

Romance of Cecil Rhodes.

Paris, April 15.—In a melodramatic narrative reading like a page from Gaboriau or Dumas, and having for its scene of action Russia, Paris, London and South Africa, M. de Blowitz has communicated over his signature to The Paris Matin what he describes as "The Living Legend" that hastened the death of Cecil Rhodes. The statements made by M. de Blowitz attract widespread attention. It is known that the various foreign correspondents was of close acquaintance, if not of friendship, with the leading personage that figure in the tragedy, which with due apology to M. de Blowitz, I summarize and transcribe, retaining as far as may be the following phraseology of the French original.

Shortly after these lines shall have appeared," writes M. de Blowitz, "the body of Cecil Rhodes—the genius of Rhodes—the land of Rhodes on the hill of Matoppos, which he wished to make the Wallhalla of the future South African Federation. Something besides fame, immense fortune and an imperial legacy rivaling that of Caesar's have been left to humanity by Cecil Rhodes, for at the threshold of his tomb stands a living enigma, personified by a woman of exalted birth. This woman assumed a place beside Cecil Rhodes in the later years of his life, and she now sunk into the lowest depths of the judicial abyss.

"The scales in which the law courts will soon weigh the action of the woman will also serve to weigh the reputation of Cecil Rhodes, for this woman comes forth innocent from the ordeal of the South African trial, the scourge raised or lowered for or against her must strike or spare the renown of her dead lover. It is for this reason, before the dawn now resounding about the paper becomes silent, that I wish to make known the salient features of the life, the hopes and deceptions of Princess Radziwill, whose name takes in such bitter irony with the ringing trumpets that proclaim the death of Cecil Rhodes.

Princess Radziwill. Princess Catherine Radziwill is Polish origin. She was born Countess Rzewuska, and she is a daughter of that Countess Rzewuska whose maiden name was Dackhoff, her mother, when little over fifteen years old, fell in love with Count Rzewuska, who was in his fiftieth year, and notwithstanding the opposition of her parents, she married him. Princess Catherine Radziwill was born of this marriage. When young she married Prince Wilhelm Radziwill, of the Prussian branch of that family. By this marriage she had three children. One of her daughters is Princess Blucher, the husband, for whom Princess Catherine never entertained any affection, lives in obscurity, which was not removed even after their separation, and it is only the stroke of lightning that has now fallen upon the Princess that can shed light on the grey shadow in which Prince William is enveloped.

In the district of Pottava, at the time when Mlle. Dackhoff married Count Rzewuski, there lived a boyar whose ancestors dated from the earliest period of the Russian Empire. This boyard's name was Pachkoff. He led a royal and extravagant life on his magnificent estates. He had his own regiment of cavalry, his own musicians, his private company of actors, actresses and dancers, and the nobility for a hundred miles around flocked to his castle to participate in the magnificent festivities. Pachkoff had a serf, who, like all serfs, had no proper name, and to whom he entrusted the management of his estates. This serf was married and had a son, who was just the age as Mlle. Pachkoff, the boyard's daughter. The children used to play together, and Pachkoff caused that no woman could ever penetrate his existence and dominate his faculties. On the other hand, Princess Catherine Radziwill, whose charms no man had yet been able to withstand, swore that she would conquer Cecil Rhodes, and she certainly had cause to believe that she had succeeded in exercising over him an unlimited sway. When this occurred Cecil Rhodes was obliged to start for South Africa.

"Princess Catherine Radziwill seemed absolutely devoted to him. She left London for St. Petersburg, having in her possession a quantity of shares of the Chartered Company. She negotiated these shares in Russia after some little difficulty, and lived for a while most sumptuously, but she was always haunted by the recollection of the man who had consoled her for the loss of Skobelev. Skobelev's death weighed heavily

ly on her conscience. She imagined that Cecil Rhodes was as passionately in love with her as Skobelev had been. She feared that if Cecil Rhodes felt himself abandoned by her he might commit some desperate act that would cause her renewed remorse. She came to Paris, where she sold for \$80,000 some of her jewels that were really worth \$100,000. She then had her portrait painted by Benjamin Constant and started for South Africa. She there found Cecil Rhodes, who meanwhile had recovered from his infatuation and had regained his equilibrium. Rhodes was now anxious to end a situation which he regarded as an insurmountable obstacle to his ambition.

THE PRINCESS BROKENHEARTED.

"Princess Radziwill, brokenhearted, agitated and deceived as to her hopes, plunged into all sorts of enterprises, guided solely by her restless spirit and ambition. She travelled hither and thither, and at last became involved in pecuniary embarrassments, from which Rhodes at first relieved her. Among her ventures was the publishing of a newspaper, which she intended as a means of aiding the realization of Rhodes' plans. The newspaper attained a measure of success, but did not compensate for the sacrifices that it imposed upon her. At the moment when her pecuniary embarrassments were greatest Cecil Rhodes managed to avoid meeting her.

