

SIDELIGHTS ON NOTABLE PEOPLE BY THE MARQUISE DE FONTENAY

Lord Walsingham, who lost his first wife two years ago, has just, at the age of 66, contracted another marriage, his bride being the daughter of a Mr. Gwyther Williams, of Belvedere, Isle of Wight. Should there be any issue of this union it will prove a sore disappointment to Lord Walsingham's half-brother, the Hon. John de Grey, a man of 50, who has until now been heir presumptive to the peerage and to the extensive estates, some of which have been in the possession of the family since the thirteenth century. John de Grey is a member of the bar, a police magistrate of London, has a charming country seat of his own in Suffolk, known as Leiston Abbey, and a son now 25 years of age.

The late Lady Walsingham was a remarkably gifted woman. She was a daughter of "the beautiful, the gallant, and the immortal Locke" of whom Lord Lytton writes in his novel "Ernest Maltravers." Locke was a subaltern in the First Life Guards and married a sister of the first Lord Tollermeche against her father's wishes. They went to Lake Como for their honeymoon and while on the shores of the lake Locke was drowned before his young wife's eyes. The daughter subsequently born to the widow married first Lord Burghersh, eldest son and heir of the Earl of Westmoreland, then the Italian Duke of San Teodoro, by whom she had a daughter, now the wife of Prince Mark Anthony, chief of the historic house of Colonna, and lastly, after divorcing the duke, she became the wife of Lord Walsingham.

Lord Walsingham shares with Lord de Grey the reputation of being the finest shot in England, and his aim is so accurate that he is able to shoot wasps on the wing. This requires a marvellous eye and the steadiest of hands, and he uses for the purpose a miniature rifle specially constructed.

Since men born as citizens of the United States are debarred thereby from being created peers of the realm—an honor which they can only obtain by virtue of inheritance, like Lord Fairfax—the next best thing in this line at their disposal is to figure as the father of a peer. This distinction they can obtain by marrying princesses in their own right, or by wedding young girls who are heiresses to peerages that are heritable in the male as well as in the female line. A maiden of this kind has just come of age in the person of the Hon. Harriet Forbes Trefusis.

She is the eldest daughter of Lord and Lady Clinton, and on her father's death will inherit not only his great wealth and vast landed property, but also his ancient barony, one of the oldest in England. She will then become a peeress in her own right, and, while her husband, whether he be American or English, will be debarred, according to modern legislation, from any share in her nobiliary honors, the eldest son, and, failing male issue, the eldest daughter of the marriage, will inherit the peerage at her death.

The present Lord Clinton, who was already an immensely rich man through the great Forbes estates in Scotland, which he inherited through his mother, became some years ago, through the death of his younger brother, the Hon. Mark Rolle, the greatest landowner in the west of England. When the last Lord Rolle died, in the early part of the reign of Queen Victoria, without issue, he left all of his property for life to his widow, directing that on her demise it should go to her nephew, the Hon. Mark Trefusis, who was to take the surname of Rolle, and in the event of his dying without male issue the property was to go to his elder brother, the present Lord Clinton.

Old Lady Rolle was an extraordinary woman of the most despotie character, whose eccentricities during her near half century of widowhood were the talk of the countryside in the west of England. She was popularly known as "the Tigress," and in the latter years of her life seldom left her park, owing to the mathematical of ill-will which used to greet the appearance of her carriage in the neighboring towns and villages. With all that, she was generous in her charities, and she will remain on lasting record as the endower of the Cornwall hospital at Truro, which might not have been in existence today had it not been for her gift of \$500,000.

Lord Clinton, her nephew and heir, holds one of the oldest peerages in the United Kingdom. Indeed, there are only four that are senior to the barony of Clinton, which was created in 1298, and of which the present peer is the 21st holder. As in the case of the other few peerages by writ, the barony of Clinton descends through the female line, and in this way it has passed through marriage from the original house of Clinton into the Trefusis family, to which the present Lord Clinton belongs.

It belonged to the Satchvilles from the reign of Richard I. to that of Henry III, then to the Killigrews, to the Rolles, to the Trefusis family, Lord Clinton is married to a daughter of the fourth Earl of Antrim, and is a man of about 45 years of age, whose time is wholly taken up with the management and administration of his great property.

The character of the odd relations existing between those misnamed allies, Austria and Italy, has just received a further demonstration in connection with the funeral of the other day at Trieste of an old woman of the name of Oberdank, whose son had been hanged in 1881 for an attempt upon the life of Emperor Francis Joseph. With his customary kindness the Emperor provided for her maintenance until the day of her death. But her obsequies resolved themselves into a revolutionary manifestation against his rule.

Her body was escorted to the grave by several thousands, many of whom bore wreaths and floral emblems, tied with the colors of the Irredenta Society, that is to say, of that society which avowedly aims at the addition of Emperor Francis Joseph's Italian speaking provinces to the Kingdom of Italy. The Irredenta Society, which has committees in every Italian city, has always treated the assassin, Oberdank, in the light of a martyr upon the altar of patriotism. He was a saint, and, of course, the funeral of his mother was too precious an opportunity to lose of demonstrating Irredentist antagonism against Austria, and against its venerable ruler.

Poor Lord Tweedmouth, whose reason gave way last winter under his many troubles, which, beginning with the death of his popular and gifted wife, included the total wreck of his large fortune and his compulsory surrender of the office of first lord of the admiralty, following the indiscreet revelations of the contents of the private personal letter addressed to him by the Kaiser, remained without any improvement in his condition.

