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ROYAL VISITORS AT BARBADOS

By

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The visit of Her Majesty the Queen on 14th and 15th February, 1966, was the first occasion on which a reigning British Sovereign has visited Barbados. Yet the island cannot be said to have been neglected by the British Royal House. Since 1786, near relatives of the Sovereign have called here in a well spaced procession until better communications have made more frequent visits possible.

It is hardly surprising that the earliest Royal Visitor was serving in the Navy, for a passage across the Atlantic in the 17th and 18th centuries was a matter of weeks. No reigning Sovereign then could possibly afford to be away from the seat of affairs for so long and with such inadequate communications.

H.R.H. PRINCE WILLIAM HENRY

First in the procession of Royal Visitors was Prince William Henry, who came here in November 1786 in command of the frigate **Pegasus**, and again in January—February 1789 in command of the frigate **Andromeda**. Prince William Henry was a son of King George III and was himself to reign as King William IV from 1830 to 1837.

For its first Royal Visitor Barbados could not do enough, although the visit was unexpected. There was then none of the protocol, which has since wearied Governors of this island when Royal Visits are contemplated. The island was agreeably surprised and Prince William Henry landed privately, as would any other Captain, while the Governor, Major David Parry, was on his way to call on the Prince. That day the Prince dined at Government House, although the dinner was said to be *sans ceremonée* there were between 30 and 40 gentlemen present. Next day the Prince dined on board the **Amphion** with Captain Brown, which ship was on its way to Jamaica. On 26th His Royal Highness entertained the Governor to dinner in the **Pegasus**. On 27th. November, meetings of the Council and Assembly were held at Government House for the purpose of preparing an Address to the Prince and to pass an Act for his public entertainment at

the expense of the island. A vote of 300 guineas was made for a sword which was later presented to him in London by the Barbados Agent there, Mr. Brathwaite. That day the Prince dined with the Governor, the Admiral and Assembly and the principal officers and gentlemen of the island. Dinner was then taken early, and in the evening there was a splendid ball, when the Prince danced and seemed to enter into the spirit of the ball with extraordinary glee. Next day the Prince dined on board the **Solebay** with Captain Holloway. This was a small party of 8 men which included the Governor and his Secretary.

An interesting sidelight on the Prince is given by William Senhouse the owner of the Grove Plantation and a Member of the Council, who was present at the dinner on the **Solebay**. 'H.R. Highness appears to be sensible and well informed and during the space of about 2 hours, conducted himself with such extraordinary affability and graceful ease as to banish at once from those unaccustomed to the company of Princes all unreasonable diffidence and disagreeable restraint, but at the end of that period his conversation was loose and unguarded, and by degrees became so abominably indecent as exceedingly to disgust. Atho' I had been bred in the Navy, and not unaccustomed to language of the kind, yet does this Prince by the help of a lively imagination and wonderful flow of spirits, so far exceed in this as well as I believe in every other species of blackguardism as to place him far beyond the reach of competition. The polished gentleman and blackguard complete being characters so widely different, may we not suppose ability in him who equally excels in both?'

On 29th November, the Prince made a state landing wearing the Order of the Garter. He was escorted by the Governor and Guards to the Town Hall where he received addresses from the Council, Assembly, Clergy, Merchants and Jews. A sumptuous dinner was served at the Freemasons' Hall followed in the evening by a ball and supper at the British Coffee House.

Bridgetown was brilliantly illuminated for 4 nights and Government House was said to resemble 'some beautiful enchanted Palace.' It is said that the Prince paraded the streets of Bridgetown for three of these nights with Rachel Pringle Polgreen, a mulatto hotel

keeper leaning on his arm and accompanied by other naval officers and a host of mulatto women. The balconies overhanging the streets of Bridgetown were crowded with ladies waving their handkerchiefs to the Prince amid deafening cheers.

The merchants of Bridgetown wished to entertain H.R.H. to a Ball and Supper, but there was no time to show their hospitality as he sailed on 30th November.

