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EXTRAVAGANCE NO PASSPORT.

Titled Ladies of Highest Rank Are Exponents of Simple Living.

London society is still enjoying the statement made by Mrs. Aquilith, wife of the Prime Minister, during a recent lawsuit that "extravagance is a passport to society," but to prove that not all the feminine members of the nobility can be reached by the "open-handed" methods of women who desire to "climb," some of the smartest of these within the charmed circle are beginning to take a lively interest in the Simple Life Exhibition which opens soon, in order to prove that while extravagance may help the aspirant for society favor it is not, at all events, a "necessary" passport to circles of the upper best.

Among the exponents of the simple life, whose interest is keen on the subject are the Duchess of Rutland, the Marchioness of Downshire, the Countess of Kinnoull, the Countess of Warwick, Lady Muriel Walsley, Lady Malcolm of Pollock, and other well-known English society people. One of the schemes of the promoters of the conference is to show how food may be purchased cheaply, the advocacy of an open air life, and simplicity in architecture. If the exponents of this cause can produce this request, and prove that extravagance is not an essential for entrance to society, there are many husbands in England and elsewhere who will be willing to contribute largely to make the Simple Life Congress a permanent and international institution.

Robes For Coronation.

Few people are aware that the guests at British coronations may not select their own costumes. The crown appoints a special official, whose duty it is to see that the robes are properly attired. It is within this official's power to refuse admission to defaulters, no matter what their rank; and at the coronation of King Edward one peer was actually excluded from the ceremony because he had endeavored to assert his independence in some trifling detail of attire.

Dukes must don robes or mantles of crimson velvet, edged with miniver, and their capes must be furred with miniver pure, and powdered with four bars or rows of ermine—i.e. narrow pieces of black fur. Their noble wives will only pass the crown official in safety if, over full court dress, their ducal capes are powdered with four rows of ermine, with a five-inch-broad edging, a six-yard train, and a coronet consisting of eight strawberry leaves, all of equal length, above the rim. And so on, from dukes and duchesses down to barons and baronesses.

The different grades of the peers may be detected by the number of rows of ermine on their cloaks. As has already been stated, dukes are entitled to wear four. The other peers wear: Marquises, three rows and a half; earls, three rows; viscounts, two rows and a half; barons, two rows.

The degrees of peeresses, on the other hand, are shown by the length of their trains upon the ground. These are prescribed by the Earl Marshal as follows: Duchesses, two yards; marchionesses, three yards; countesses, one yard and a half; viscountesses, one yard and a quarter; baronesses, one yard.

Novels With a Purpose.

There is no doubt that the best novel of this kind, and the most effective for its purpose of putting an end to slavery, was Uncle Tom's Cabin. "Don Quixote" ridiculed the follies and abuses of chivalry out of existence. In "It's Never Too Late to Mend" the intolerable cruelties of our prison system were attacked, and "Hard Cash" exposed the equally flagrant wrongs practiced in lunatic asylums. "Oliver Twist" drew attention to the maladministration of the Poor Law. "Bleak House" struck at the Chancery Courts, while "Nicholas Nickleby" pointed out abuses in schools of the "Dotheboys' Hall" type. "All Sorts and Conditions of Men" brought about some amelioration of the conditions of life among the poor in the East End of London. One object of Tolstoy's "Resurrection" was the reformation of the incredible barbarities of the Russian prison system. "Danebury House" is, perhaps, the most familiar of novels written with the object of righting the abuses of the liquor traffic.

How Byron Fought Fat.

Poetry and too pronounced plumpness do not harmonize well, and no one was more widely awake to this fact than Lord Byron. Many were the means he adopted for ridding himself of his unwelcome "adipose deposit."

In a letter to his solicitor he says: "I wear seven waistcoats and a great coat, run and play cricket in this dress till quite exhausted by excessive perspiration, use the bath daily, eat only a quarter of a pound of butcher's meat in twenty-four hours. By these means my ribs display skin of no great thickness and my clothes have been taken in nearly half a yard."

Hadn't Always the Price.

Lord Talbot DeMalahide, in a witty after dinner speech at By, came out strongly for woman suffrage. "I remember," said Lord Talbot, "of the score of woman's protectors, sheltered, petted life, I think of a poor woman I once questioned in England. 'This poor creature had been abandoned by her husband in a drunken fury. The man had been drunk, it appears, for 10 days running. 'My good friend,' I said to her, 'does your husband always drink like that?' 'No, my lord,' she answered. 'Sometimes I gets hout of work.'"

An Aged Family.

