

so bad that the people nearly killed him. Later, however, the truth leaked out, and now here is n't another man so popular in all the country. His wife is partly American though, and they are here for only about two months in the year."

"I should like to meet them," his friend remarked.

"You probably will if you stay here long," the secretary answered. "They go everywhere. Come, we must be moving on."

John Peters and his wife found it hard to escape from their friends that evening. It was only the second of the presidential receptions, and the rooms were thronged. It was Bernhardt first who kept them talking.

"I do not think you ought to have come," he said. "Don't you know that the Prince de Suess is here?"

John Peters laughed. "He 'll never forgive me," he said. "I heard him explaining only a few minutes ago why it was necessary to hold those sham fights so close to the Bergeland frontier. Nothing ever makes him so angry as to suggest that his imperial master would, under any circumstances, have dreamed of interfering with events in this country. Ah! there is Mademoiselle de Holdt. I must speak to her for one moment."

Mademoiselle de Holdt was talking to a handsome