"It was then that the world learned with stupefaction—that this woman, allied to the Pachkoffs, to the Dackhoffs, to the Rostophines, to the Rzewuskis, to the Tachkoffs, to the Gortchakoffs, to the Galitzines, that this woman who had been waded to the brother of the head of the princely house of Radziwill, that this woman whose daughter was married to Prince Blucher, grandson of the Blucher surnamed the 'Fate of Napoleon'—it was Grouchy who was expected and it was Blucher who came—that this woman who was the peeress of the most exalted personages in the Russian Empire, had been arrested at the Cape on a charge of forgery.

"People in Europe refused to believe the charge, and it was attributed to some huge mistake. It was then learned that notes were in circulation in South Africa bearing the signature of Cecil Rhodes. When these notes were presented at the banks they were paid but not until after some hesitation. The notes were shown to Cecil Rhodes, who declared that he had never signed them, but, nevertheless, gave orders that they should be paid. The amounts so paid are estimated at from \$150,000 to \$200,000. The attention of Cecil Rhodes was called to the fact that if he continued to accept and to pay the notes he would become legally an accomplice in their issue—an accomplice in their forgery—and no one could tell what amount this mysterious commercial paper might represent. Cecil Rhodes then ceased to pay them. As a natural consequence Princess Radziwill was arrested on a charge of forgery. The death of Cecil Rhodes happened at this juncture.

RHODES PROFOUNDLY MOVED.

"Those most intimate with Cecil Rhodes assert that he was profoundly moved when he learned what had happened, that he was unable to obtain an avowal of the exact sums for which his alleged forged signatures were circulating in South Africa, and that the shock and suffering caused by the forgeries hastened the crisis that led to his death. It should, nevertheless, be borne in mind that all intimacy between Cecil Rhodes and Princess Radziwill had ceased for some time prior to the issue of the notes, and that at the time of his last voyage to Europe Cecil Rhodes had changed his ship in order to avoid travelling on the same vessel as the Princess.

"Princess Radziwill is now in South Africa," writes M. de Blowitz, in conclusion, "and will soon be tried for forgery. I consider it my duty to summarize facts bearing on the case before the tribunal pronounces judgment.

Says He Was Robbed.

Helena, Mont., May 29.—Vernon Churchill, who is on his way around the world on a wager with Capt. Paul Boynton, was found bound and gagged in the Auditorium this morning. He reported to officers that he had been robbed of \$1,500 by three men who held him up with pistols. Churchill was decorating the Auditorium. He expected to leave Seattle for Japan June 4, and says that he still intends to make the circuit of the globe by August 30.

The sheriff believes his story of robbery is not true, while the chief of police credits it and is making every effort to capture the alleged thieves. When Churchill left New York his only possession was a nickel given him by Admiral Dewey.

Job Printing at Nugget office.

Haydn's "Dictionary of Dates" makes the statement that the old name of the city of London was written Lyden or Llydyth, meaning "the city on the lake." An old tradition gives us to understand that London was founded by Brute, a descendant of Aeneas, and called New Troy or Troynovant until the time of Lud, who surrounded the town with walls and named it Caer-Lud, or Lud's town. This latter is probably the correct version of the story if for no other reason because it is an easy matter to detect a similarity between the expression Lud's town and London. It is claimed by some writers that there was a city on the same spot 1,107 years B.C., and it is known that the Romans founded a city there called Londinium A.D. 41.

THE SEQUEL.

Cape Town, April 30.—Princess Radziwill, who has been on trial here before the Supreme Court on the charge of forgery in connection with notes purporting to have been endorsed by the late Cecil Rhodes, was sentenced today to two years' confinement in the house of correction.

At the hearing of the attorney-general made a long address, in which he cautioned the jury against being mystified by telegrams from "hare-brained individuals, like William T. Stead and others," and alleged incriminating documents, which were merely the "ordinary armament of a blackmailer." Continuing, the attorney-general said: "Nothing could be more gross and treacherous than the prisoner's behavior throughout." He appealed to the jury to arrive at a verdict on the evidence, which would rid society, temporarily, at least, "of a cruel and dangerous woman."

Summing up, the chief justice said there was not a suggestion throughout the correspondence that Mrs. Schultz had given the prisoner the bills, as alleged. This was important, he said, because if the jury found the accused had received the bills they must acquit her, but if satisfied she had used fraudulently the name of Cecil Rhodes they must convict her. The contention of the defence that no one suffered in consequence of the forgeries he declared to be untenable. He cautioned the jury to disregard the prisoner's noble birth and antecedents, and to decide the case according to strict justice.

After a brief retirement, the jury brought in a verdict of guilty on all the counts against her.

The chief justice then addressed the prisoner her education. He referred to her birth, her education, and her position in society. He deplored the two dark features of her case, namely, the attempts to incriminate the innocent Mrs. Schultzy and the bribing of a boy in the employ of the postoffice to form a date line on the alleged cablegram from B. Hawkley. Owing to her delicate health, the chief justice said, she would not have to perform hard labor, but that she would be confined for two years in the house of correction or any other place the governor was pleased to appoint.

The prisoner bowed her head and received her sentence calmly.

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