The second visit of H.R.H. Prince William Henry took place on 16th January 1789, when he arrived in command of the frigate **Andromeda** from Jamaica. He landed about 3 p.m., and dined with Major Dalrymple and the officers of the 49th Regiment at their Mess near the Great Marker. On the Prince's arrival here, he first heard of his father's insanity and of the quarrel over the Regency. A few days later he dined with Major Whitlock at the Mess of the 60th Regiment; he also dined with the Secretary of the Island, Mr. Valentine Jones, at his home in Pinfold Street when the Governor was also present.

These two separate visits by H.R.H. Prince William *appear to have been telescoped into one visit by later writers and a number of episodes relating to the Prince are given in **Creolana** † but with no information as to which visit the various episodes relate. The best known of these concerns an episode at the Hotel run by Rachel Pringle Polgreen, the mulatto hotel keeper who had paraded the streets of Bridgetown on the Prince's arm. The Prince was said to have made her hotel his 'temporary abode when on shore.' One evening, accompanied by some boon companions with whom he had been dining and somewhat elated by liquor, together they smashed up the furniture at Rachel Pringle Polgreen's Hotel whilst she sat immobile and unperturbed at the hotel's entrance. Beds were cut up, glasses, pictures, chandeliers and table glass smashed, furniture broken up and thrown into the street. Servant after servant informed her as fresh damage was done, but she only replied "Go, go 'long man, da' no king's son, If he no' do wha' he please, who den' can do Um?" Finally, when the Prince and his friends were leaving the building they upset Rachel in her chair and left her with a 'Good Night,' sprawling in the street to the amusement of the crowd. Rachel's parting shot was "Mas' Prince! Mas' Prince! you come ma-morning to see wha' mischief you been do." Next day Rachel learned that the Prince was sailing, so she made an inventory of the damage amounting to £700 which the Prince did not question when presented to him. The Hotel was refurnished and given the name of the Royal Navy Hotel.

H.R.H. PRINCE EDWARD

The next royal visitor was Prince Edward of Kent, a brother of Prince William Henry and the father of H.M. Queen Victoria. This royal prince was a Major-General in the British Army who reached Barbados in January 1794 a few days after the British expedition which was to attack Martinique had sailed from here. Prince Edward was somewhat mortified at finding that the transports for Martinique had sailed, and the islanders were unable to display their loyalty, as the Prince's ship sailed after she had watered.

The Captain of the Ports, however, Mr. John Adlam, a half-witted and ill-educated man resplendent in his blue coat with red cuffs and collar, epaulettes and sword was received with courtesy by the Officer of the Watch. This officer informed him of the Prince's presence on board and pointed out the Prince. Adlam, thereupon, undertook to act as President Bishop's representative, the President acting as Governor, and begged the Prince to go to Government House. H.R.H., feeling that he had been neglected by the authorities asked where the President was. 'At Hogsty' replied Adlam, the Captain of the Ports — the common name for Hothersal's. 'Hogsty' ejaculated the Prince, 'that's a very inappropriate place for my father's representative!' Adlam bowed, and promised to give the Royal salute at Government House to let everyone know of his presence. This salute was the first notification the public had of the arrival of His Royal Highness. Lieut-Col. B----, the Military Officer in Command, on hearing the salute, hastened on board but was coldly received by the Prince. "As I suppose, Colonel, the President was occupied in 'sharing the hog' and yourself in 'hunting the boar' I will not be so inconsiderate as to interrupt either of you in your sports," The Prince then bowed the Colonel off the Quarterdeck and shortly after the frigate sailed for Martinique.

H.R.H. PRINCE ALFRED

More than 60 years were to elapse before Barbados received its next Royal Visitor. In 1861, the welcome news came that Prince Alfred, "Our Sailor Prince" would visit the island in H.M.S. **St. George**. Prince Alfred was Queen Victoria's second son, later he was known as the Duke of Edinburgh and eventually became Duke of Saxe-Coburg-Gotha. The **St. George** arrived at about 9 p.m. on the evening of Thursday 21st. February, but the Prince did not land until Saturday 23rd, which was proclaimed a public holiday. Excitement was at fever pitch. The streets of Bridgetown were gaily decked with flags, triumphal arches were erected, stands and balconies packed to overflowing and houses were decorated with palms, flowers and evergreens. Dense crowds on either side of the Careenage cheered as the Prince landed at the Wellington Steps. H.R.H. who was dressed in a blue round jacket, white pantaloons and a cap, took off his cap in response to the loyal greetings. The Governor stepped forward and read an address of welcome and the procession formed up for the drive to Government House. The cheering was terrific and the Prince was pelted with roses by ladies in the verandahs of the Colonial Bank and the Customs. The procession wended its way along Swan Street and the cheering of the crowds so excited the horses of the Royal Carriage that it set off at a pace and instead of being in the middle of the procession was soon leading it. This caused a perfect scramble — "civilians got mixed up with the military, clergymen with members of the legislature, and planters with Officials." Then, "one carriage appeared all alone in its glory — then perhaps two or three came together, all apparently acting on the principle of "the devil take the hindmost."

