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### British Premier's Tactless Wife.

Dramatic Story of Mrs. Asquith's Over--Whelming Loss of Prestige in Britsh Society.

wife of the prime minister of England. Mrs. Asquith herself would doubtless repudiate this assertion

ed to live up to the high destiny to of England's prime minister. It is which she has been called by fate, dreadful. Poor Margot, however, will it is Emma Alice Margaret, the second wife of the Right Hon. Herbert this interval. She never did see any-Henry Asquith, P.C., M.P., K.C., prime

timates the countess of Essex and the duchess of Rutland love to call her, "Life" under the fairest of auspices. She was a daughter of Sir Charles Tennant, a wealthy and well-known Lanark, and quite early she became initiated into all the mysteries and disillusions of British politics. This did not prevent her becoming a promgroup of young thinkers and politicians which included Asquith, Balfour and other noted men, who preferred to talk of the mystical rather materialism and culture. It also involved her appearance as the heroine

made up her mind, "I will be the land," she told her girl friends. "Liberal or Conservative?" they questioned, in a whsiper, with a side glance at Arthur Balfour. "I don't know," she replied quite frankly, "but this

Years were destined to pass befar-seeing girlhood resolution. In within her; she is no stranger to that solid ground. Whether Sir Edward mysterious ailment known as a "ner-mysterious ailment known all all all all all all moner, F. Melland of Manchester. In orne him two children, a son and a daughter. In 1908 Asquith, became prime minister of England, and one of his wife's first public acts after torical premier's home at 10 Downing Street was to hold a formal reception merely to exhibit the newest and irreverent act provoked in the minds of the staid Liberals who remembered the sweet womanly charm and high principle of Catherine Gladstone. "It's monstrous, monstrous," they cried, and even the lace manufacturers of Nottingham uttered a

loud and indignant protest. Asquith Said Nothing.

me. I said as usual "to bring them over." But he replied he could not do time it would not pay him. 'Bring them,' I repeated. I will invite a few friends to look at them. You need custom. It will help you.' So he came and arranged them at the offi-

#### **Back Was Lame** For Two Years

gish condition of the kidneys, liver

London,-One of the most tragic | noon. Why should he not do so? figures in British society to-day is the The house is ours. We can invite to

Her friends, however, only smile. "She forgets," they said, "that she sent out formal cards, invited forty ternoon tea: Fancy-a dressmaker' touting exhibition in the official hom not see it even after the scandal and

lives entirely in a dream world of her

Nevertheless, from that day onward "Margot" Asquith lost every atom of political and social power that should have rightfully belonged to the exalted position she occupies. The rich Liberal peers and merchants did not openly do or say anything definite, but they let it be understood from their manner and their lack of of the world held by Catherine Gladstone. Of course, "Margot" Asquith gowns, and chafes under these slights. Her personal ambition is enormous. Her charm of mind and face is unquestioned-even her step ill, but she is never a prominent figure at any big public function.

The crowd neither know her feaures nor value her influence When moved guests. "It is only Mrs. Asquith." they tell themselves, and 'Margot" Asquith bites her lips and turns a brave smiling face to the mob fore she wedded, but that thin ner- but after five years of coldness and vous frame never faltered in its grim neglect something has gone snap flies to Switzerland to forget the crazy throne that she longed for as a ness and pain but a couch of thorns. If anybody else but Mrs. Asquith had two years ago entertained Maud Alen, the "Salome" vaudeville dancer from the Palace theatre at the prim minister's official residence, Puritan England would have grown hysterical with indignation. As it was, they fallen from the dizzy realms wherein or all the king's men can set her up

Recently Mr. Asquith has bough an ancient farm house type of resi-Berkshire, and any weeek the news may come that he has retired from tice, evenutally making Mrs. Asquith a peeress? Why not the last alterna-

the other day in public: A Precarious Position.

is really kept alive after a fashion for Ireland's sake: the Liberal whips make their steady and strenuous ef-

sive and idealistic feminism, he dis likes his role of defender of the dra-

concern is the problem of his own iture. He is not a rich man; hav ing held the lofty position of prin minister, it is impossible for him



thing that she did not want to. She cellorship is closed to him; Viscoun of life and rich in vitality.

One Great Opening.

"There is really only one great opening for the prime minister and Will Mr. Asquith deny himself that coveted high office of Lord chief jus tice of England when Lord Alverstone retires? It is not at all likely that he will do anything so improvi

"Lord Alverstone's health has com of the king's bench division has got hopelessly into arrears. Why the de

The salary of the lord chief justice is \$40,000 a year (a permanency of cid as his nothing could be more con-

presently Mr. Asquith will have evol-

with will say to this new arrangenent. And apparently nobody cares!

To take the place of the corsage boquet, loops of colored ribbon

Dolly Varden coats of flower sprigged crepon, chiffon, net and taffeta ccompany linen frocks.

forming points and tassels of silk

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