

THE FAMOUS DOUBEDOUILLAS

A Patriotic Writer Tells of Their Greatness and Decline as a Nation.

Correspondence New York World.

Paris, Sept. 1.—Last week the Duc de la Rochefoucauld-Doudeauville gave a banquet in the park at Boulogne, his castle in the Bois de Boulogne, just restored at a cost of several millions of francs. All members of the nobility in the neighborhood were invited, sheep and oxen were roasted whole for the passants and there was dancing on the green to the accompaniment of all the fiddlers in and near Paris. As if this old-fashioned house-warming were not sufficient a monster balloon was sent up and in the evening brilliant fireworks heralded the fête. Besides his magnificent residence, Rue de Valenciennes, Paris, the Duc de Doudeauville possesses three great estates, the Val-de-Loup, the Doudeauville and Boulogne. Val-de-Loup is a Swiss chalet near Paris, and was built by Chateaubriand, who spent here the happiest years of his life. Boulogne was built by François de la Rochefoucauld, Prince de Marillac, who, in 1694, was co-father of François I. Since his time the Duc de Doudeauville bears the name François; the status of this La Rochefoucauld perpetuates his memory in the courtyard of Boulogne and recalls the time when the castle was the scene of royal fêtes.

The Duc de Doudeauville, just restored, is the favorite residence of the Duc, and here—he is to be seen, the old Duc de Doudeauville, as he is called in the Duc's castle in whose forests, as every La Doudeauville, is the real ancestral home of the La Rochefoucauld.

The arms of the family are the same as those of the Lusignans, borne a pair of crossed arms, one bearing a cross above a sword, the other a sword above a cross. Their motto is "C'est mon plaisir" (It is my pleasure), rendered in mottoes of the houses with which they are allied—the Dauphins, the Lusignans, the Montmorency, the Bourbon, the Montmaria, &c. The present Duc de Doudeauville married, first, the beautiful Yolande, Duchesse de Ligny, whose visit to America some two years ago made so great a sensation in the social world of New York and Newport. Mrs. de Ligny made a vow beside the tomb of her husband, killed at Jena during the Franco-Prussian war, never to forsake the name of her hero and to keep the father name of the children. That vow has been religiously kept, and the Duc is happiest when with her father and her children.

The Duc de Doudeauville, one of the most beautiful ancestral homes of France, has no way been changed since the Duc de Ligny left it for the last time, and here occasionally the Duc offers hospitality to some privileged guests.

After the death of his first wife the Duc de Doudeauville married Marie, daughter of the Prince de Ligny, who, after the Revolution of 1800, was offered the house of Ligny, which she inherited, France, Austria and Belgium, but their favorite residence is the Castle of Boulogne, near Mons, Belgium.

The Doudeauvilles are very popular, and if the Duc de Doudeauville were not the Duc de Doudeauville he would be the "first lady in the land." Who can tell? Perhaps the Duc de Doudeauville has restored his castles to their former splendor he may restore the French throne. A restoration devoutly to be wished.

BOHEMIAN ALTHEA SALVADOR.

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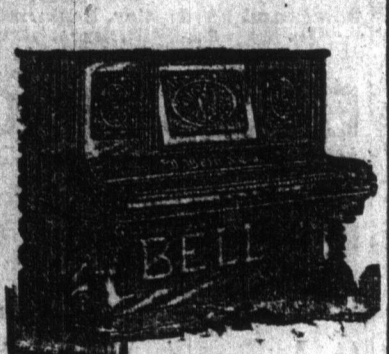
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