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The Beauty, The Baby, and the Hero

How the Birth of a Son the Beautiful Marchioness of Townshend has threatened the Loss of a Title to the Captured Hero of Kut-el-Amara.

This is a story of beauty, the baby, the hero and "the judiciously committed lunatic," four remarkable characters who are figuring most prominently in one of the strangest romances of the English peerage. The beauty in the case is the Marchioness Townshend, described as one of England's most beautiful and talented women of title; the baby is her infant son, born last May and known as Viscount Raynham; the hero is Maj.-Gen. Charles Townshend, "the fighting man of Kut," whom the Turks starved into surrender last spring, and "the judiciously committed lunatic" is Lord Townshend, father of the titled baby whose birth has brought about a most extraordinary state of affairs.

The advent of this remarkable baby, the Viscount Raynham, is of such tremendous importance that the Townshend case is soon to come up before the House of Lords of the British Parliament, where, according to legal authorities, it is very likely to give rise to precedents that will be cited the world over.

Gen. Townshend's Drama.
Last winter and spring the world followed with daily interest Gen. Townshend's heroic defense of Kut-el-Amara in Mesopotamia during its siege of five months by the Turks before hunger compelled him to raise the white flag after destroying his guns and ammunition. Gen. Townshend and his forces were made prisoners by the Moslems, and today are supposed to be languishing in a Turkish detention camp somewhere in the vicinity of Constantinople.

But only temporarily was the world to lose sight of Gen. Townshend. His second appearance on the world stage is not in a war drama, but in a drama of the courts. This time he is not facing ferocious Turks, but a 6-month-old baby is his adversary whose rights of succession to title and estate the hero of Kut is disputing. Again it seems that Gen. Townshend is to be compelled to hoist the white flag of surrender—at least for a while.

When the Marchioness of Townshend became the mother of the Viscount Raynham, her baby's birth raised a question of disputed succession. Lord and Lady Townshend were married in 1905, and this is their first child.

Maj.-Gen. Townshend is a second cousin of Lord Townshend, and was heir-presumptive to the marquissate until his star of fortune served him a bad turn.

Lord Townshend's marriage to Gladys Ethel Gwendolen Eugenie, eldest daughter of Mr. Thomas Sutherland, barrister, who was drowned in the Lusitania disaster, was made a matter of great notoriety in view of evidence of experts and ordinary physicians in the several rather shocking suits that engaged the attention of the English courts 10 and 12 years ago.

Owing to the English equity laws of evidence, Gen. Townshend is debarred from raising any question as to the legitimacy of the child born to Lady Townshend until the death of the marquiss. Only then can he bring forward his contentions, and all the evidence which he may have at his disposal, in presenting his claims to the crown for his recognition as the seventh Marquis of Townshend, in lieu of the present Lady Townshend's child, the Viscount Raynham.

Should the son born to Lady Townshend survive the marquiss and a contest ensue between this child and Gen. Townshend for the succession to the peerage and entailed estates, matters will be complicated by the fact that the marquiss, since shortly after his marriage, has been a "judiciously committed lunatic" and was such at the time he married Miss Sutherland. A legal authority says that "any admission or repudiation that Lord Townshend might, therefore, make as to the paternity of the boy born to his wife would have no legal value in the way of evidence, even before the committee of privileges of the House of Lords." This, however, is said to be an error, since, under common law, the evidence of an insane person may be given, but can be rebutted by evidence showing the incapacity of the insane person for testimony and it must be corroborated. The House of Lords in 1886 decided that lords who were inmates of insane hospitals

were capable of voting against Gladstone's home rule bill.

The present marquiss spent some time in this country before his marriage. While here he rendered himself supremely ridiculous by the foolish interviews which he accorded to representatives of the press and by his insertion of advertisements in the daily newspapers asking for a rich wife and offering in return for a large fortune the coronet and rank of a peeress of the realm and of a marchioness.

Poor Marquis of Townshend!
The Marquis of Townshend is described as a little man, with an abnormally large head, tired questioning eyes, a thin, squeaky voice and the body of a small boy.

One of the reasons given for depriving him of the control of the family property and of any voice in its administration, and for having him judiciously certified as "non compos mentis" was because he was said to be suffering from an uncommon mental malady and to have manifested perversities not excessively rare in that malady.

What were described in court as the disgraceful circumstances of the present marquiss marriage and the manner in which he was jockeyed into it by the marchioness' bankrupt father, under a pledge to pay the marquiss an annuity of many thousands of dollars a year when he, the father, was without a cent even to pay his large liabilities, were again thoroughly aired at the time when the marquiss was judicially committed as being of unsound mind.

When the case in which Gen. Townshend figures comes up in the House of Lords, it is thought that the element of undue influence on a defective will doubtless be given some legislative weight, even if the House of Lords, like the New Jersey supreme court, in the nineties, has given contradictory decisions on the subject of marriage of the insane.

Tradition of the Townshend Ghost.
The present marquiss John James Dudley Stuart, is the sixth holder of the title. Two years prior to his marriage he had attracted attention to himself by an application to the court for permission to dispose of certain heirlooms so that the proceeds might enable him to keep up a position commensurate with the dignity of his title. Permission was given, and much family silver and sundry portraits at auction realised \$200,000.

Later there was more litigation, the action being to remove certain trustees under deeds which brought some of the family heirlooms into a re-settlement of the estate. The marquiss alleged that under mesmeric influence he had paid numerous large sums to a certain party. This case ended happily for the marquiss.

When Lady Townshend recently appeared in public she was described as "being romantically good looking in a huge Romney hat, with a long sweeping black veil throwing in relief the clear-cut contour of her face."

