

"DEAR OLD THACKERAY."

Side Lights That Show His Lovable Traits in Family Life.

A characteristic story of "dear old Thackeray" is told by Mrs. Ross in her reminiscences. "Thackeray was a constant visitor," said she, "in Queen's square, and a great favorite of mine, though he played me a trick on my fifth birthday which remained a standing joke between him and the 'young revolutionist,' as he afterwards used to call me, because I was born on the 24th day of February. My birthdays were always celebrated by a dinner, when I was allowed to dine downstairs and to invite the guests. Few children could boast of such an array of friends; this one included Mrs. Norton, Lord Lansdowne, Tom Taylor, Richard Doyle, C. J. Bayley and Thackeray, who gave me an oyster, declaring it was like cabinet pudding. But I turned the tables on him, for I liked it so much that I insisted, as queen of the day, on having more. I still possess a sketch he made for the frontispiece of 'Pendennis' while I was sitting on his knee.

"Thackeray often dropped in to dinner, generally announcing himself beforehand in some funny way.

"A nice leg of mutton, my Lucie,
I pray thee have ready for me;
Have it smoking and tender and juicy,
For no better meat can there be—
was one of his missives."

The Twelve Chosen.

An English paper printed for young folks recently offered a prize for a list of the twelve greatest living men of all nations. The following is a list according to the votes given by the competitors, and it is interesting that there are two Americans among them, for English children are not thought to be much interested in affairs over here. The boys and girls evidently thought electrical invention came next to statesmanship, for they ranked Edison right after Gladstone and Bismarck, and before soldiers, actors and explorers: 1, Rt. Hon. W. E. Gladstone; 2, Prince von Bismarck; 3, Thomas Alva Edison; 4, Marquis of Salisbury; 5, German emperor; 6, Henry Irving; 7, H. M. Stanley; 8, Lord Rosebery; 9, Viscount Wolseley; 10, John Ruskin; 11, Gen. Booth; 12, President Cleveland.

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