* See Prince William Henry's visits to Barbados in 1786 and 1789 by Neville Connell. **B.M. & H.S. Journal** Vol. 25 pp. 157-164.

† By J. W. Orderson, London, 1842.

At Government House a levée was held at which over 200 presentations were made. Addresses of welcome were received from the House of Assembly and the Clergy. At 5 p.m. dinner was served and in the evening there was a display of fireworks.

Next day being Sunday, the Prince attended a service at the Cathedral. On Monday he drove with the Governor and the General to Codrington College, lunched with the Chief Justice Sir R. B. Clarke at "Haynes Hill" and visited the S.P.G. Chapel (Society). In the evening there was a ball at Government House attended by 500. The Prince entered the ballroom with the Governor's wife, Mrs. Hincks, and dancing continued until 1 a.m., when supper was served and the ball ended at 3 a.m. Among the sights the Prince was taken to see were the Bridgetown Waterworks Company's reservoir at Grand View and Carrington's—to see sugar making by a steam mill.

At the Savannah he attended a review of the troops and a great demonstration by the schools of the island. 5,000 schoolchildren were assembled on a hastily and none too well constructed stand. A Mr. Elliot perched on a decorated barrel conducted the singing of the National Anthem. As the Prince drew near the conductor disappeared inside the barrel which rolled away with his head and legs sticking out of the barrel at each end. Eventually, he was rescued from the barrel and about to resume his conducting when "a burst of laughter from the spectators greeting him and the conductor found that he had a great rent in his unmentionables!" A few minutes later a terrific crash rent the air and a large part of the platform gave way. So the demonstration ended and the Prince retired to Government House and was entertained to dinner by the 21st Fusiliers. On Wednesday 27th the Prince boarded the *Styx* and steamed along the coast to Speightstown. Here the beaches were swarming with spectators and the landing place and streets of Speightstown gaily decorated with triumphal arches erected at intervals. The Prince then entered a carriage and drove to Farley Hill where he was entertained to luncheon by Mr. (afterwards Sir) Graham Briggs. After luncheon, the Prince planted a casuarina tree and returned by road to Bridgetown stopping only near St. Stephen's Church to listen to the schoolchildren of the district singing the National Anthem. After a male dinner at Government House, the Prince attended a ball given by the merchants of Bridgetown at the newly erected Marshall's Hall. The town through which the Prince drove was brilliantly illuminated. A fire at the lower end of Broad Street prior to the Prince's arrival had devastated about a third of the town. This area was now laid out with names, brilliantly illuminated, in honour of H.R.H.'s visit — Prince Alfred Street, Cowell Street (after Major Cowell, the Prince's Governor); Hincks Street (after the Governor); St. George Street (after H.M.S. *St. George*, the Prince's ship) and Nile Street (after H.M.S. *Nile* the Admiral's ship). On arrival at the ball the Prince was received by a deputation of gentlemen and escorted up the carpeted stairway with flowering plants on each side. The room was decorated with pink and blue drapery festooning 16 columns and red and white roses and a large central column hung with

mirrors. At the head of the room was a canopy of crimson velvet with a chair of state which the Prince declined to occupy. The room was lit by 73 chandeliers.

On the day before his departure the Prince enjoyed a game of cricket with the 21st Fusiliers and took part in a sumptuous luncheon provided by the Officers. In the evening the Prince dined with the General, Sir A. J. Cloete, at King's House, and a ball was given attended by 300 guests. Next day the Prince left from Government House.

