

tate the tattooing practiced among savage nations, and at the same time a modest reluctance to be tattooed on visible localities. What is needed is that some member of the royal family shall set the example of tattooing the face, so that the fashionable world can instantly follow it without fear of incurring the gibes of ill-bred people. We now begin to see why young ALBERT VICTOR, the future King of England, together with his younger brother, has been tattooed on the nose. Either he has been persuaded to this act by ladies who are anxious that a royal precedent for the tattooing of their private noses should be established, or these same scheming ladies have bribed the wicked midshipmen to tattoo their royal comrades. In either case, the object of the advocates of tattooing has been gained. The broad arrow is indelibly printed on the nose of the future monarch, and henceforth all loyal subjects will hasten to prove their loyalty with their personal noses. The tattooed patterns that have hitherto been concealed from sight by the modesty of ladies who practiced tattooing in private will suddenly go up higher, and we shall find the broad-arrow mark ornamenting their noses and cheeks. There are several fashions which owe their origin to a loyal effort to imitate the deformities of reigning monarchs, and there is no reason to suppose that loyal England will prefer the integrity of its nose to the duty of keeping the tattooed royal nose in countenance.

What Queen VICTORIA'S opinion of the matter is there can be no doubt. She must be excessively indignant at the wicked midshipmen, and we may be very sure that their career in the Royal Navy will come to an abrupt close. Whether their conduct can be construed by the courts to be treasonable remains to be seen, but that it is essentially both treasonable and sacrilegious, besides being very naughty, no one will deny.

#### TATTOOING.

Some time ago the London *World* announced the startling fact that the two sons of the Prince of Wales, who are now at sea on board a man-of-war, had been tattooed with the mark of a broad arrow across their noses. It seemed to most people so improbable that the awful majesty of princely noses should have been invaded by irreverent Midshipmen, that for some time the *World's* story was disbelieved. It is now, however, painfully evident that it was only too true, and as one of the tattooed Princes will, in the natural course of events, become the King of England, the conservative Englishman must make up his mind to be ruled by a tattooed monarch.

It will be remembered that last Summer an advertisement appeared in a London paper calling attention to the mysterious disappearance of a young lady who was described as being "tattooed on her left leg." This fact, of course, was published as an aid to the identification of the missing person, but it had the result of revealing the fact that tattooing had become a favorite practice among the fashionable young ladies of England. Statistics as to the prevalence of the practice cannot be collected, for the reason that its devotees were tattooed upon unexposed parts of their surface. Still, after careful inquiries made by astute investigators, it was found that fully fifteen per cent. of the legs of—that is to say, that at least seven and a half per cent. of fashionable London ladies were tattooed in inaccessible localities.

It is evident that this state of things meant that there existed a strong desire among the upper circles of English society to introduce tattooing as a means of ornamenting the person. Man in a state of nature, or, in other words, in a savage state, tattoos himself, and the noble savage has latterly been the ideal of æsthetic England. Mr. WALT WHITMAN and Mr. JOAQUIN MILLER have achieved much popularity among cultured Englishmen, not because they were falsely accused of having written poetry, but because the physiological details of "Leaves of Grass," and the piratical incidents told in Mr. MILLER'S wild Western verses, were supposed to be Nature, with a capital N. The practice of tattooing, being a purely savage custom, suggests to the æsthetic Englishman the wild, free life of the isles of the "sun-down seas," and hence to be tattooed is to put one's self in sympathy with Nature, and to protest against the sickly conventionalities of civilization.

While this reasoning would satisfy one class of English society, there are other arguments that would appeal to more prosaic persons. There is no doubt that many fashions are as thoroughly barbaric as is tattooing. If the English girl is taught to pierce her ears and wear bits of metal in the wounds; if she is made to compress her waist until it is as really deformed as are the feet of a Chinese lady; and if she is encouraged to paint her face and dye her hair, why should she not be tattooed? It is very certain that if tattooing should once be decided to be fashionable, every woman in England would hasten to be tattooed, and in a short time an untattooed woman would be regarded as a vulgar person, and her unstained skin would be denounced as essentially indecent.

The known facts as to the tattooing of English ladies sufficiently show that there is among them a strong desire to imi-