He is under restraint in the suburbs of Dublin, where he is visited daily by his sister, Lady Aberdeen, wife of the duke, who cares for his welfare with the utmost devotion. He is well content to see intimate friends and relatives and to talk with perfect lucidity about affairs that occurred five and ten years ago. But he is completely hazy about the last two or three years, and if through inadvertence, the conversation drifts in that direction his mind at once begins to wander.

When one recalls the fact that, in former times he was regarded not only as one of the shrewdest financiers and men of business, but also one of the ablest politicians, who, as parliamentarian, managed the House of Commons with extraordinary diplomacy and skill, the present condition of the duke strikes one as particularly pathetic, almost as sad, indeed, as that of his even still more brilliant brother-in-law, Lord Randolph Churchill.

As people who adopt an artistic career, especially in the musical line, seem to consider it necessary to assume an Italian name, it may be just as well to explain that Sig. Arturo Tibaldi, the violinist, who is sailing for the United States for the purpose of undertaking a professional tour, is in reality Arthur Larking, son of Lady Adela Larking, and of Col. Cuthbert Larking, a gentleman user of the King and an extra equester of the Duke of Connaught. Lady Adela Larking, the daughter of the second Earl of Lisburne, is an honorary lady-in-waiting to the Duchess of Connaught, and Cuthbert Larking's father, the late John W. Larking, was a noted figure in the Levant during the reigns of Khedive Ismail and of Sultan Abdul Said Pasha, wielding a considerable amount of influence as governor of the Imperial Ottoman Bank at Constantinople. Contrary to expectation, he did not leave a large fortune, and Col. and Lady Adela Larking are not well-off. Consequently their four sons have to rely upon themselves for a livelihood, and that is why Arthur Larking has taken to the concert platform as a professional violinist of considerable talent, under the name of Arturo Tibaldi.

One of the features of all the Imperial dinner parties, court banquets, and court ball suppers at Vienna is the perfection of the bonbons, small fancy cakes, candies, etc. These are served to all the guests at dessert, but rarely eaten, and usually laid on one side of the plate. Before the guests rise from the table the servants quietly place the Imperial crown and arms for the purpose of enabling them to be taken home to the children.

There is no concealment about this. It is quite a recognized and accepted practice that the bonbons should be taken home by the guests to their small folk, and it imparts a homelike touch to these banquets which goes far to soften and humanize the tremendous amount of etiquette and ceremony which they are otherwise full of. It is the only court duty, who recall at this moment where the children at home are thus remembered.

At the state banquets at Berlin the principal guests generally assume themselves by leading with these bonbons the pages of honor on duty, who are laden of noble birth, usually selected from the royal school of cadets at Potsdam, and I have known the late Emperor Frederick, who as crown prince was exceedingly fond of practical joking, to stuff on an occasion such as this a page's mouth full of bonbons and then to ply him with questions, to which it was beyond the

power of the lad to utter a word in reply.

Princess Xenia of Montenegro, whose jilting of King Alexander of Serbia in a most humiliating manner, after all the negotiations for her union to him had been concluded, led to his unfortunate marriage with Draga Maschin—a marriage that was responsible for his shocking murder—is undergoing a period of agreeable banishment, which she is spending on the banks of the Sene. It seems that during the recent unpleasantness between Austria and Montenegro, she allowed herself to be carried away by her patriotic enthusiasm to take a conspicuous and leading part in some of the anti-Austrian demonstrations at Cetinje; manifestations that were rightly construed by the Austrian government as an insult, calling for the strongest kind of diplomatic protest.

Prince Nicholas could not, in the face of the representation of the Austrian court to the Government, to both of which he is indebted for so many favors, especially in the shape of financial assistance, allow his daughter's indiscretions to pass unpunished, and somewhat at a loss to know what penalty to inflict upon this high-spirited, handsome girl of 26, he finally decided to temporarily banish her by ordering her to travel abroad.

She readily complied with his demands, and is now enjoying herself to her heart's content in Paris, where she is being initiated, for the first time into all the pleasures of shopping in the Rue de la Paix, of visits to the theatres and to the opera, and of the amusements that are being given in her honor by the leaders of Parisian society.

CENTENARIES OF THE YEAR 1909

GREAT MEN WHO WERE BORN A HUNDRED YEARS AGO.

The year 1909 was one of splendid birthdays. The centenaries which we shall celebrate the coming year are, accordingly, of exceptional interest. The appeal not to the literary man alone, but to the politician and the scientist even more. For Gladstone, the birth of both Darwin and the anniversary of Darwin's birth will fall on the 12th of February next; while the centenary of the great political leader will be not be upon us till the 24th of December. Midway between the greatest Victorian scientist and the greatest Victorian statesman comes the greatest Victorian poet, Tennyson, who was born on the 6th of the 12th of May, 1809, in the little village of Steventon, near Lincoln. He was the son of a poor but distinguished family, and his father, the Rev. Dr. Tennyson, was a noted scholar and a noted poet. He was the son of a poor but distinguished family, and his father, the Rev. Dr. Tennyson, was a noted scholar and a noted poet.

Something very much akin to a tragedy took place the other day in the royal nursery of King Alfonso XIII, when at Madrid, for, without any warning whatsoever, the English head nurse, Miss Bunting by name, who had been with Queen Victoria Eugenie since about a month prior to the birth of the little Prince of Asturias, suddenly fell over dead from her chair, in the presence of the queen and the children. It was found that she had succumbed to heart disease, although no one at the time was aware until then that she was suffering from such malady. As the queen is in a delicate condition of health, and expecting another addition to her family early in the new year, a good deal of alarm was expressed at the results of the shock caused by the event to her nervous system, and she is much distressed at the loss of a devoted retainer, and at the idea of having to intrust both her children and her own health to the care of a new nurse, who must necessarily be a stranger.

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