The marchioness has since girlhood been a graceful writer of verse. Lately she wrote a fine drama, "The Convent Gate," having previously given the picture play "A Strong Man's Love."

There is said to be in the Townshend family as well authenticated a family spectre as any famous house can boast. The ghost, which always heralds a death or a birth, is at Raynham Hall, in Norfolk, and tradition declares it to be that of Lady Dorothy Walpole, who in 1713 became the second wife of the second Viscount Townshend. The marriage was not a happy one, and eventually her mind gave way, and it became

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St. John's, October the 9th, A.D. 1916.

JOHN MCCARTHY,
Actg. Secy. Licensing Board.

Serious Falling Off in Recruiting

Fewer Men in Canadian Expeditionary Force Now Than at the Beginning of August

OTTAWA, Oct. 6.—The newly appointed Directors of National Service will meet in Ottawa next week for organization purposes and to discuss plans for carrying out the task entrusted to them by the Government. The falling off in recruiting during the past two or three months, and the imperative need of a more systematic method of adjusting the supply of men to meet the calls both of war and of industry call for prompt action by Sir Thomas Tait and his fellow directors. Sir Thomas, in co-operation with the officials of the Militia Department and of other Departments of State, is now preparing detailed recommendations for the consideration of the Board when it meets here next week.

It may be noted that the recruiting total of 6,351 for last month fell very considerably short of the wastage at the front during September. Considering the number of casualties and the comparatively large number of men who are now being weeded out of the battalions proceeding overseas, through the final medical inspection, prior to leaving Canada, it is safe to say that there are fewer men actually in the expeditionary ranks now than there were at the beginning of August.

10,000 on Pension Roll.

About eight thousand soldiers have so far been returned to Canada from the front and been discharged as unfit for further active service. Most of these have been incapacitated by wounds and will receive pensions for the rest of their lives. In England here are several thousand more members of the Canadian force in hospital, who will probably never be able to go back to the front and who will be sent to Canada for discharge as soon as they are sufficiently convalescent. By the end of the present year Canada's pension roll will probably be well over the ten thousand mark.

necessary to seclude her in an upper story at Raynham, where she died.

The "Organ Grinder Viscount."
It is pointed out that the Townshend case represents certain analogies to that of the late Earl Poulett, who was harassed throughout his adult life by the persecutions of his aunt, who assumed as such one of the minor titles of the earldom, namely, that of Viscount Hinton. The "viscount" paraded about London with a barrel organ, adorned with placards, to the effect that he had been compelled to adopt this mode of livelihood owing to the refusal of his alleged father, the late Lord Poulett, to contribute to his maintenance.

Lord Poulett, while a young officer, 22 years of age, had a drunk-in fit after a particularly festive dinner, wagged that he would marry the first woman he met in the street on leaving the barracks. The one whom he encountered was a woman of the town, and although he had never seen her before, he married her within the next 24 hours. Three months later she gave birth to a son, who became the "organ grinder viscount."

The woman, who was abandoned by her young husband within a few days after the marriage, when he became sober, conducted herself subsequently with such prudence as to give him no cause for divorce during the few years that she survived the ceremony. Consequently he had no opportunity of bringing into court the question of the paternity of the son to whom she had given birth.

When Lord Poulett succeeded to the title and to the family estate, which are very valuable, he sought by every means in his power to secure judicial recognition of the fact that the organ grinder viscount was not his offspring, but without avail, in spite of the large resources at his command. Nothing could be done for him, since the fact remained that the organ grinder had been born in lawful wedlock. He did the best he could, however, in the way of collecting evidence regarding the circumstances of his marriage with the woman and the birth of her son—evidence which he left at his death to his boy by his third marriage.

On the late earl's demise his peerages were claimed both by this son of the third marriage and by the organ grinder viscount. The matter was referred to the committee of privileges of the House of Lords, which, after hearing all the testimony and taking cognizance of the affidavits and other sworn evidence left by the late earl, decided in favor of his son by his third marriage, who thus became the present Lord Poulett. On the strength of this decision and of his summons by the Queen to the upper chamber of the imperial legislature, Earl Poulett was able to obtain from the civil courts the award of the entailed estates.

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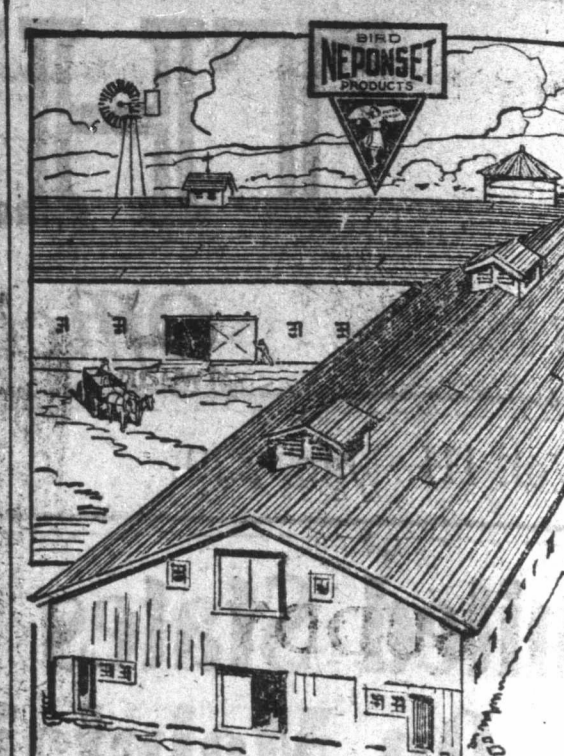


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