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Mysteries of Royal Births

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 15

son, their own union having remained childless. Princess Anna, by her previous marriage to Colonel Constantino-vitch, had a son bearing the latter's patronymic, who after being affianced to Mademoiselle Natalie Kechko, was jilted by her on the very eve of the date appointed for the marriage, for the sake of his best man and alleged cousin, who was really his half-brother, King Milan.

ENGLAND'S ROYAL HOUSE.



THE bar sinister defacing the escutcheon of the Duke of Buccleuch and Queensberry, is associated with one of the most romantic mysteries affecting the succession of the royal house of England, a mystery that had a curious and little known epilogue during the reign of Queen Victoria, not long before the death of her husband, the late Prince Consort. The Duke, who is one of the greatest nobles of the British Empire, is descended on the distaff side from Sir Walter Scott Buccleuch, whose abortive attempt to rescue James V from the prisonlike control of the Earl of Angus forms the theme of Sir Walter Scott's "The Lay of the Last Minstrel."

It was his descendant, Anne, Countess of Buccleuch in her own right and the greatest heiress of her time, who married King Charles' son by Lucy Waters. This son at the time bore the title of Duke of Monmouth; but on his marriage he assumed his wife's patronymic of Scott, and was created Duke of Buccleuch. The Duchess survived her husband's death on the scaffold (he was condemned for high treason in heading an abortive insurrection against his uncle King James II) for nearly forty years, and on her death her grandson Francis Scott succeeded as second Duke of Buccleuch.

One of the reasons that led the Duke of Monmouth and Buccleuch to head the rebellion against his uncle was that he was convinced that his mother, Lucy Waters, had been lawfully married to King Charles, and that he, the Duke, therefore, was his father's legitimate offspring, instead of his natural son, and consequently invested with rights of succession to the crown prior and superior to those of his uncle. That there was justification for this belief is shown by the fact that the father of the present Duke of Buccleuch discovered among the archives of his family about fifty years ago a document affirming under the hand of King Charles II the fact that he had been lawfully married to Lucy Waters, and that the ill fated first Duke of Buccleuch and Monmouth was therefore his legitimate son and heir. The late Duke, as a loyal son of the House of Hanover, decided that this document ought to be turned over to Queen Victoria. This was done, and the late Prince Consort, in the presence of the Queen and the Duke, consigned the paper to flames.

Of course, if the document had remained in existence, it would not have affected in any way the rights of Queen Victoria and King Edward to the throne of Great Britain. Their respective succession thereto and position thereon is based on the so-called Act of Settlement, passed by Parliament in 1701, which by a narrow majority of one vote, cast by Sir Hugh Owen, vested the throne of Great Britain and Ireland in the Hanoverian descendants of King James I, barring therefrom the less remote descendants of his son King Charles II, now represented by Princess Louise of Bavaria and her son Prince Rupert.

Still, it was a very loyal thing for

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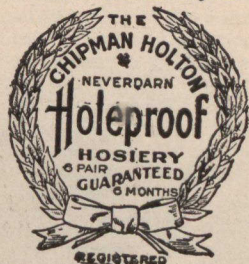
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