T.R.H. PRINCE ALFRED & PRINCE GEORGE

In 1879 the two sons of the Prince of Wales, Prince Alfred Victor and Prince George Frederick (after King George V) stopped here on their voyage around the world on board the H.M.S. *Bacchante*. The Princes reached Barbados on Christmas Day, and in the afternoon called informally on the Governor, Sir George Strahan, and General Gamble at Queen's House where they inspected the gardens. On Boxing Day, they played tennis and billiards at Government House and dined quietly there. Next day, 27th, the Princes landed at 4 p.m., and went to Queen's House prior to a ball for 400 given in their honour. The avenues were ablaze with torches, and the various military and naval uniforms together with the gay dresses of the ladies made the occasion a gay and festive one. On 31st December, General Gamble gave a picnic for the Princes at Codrington College. The party drove first to St. John's Church where they were refreshed with coconut-water drunk from the shell. At Codrington College an enthusiastic crowd had assembled to see "Queen Victoria's picnannies". Here the Princes planted palm trees alongside the lake.

On New Year's Day 1880, the naval schoolmaster of the *Bacchante*, Mr. Sims, who had been taken to hospital ashore, died. Prince George, happening to have the watch, marched as midshipman in charge of the funeral party of bluejackets and marines under the first lieutenant to the Needham's Point Cemetery. On 2nd January the Princes received a warm welcome from the populace as they landed at the swing bridge steps. An old lady threw a George III spade guinea wrapped in paper and inscribed 'a souvenir of Barbados' into the royal carriage and Prince George attached it to his watch chain. Accompanied by the Governor they drove to Farley Hill, via Speightstown, where they had an enthusiastic welcome. Sir Graham Briggs was in England, but luncheon was provided by the Governor. Next day there was a picnic given by Bishop Mitchinson at Cole's Cave. "It was a very warm afternoon and we were obliged to have the hood up, and all fell off into a nap on the road." Once there, Cole's Cave was energetically explored. Bishop Mitchinson preached a sermon on the *Bacchante* on Sunday and the Princes dined quietly at Government House for the last time. Next day the Governor, Colonial Secretary and Attorney-General paid a farewell visit, and at 3 p.m., the *Bacchante* weighed anchor for Trinidad the Princes with 'pots of preserved ginger and guava jelly, cassava biscuits and dried Flying fishes' wings (the last to be used for book-markers), and other Barbadian curios.'

H.R.H. PRINCE GEORGE

In January 1884, H.R.H. Prince George of Wales (afterwards King George V) returned to Barbados in H.M.S. **Canada**, Captain F. Durrant, with a squadron bearing the flag of Vice-Admiral Sir J. Edmund Commerel, K.C.B. The Prince was treated as unceremoniously as possible — "Balls, dinner-parties croquet and cricket, amusements were in profusion." The squadron arrived on 25th January and there was a dinner at Government House to the Admiral when all its approaches were brilliantly illuminated. The Governor, Sir William Robinson also gave a dinner to the Officers, including Prince George, followed by a fancy dress ball." The Admiral gave a ball in his flagship, the **Northampton**, and, on 1st February, to wind up the festivities, the Merchants of Bridgetown gave a ball at the Council Chamber to the Admiral and Officers of the Squadron. Next day the Fleet sailed, the Governor accompanying the Admiral to visit Tobago, St. Vincent and St. Lucia.

Prince George of Wales again returned to Barbados on 2nd March 1891, with the North American Squadron flying the flag of Vice-Admiral Watson, Prince George in command of H.M.S. **Thrush**. Although the Prince's visit was regarded as private, his movements naturally attracted considerable attention. On the afternoon of the fleet's arrival, the Admiral landed during a heavy rain at the Quarter-Master General's wharf and was received by the General with a Guard of Honour. A few moments later, Prince George landed and joined the group which drove to Government House, the Prince in the second carriage.

