward alone to receive from Colonel John Prescott, Lieut.-Colonel Commanding, the regiment's birthday present—a replica in miniature of the King's Colour of the First Battalion of the Grenadiers.

Later, with the King and Queen and Princess Margaret, she watched the changing of the guard ceremony at the Castle, which was carried out on a peace-time scale, with the exception that the troops were in steel helmets and battledress instead of scarlet and bearskins.

The City of London, of course, sent loyal greetings

through its Lord Mayor, to which the Princess replied:—  
"I shall be grateful, my Lord Mayor, if you will convey to the citizens of London my sincere thanks for their very kind message on my eighteenth birthday.—  
(Signed) Elizabeth."

Thus Her Royal Highness steps from girlhood to womanhood, with the heartfelt good wishes of the peoples of the British Commonwealth of Nations.

In spite of no Salic Law in Great Britain there have only been five Queens-regnant in the past thousand years.

The two daughters of Henry the Eighth—Mary the First, veritably a tragic personality, and the great "Elizabeth of England"—that gorgeous dominating woman who loved this lovely land with all her valiant heart, and veritably the greatest Sovereign who has ever reigned over it.

Mary the Second, a shadow politically of her husband, William of Orange, and Anne her sister, were daughters of the last Stuart King, James II. To the former, whose special interest was the building of palaces and laying out gardens, we owe Kensington Palace and the gardens at Hampton Court, still called by her name. With Queen Anne, a generous woman and Sovereign, the name of the great Marlborough is inseparably associated.

In 1837—came Victoria to the throne, and to the manner born she reigned over us for upwards of 60 years, to whom her great grandson, our beloved King, George VI, no doubt owes many of his sterling qualities, which are an example to the monarchs of the world.

This charming coming-of-age portrait of Princess Elizabeth was made by Cecil Beaton at Windsor Castle.



Photo]

[Associated Press, Ltd.

HER ROYAL HIGHNESS PRINCESS ELIZABETH  
Came of age on her 18th Birthday, April 21st, 1944.

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