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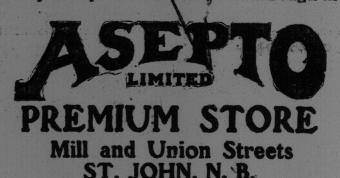


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La MARQUISE

de FONTENOY

A Mission and Its Meaning -Remarkable Revelations About the Royal Tragedy in Servia are Made

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pany).

There has been so much comment and question on both sides of the Atlantic with reference to the action of the French Government in confiding to Claude Casimir-Perier an official mission in the United States, while accompanying his actresswife, Mme. Simons on her professional tour in this country, that it may be as well to explain that French cabinet ministers make very little difficulty about entrusting missions of this kind to applicants—missions that are a source of no end of

trusting missions of this kind to applicants—missions that are a source of no end of trouble and annoyance to the French embassies and legations abroad.

Sometimes the cabinet ministers give these missions to political adherents or to personal friends, paying them from funds of their departments, and there have been recently brought to light cases of persons who had received such commissions, involving voyages to the Orient or to South America, but who had never left Paris, although they had drawn in advance all their salary and travelling expenses. That this is no exaggeration is shown by the fact that a Parisian journalist is now being sued by the government for the recovery of money thus obtained.

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The Evening Chit-Chat

By RUTH CAMERON

away," I heard a man say the other day. "The poor devil I gave it to swore that he hadn't had anything to eat for two days. Of course, he may have wanted it for a dring, or he may have more money than I have, but what can you do when a man says he's starving? I'd rather help ten men who didn't deserve it, than refuse one who was really hungry."

I think the quandry in which this man found himself is a very common one. I don't believe there is anyone who goes about much, but has often been asked for money to buy food with, and has wondered, as he gave it, if it would really be used for that purpurpose.

dered, as he gave it, if it would really be used for that purpurpose.

Wherefore, I want to tell you of the man-who-thinks' solution of this quantary.

From the Savation Army in the city in which he lives, he procured a number of tickets, some good for a full meal and some for a night's lodging at the 'Army's headquarters. When anyone asks him for money for food or lodging, he gives him one of these tickets. If the suppliant is really hungry, he presents the ticket and receives the meal or the lodging. At the end of each month, the man-who-thinks settles with the Salvation Army for all the tickets marked with his especial number which have been presented.

In this way, he is sure of never turning away anyone who really wants food, and at the same time of not giving money to professional beggars. Doesn't the man-who-thinks' way appeal to you as a rather clever solution of the difficulty?

"My Dear Miss Cameron—
"Will you please, some time, write one of your little articles on the subject of a man taking a woman's arm when on the street, coming home from the theatre and so on? When the lady is old or there is a crowd, or it is raining, or the couple are engaged, it may be all right (though even then it seems to me she should take his arm); but in pleasant weather, when the streets are not crowded, nothing arouses my resentment like having a man take hold of my arm and "walk me ahead" faster, perhaps, than I care to go. As a general thing, after a man has done it once, I refuse further invitations to go out with him, yet, I think it is done unconsciously, without meaning to give offense, and I know no way to stop it.
"Seems to me a woman ought, literally, to 'set the pace'—be free to step one way or the other, as she likes, and not be 'poked."
"Please in your own inimitable way, write it up some time, and very much oblige

Still less difficulty is made by the cabinet ministers in entrusting a friend or acquaintance with an official mission abroad, when he does not ask for any remuneration or even expenses, and offers to defray the entire cost of his trip himself. This was the case with the young Frenchman who now styles himself the Comte de Perigny, who is a familiar figure in New York society, and who owes much of his acceptance on this side of the water to the fact that he obtained from a French cabinet minister the official mission to report on conditions in Central America.

It is an unpaid mission of this sort that has been confided to Claude Casimer-Personnel.



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