Five members of a family of six in the Island of Islay are receiving Old Age Pensions. Their combined ages amount to 446 years. The sixth becomes eligible for an Old Age Pension this year.

A REMARKABLE SPEECH.

Welsh Social Outlaw Finds This World a Wretched Sort of Place.

Many centuries ago there lived a Greek philosopher who got it into his head that life was a lamentable thing. He was a man of great eloquence and he went about declaiming to multitudes and drawing for them the dismal conditions of mortal man. "Life is no better than death! Life is no better than death!"

So vividly did he paint the horrors of life that many who heard him committed suicide. His journey from town to town was marked by a trail of self-inflicted murder. One day after he had finished speaking an attentive listener went up to him and asked:

"If life is no better than death, why do you not die yourself?" "Because," returned the philosopher, with his most convincing manner, "death is no better than life."

Not wholly unlike the teachings of this pessimistic Greek were the cynical remarks of Richard Parr, 28 years of age, the other day, before receiving his three years' sentence to penal servitude in a Welsh prison. He made a remarkable speech, giving his views of life and mankind in general.

"You have heard a record of a few of the deeds I have been guilty of," he said. "I feel proud of them, proud of my career and proud also to think that my country must go to the expense of providing such a one as I with legal aid. I am one of those degenerates you hear so much about, useless to the country, useless to my friends and useless to myself. I am a living lie and I know I shall never be anything else. Life is a gigantic fraud. Selfishness and oppression abound on all sides.

"The chief object in life seems to be that men should 'do' their neighbors. If they don't succeed their neighbors will 'do' them. I am one of those who 'do' their neighbors. I believe in 'doing' my neighbor, for it is self-defense. There is no mode of punishment that can prevent me from doing these deeds. If I thought that by living a clean, honest, straightforward life I should be rewarded in the future, then I would do so. But there is no future, and one can, if he so chooses, live as he will. It matters not one atom, for when one is dead one is finished with. Death will never frighten me. I shall face it and will welcome it."

Ten years ago, as Parr himself explained, he began his career of roguery with a six months' prison sentence. Since that time it has been his life's object to do injury to others, and he has succeeded to his own satisfaction. He confessed that since 1901 he had not had six months' liberty and he seemed rather proud of his record.

About Royal Names.

Appropos of the Coronation gift that is to be presented by the Marys of the realm to Queen Mary, it is worth recalling that Mary, Anne, and Elizabeth are the only familiar English names that have been borne by occupants of the throne in that country.

Among the queens and queen-consorts of modern times we have had Henrietta Maria (wife of Charles I.), Catharina (wife of Charles II.), Dorothea (wife of George I.), Caroline (wife of George II.), Charlotte (wife of George III.), and Adelaide (wife of William IV.).

And, when speaking of royal names, it is as well to remember that King George V., according to a well-known authority on heraldry, has no surname. He is a descendant of the House of Guelph; but Guelph was only the baptismal name of the patriarch of the family, who died in 1101.

Since then his descendants have been ruling princes, and never needed a surname.

Coins 550 Years Old.

In digging a drain at Fakenham, Norfolk, a man has just found about two hundred gold nobles (a coin worth 6s. 6d.) of the reign of Edward III. The Treasury has been communicated with and an inquest will be held.

The coins were struck either at the Calais or London mint. Some issued between 1251 and 1260, in addition to the titles of King of England and Lord of Ireland, have that of King of France. Those issued between 1260 and 1289 have the title of Duke of Aquitaine. The nobles were almost pure gold, only half a grain of alloy being used. The design of the obverse is the king armed and crowned, standing on a ship, from a masthead flies a streamer bearing the cross of St. George.

The value of the coins is probably some hundreds of pounds, and the man who made the discovery will receive a large share.—London Daily Mail.

Teaching a Dog.

For best results one should get a young dog and teach him his future duties gradually. Never allow him to leave the homestead alone and you will not have a dog that strays. Never chain your dog. That is not necessary. Teach him his proper place and make him obey you upon posture or word and he will not overstep his lines. Treat him like a brother, give him his food and cool water regularly and be kind to him at all times and you will have a noble animal.

Young Wasps Fried.

Young wasp grubs fried in butter do not at first sight appear to be the most alluring dish in the world, yet they have been pronounced delicious by those hard experimenters who have tried them. Fed as they are upon the sweetest juices drawn from fruits and flowers, they naturally possess a delicate flavor. Perhaps the best way to prepare them is to bake them in the comb.

Will Take Six Years.

The heightening of the Assouan dam is expected to occupy six years and will increase the annual output of the Egyptian cotton crop by between \$15,000,000 and \$20,000,000.

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