A field day for the British Troops stationed here took place at "Walkers" St. Andrew, on 4th March. About 8 o'clock, a special train arrived with the Governor, Sir Walter Sendall, K.C.M.G., the Admiral, Prince George, the Chief Justice and a number of ladies and gentlemen. A vast number of spectators had assembled to watch. The attacking enemy was completely routed by a rain of bullets and the defending force advanced through Long Pond, "over marshes, and fields, trampling down every obstacle the enemy receding, their ranks broken, their officers unhorsed, and the men lying in heaps." Prince George, who was on the field, was delighted with the brave conduct of the troops and the gallantry of the Officers. The aristocratic spectators returned to Bridgetown by special train in the evening, and "Government House was the scene of rejoicing."

Next day, Prince George paid a visit to "Three Houses" and saw the manufacture of sugar, lunching afterwards at the Crane Hotel. On 6th the Prince played Polo on the Savannah and in the evening the General gave a dinner to the Admiral and Officers of the Fleet, including Prince George. Miss Tongue, the General's daughter, held a reception afterwards which was largely attended by Officers of the Garrison and their wives. The grounds of Queen's House were lit by Chinese lanterns and the Band of the York and Lancaster Regiment played. On Saturday 7th, there was a cricket match between the Garrison and the Fleet and the Prince and officers from the Fleet played tennis at Enmore. On Monday, a garden party took place at Queen's House and an "At Home" on board the **Bellerophon** followed by dancing. Tuesday had been declared a Public

Holiday and Prince George presented new Colours to the 2nd Battalion of the York and Lancaster Regiment. From an early hour crowds began to wend their way to the Savannah — "many a rustic vehicle grey with the venerable dust of years was seen heavily laden with its precious freight of loyal and enthusiastic souls and drawn by steeds whose jaded appearance bore testimony to the journey done. . . tramcar after tramcar filled to its utmost capacity was seen to leave the terminus in Trafalgar Square for the Garrison." The Governor and Lady Sendall and the Private Secretary arrived at 5 p.m. followed by the Prince with General Tongue and Admiral Watson. The York and Lancaster Regiment formed the 'thin red line' and the West India Regiment in their picturesque uniform looked thoroughly smart. In the evening Prince George was entertained at a ball given by the Officers of the Garrison at the upper barracks. Next day there was a Gymkhana at the Savannah in which Prince George took part. Next evening the Governor gave a ball at Government House in honour of the Prince. The day after the Fleet sailed for Bermuda.

H.R.H. PRINCESS MARIE LOUISE

More than two decades elapsed between the visit of Prince George to Barbados and the next Royal Visitor. By 1913, Prince George had become successively Prince of Wales and King George V, and the next Royal Visitor was his first cousin the Princess Marie-Louise of Schleswig-Holstein. The Princess was a daughter of Princess Christian of Schleswig-Holstein, the 3rd daughter of Queen Victoria.

The Princess Marie-Louise was on her way to St. Vincent to stay with the Administrator, the Hon. Gideon Murray (afterwards Viscount Elibank) and his wife. The Royal Mail steamer in which the Princess travelled anchored in Carlisle Bay on 24th February, 1913. The Princess had been specially invited here to open an Intercolonial Exhibition of West Indian needlework organised by the Women's Self Help Association.

The R.M.S. **Oruba** anchored at 6.30 a.m., and the Governor's A.D.C., Captain E. S. Broun arrived on board to report and at 9 a.m., the Governor, Sir Leslie Probyn, K.C.M.G., called to submit the day's programme for Her Royal Highness' approval. The departure of the Princess from the ship was notified by rockets being fired and at the Pierhead, decorated with flags and palms, a Guard of Honour was drawn up under Captain W. H. G. Thorne. Little Miss d'Albuquerque presented a bouquet of pink roses as the Princess stepped ashore. After presentations had been made by the Governor, he made a speech of welcome in which he referred to Mr. F. B. Smith who had been in the public service for 50 years.

The Princess was driven to the Public Buildings where another bouquet was presented by Miss Edna Wright on behalf of the Exhibition organisers. The bouquet of Marechal Niel roses was tied with a green and white ribbon on which was painted 'From the Women's Self Help Association'. Then, the Governor presented his wife, who in turn presented the Bishop (Swaby), who presented the Members of the Organising Committee. The Bishop, as Patron of the Association, next presented an Address on

behalf of the Association. Her Royal Highness then made a speech, giving a special message from H.M. the King in which he referred to his former visits to Barbados. The message was received 'with the wildest and indescribable enthusiasm' wrote the Princess. The Governor, in a short reply, asked Her Royal Highness on behalf of the Organisers, if she would accept a souvenir of the occasion, to which she graciously consented. This consisted of a bag of Irish Crochet, the design being of Royal Palm Trees of Barbados and Pride of Barbados flowers. Inside was an exquisite handkerchief of guipure lace with an Irish lawn centre.

