

arranged the entire matter for me. Mamma was too much of an invalid to care for society matters, and Papa was immersed in business and was away from London a great deal. Lady de Armand had the kindest heart in the world and delighted in seeing about things for anybody, especially when there was a full purse at her disposal, and dear Papa never grumbled over bills, if I had a good time and he was not bothered with taking me about. And how did I feel, this American girl, brought up on republican principles and who did not believe in Court or Royalty? I am afraid that I was simply delighted. When I found that the matter was finally settled I felt a certain joy in thinking of it all that I could not explain by any of the theories upon which I had been brought up. As we Americans say—It gained complete possession of me and I could not reason it away. I seemed to see it everywhere, even fluttering around the corners of the American papers that I compelled myself to read conscientiously every day. What would Grandmother, with her puritan ideas say, if she knew that I, Deborah Winthrop, was going to be presented to the Queen and was so pleased at the prospect? Would she think that I had compromised the strict republican principles of our family? The thought gave me a moments uneasiness but soon passed away, for had I not heard Grandfather say that he considered Queen Victoria a model woman and he would be glad to shake hands with her at any time, and Grandfather was the son of a signer of the Declaration of Independence. So I dismissed all unpleasant thoughts and gave myself up to the delight of the preparation for such an event. I never dreamed that so much getting ready was necessary and said so to Lady de Armand, who was hurrying me all the time; but she informed me that two week's preparation was barely time, as things were not done by steam in this country, and I soon found that she was correct. I had to try on my Court dress SEVEN times. Lady de Armand would be presented, too, though she had been to Court several years before, so we had a mutual interest in all these preliminary proceedings. I submitted to all of her instructions.