The Princess wore a pale pink satin underdress trimmed with Limerick lace and an overdress of cream ninon hand embroidered in silk, crowned by a large white hat covered with lace. Her jewellery consisted of a single row of drop pearls and a sapphire and pearl pin. She carried a lilac lace sunshade.

After inspecting the Needlework Exhibition in the Council Chamber and adjoining room, the Princess lunched at Government House and later rejoined the **Oruba**. Although Her Royal Highness had had an attack of influenza on the voyage, she showed no sign of fatigue that day.

H.R.H. PRINCE ALBERT

The cheers for Princess Marie Louise were hardly stilled when on Tuesday, 4th March, 1913, the Training ship H.M.S. **Cumberland** anchored in Carlisle Bay. Among the cadets on board was H.R.H. Prince Albert (afterwards King George VI), the second son of King George V. The Prince was not on an official mission and there was no public recognition of his rank, and a number of entertainments for the Officers and Cadets were arranged. On Wednesday 5th, the Opening of the Legislature took place, which was attended by the Captain and Officers of the **Cumberland**. That afternoon there was a Garden Party at Government House. Next day there was a cricket match at Kensington, an island XI against the **Cumberland** which ended in a draw. On Saturday, Prince Albert took part in a Gymkhana at the Garrison. The Grand Stand was crowded, and a number of cadets from the **Cumberland** took part. The Prince who had lunched at Bishop's Court with Bishop and Mrs. Swaby, competed in 4 events and won 2. H.R.H. rode "Panzy" a pony belonging to Mrs. E. C. Wright (a daughter of Bishop Swaby) who partnered him in the Farmyard Race, which they won. The Prince was 4th out of a field of 10 in the Polo Scurry, the winner of the Distance Handicap of 4 furlongs, which he won by several lengths, but was disqualified in the second heat of the Bending Race. There were intermittent showers, but these did not interrupt the Gymkhana.

On Saturday, a motor drive was arranged to Hackleton's Cliff and the Crane Hotel. Next day the Prince planted an evergreen tree in Queen's Park in the presence of the Churchwarden (Mr. F.N.A. Clairmonte), Mr. John Burton and Mr. J. R. Bovell, I.S.O. There was also an "At Home" at the Savannah Club with polo and tennis and in the evening a concert for the Officers and crew at the Drill Hall. Next day the **Cumberland** sailed for Martinique.

H.R.H. PRINCESS MARIE LOUISE

H.R.H. Princess Marie-Louise of Schleswig-Holstein paid a return visit to Barbados in April 1913, and stayed for over a week at Government House. She arrived on 21st April, from Trinidad, and the Governor of Barbados, Sir Leslie Probyn, K.C.M.G., accompanied by his A.D.C., Captain Broun went on board to meet her. She landed at the Chamberlain Bridge Steps and drove to Government House amid the cheers of the populace.

That afternoon the Princess visited the Government Industrial School for Boys at Dodds and the Reformatory for Girls at Summervale. The excellence of the general arrangements was favourably commented on by Her Royal Highness, with the exception of the shape of the caps worn by the boys. The Royal Party then drove to St. John's Church and inspected the grave of Palaeologus. That evening there was a dinner at Government House.

Next morning the Princess visited the Women's Self Help the Post Office, the Council Chamber and the House of Assembly. In the afternoon there was a Garden Party at Government House. After tea, the Princess walked in the grounds; all the guests, 400 in number, were presented to her and she shook hands. Her Royal Highness planted a bearded fig tree in the grounds to commemorate her visit. In the evening the Governor gave a dinner party at the Crane Hotel, and on the way home, the Royal party stopped at Carrington's to see a sugar factory working by night. In her 'Memoirs of Six Reigns' the Princess says of her visit to this island 'during my stay there I got rather tired of visiting endless sugar factories, but I hope, I showed an intelligent interest in what I was shown.'

On Wednesday 23rd, the Princess was up early and had a 'hard gallop' on the Savannah at 7 a.m. In the afternoon she attended Speech Day at Queen's College where she watched a display of drill by the girls and scenes from the 'Water Babies'. She presented the prizes, and in addition to a basket of forget-me-nots presented on her arrival by the Head girl, Miss Burton, the Headmistress, Miss James presented her with a hand-painted programme in a leather case the work of Miss Kathleen Catford and Miss Hilda Packer. In the evening she dined with the Bishop and Mrs. Swaby at Bishop's Court.

Next day Her Royal Highness attended a Garden Party at Codrington College given by the Principal of the College, Rev. A. H. Anstey, M.A., and the College students. The drawing room of the Principal's Lodge was most beautifully decorated with exquisite flowers. The Princess inspected the College and opened a new rifle range by firing the first shot. In the evening there was a dinner at Government House.

On Saturday 27th, the Princess attended a parade at the Garrison and took the salute with the Governor from a car near the saluting base. Afterwards, she attended a party held on the lawn at the back of the Drill Hall. In the evening she attended a Meeting at the Carnegie Hall (now used as the Children's section of the Public Library), at which the Governor took the Chair. The purpose of the Meeting was the formation of the Barbados Anti-Tuberculosis

Association, of which Her Royal Highness was elected Patroness.

The Princess was present at the 8 a.m. Holy Communion at the Cathedral on Sunday, returning later to the 11 o'clock service. The new Hospital Buildings were opened by the Princess next day. These consisted of a surgical ward, a paying ward and an operating room — a female ward being named after her, the Marie-Louise Ward. The Governor made a speech and presented the Princess with 'A cup of mercy and alleviation' to which Her Royal Highness replied. From the Hospital the Royal Party proceeded to Bay Street Boys' School (now the Ministry of Education) which she declared open.

The Princess met the Members of the Girls' Industrial Union in Queen's Park on Tuesday and in the evening there was a Subscription Ball in Her honour at the Council Chamber. Next day **en route** to board the Royal Mail Steamship **Thames**, she received an Address from the Vestry of St. Michael in the Cathedral Square, which was read by the Churchwarden, Mr. D. A. Wiles, who also presented Her Royal Highness with a bouquet. The Princess left Barbados amid the deafening cheers of the populace.

H.R.H. THE PRINCE OF WALES

An interval of 7 years, which included the first European War, elapsed between the visits of Princess Marie-Louise and that of her young cousin Edward Prince of Wales, the eldest son of King George V, and afterwards King Edward VIII. The Prince was making one of his world tours and H.M.S. **Renown** anchored in Carlisle Bay on the evening of 25th March 1920. After a formal call by the Governor, Sir Charles O'Brien,

K.C.M.G., a dinner took place on board the **Renown**, followed by a Ball to which a number of the leading inhabitants of the island were bidden.

Next morning, a public holiday, the Prince landed at the steps adjoining the Chamberlain Bridge, which was gaily decorated with Venetian poles and flags, indeed Bridgetown was a riot of colour with flags and bunting on that day. In Trafalgar Square, a Triumphal Arch had been erected, a replica of the Marble Arch, London. Crowds had assembled both on the shore and on the schooners festooned with flags.

After a number of presentations had been made, His Royal Highness, the Governor and others walked to the Public Buildings, inspecting a guard of honour **en route**. In the Council Chamber a formal address of welcome was presented to which the Prince replied. Rumours had been in circulation here for some time that there was a possibility that this island was for sale. In his speech in reply to the address of welcome he assured the delighted audience that his Majesty's subjects were not for sale. The Prince then drove through Queen's Park and made a tour of the island with the Governor which ended at Government House, where luncheon was taken. In the afternoon the Prince informally visited Bulkeley Factory, Holborn—the 17th century Government House, and had a swim in the pool at Ilaro Court, then the home of Sir Gilbert and Lady Gilbert-Carter.

A large reception was held at Government House at which guests were presented, was followed by a State Banquet and a subscription Ball at the Public Buildings at which His Royal Highness danced with a number of local ladies. During the night the **Renown** weighed anchor.