

## SIDELIGHTS ON NOTABLE PEOPLE BY THE MARQUISE DE FONTENAY

Lord Euston, who arrived in America some days ago on board the liner Baltic, in order to take part in the thirtieth triennial convocation of the Knights Templar at Saratoga, N. Y., is the eldest son and heir of the almost nonagenarian Duke of Grafton, and when he succeeds to his father's honors will constitute a most imposing addition to the House of Lords, standing as he does over 6 feet in his stockings. At present the Duke of Somerset holds the record for stature in the Upper Chamber of the National Legislature.

Lord Euston, who lives with his father in Cheshamstead gardens, London, is an aide de camp of King Edward, and one of the principal Masonic dignitaries of the United Kingdom. In fact, he has on a former occasion represented King Edward at great Masonic gatherings in this country. For up to the time of his accession King Edward was grand master of the Masons of the United Kingdom.

Lord Euston, who is now a man of about 60, has not had his path strewn wholly with roses. He has shared the monetary troubles of his father, due to no fault of their own, but to the well-known insane extravagance of the present duke's immediate predecessors—in fact, the dukedom of Grafton is today probably the poorest in the land, and under the circumstances it is not surprising that Lord Euston should have had on more than one occasion recourse to the court of bankruptcy in order to free himself of his liabilities.

Then, too, he was extremely fortunate in his marriage. When quite young and inexperienced he foolishly contracted a matrimonial alliance with one of the most notorious women in London, at least ten years his senior. As soon as he awoke to the realization of the mistake he had made he settled upon her all he then possessed—namely, \$50,000, and left her, emigrating to Australia, where he secured employment and fulfilled his duties in a creditable manner.

He was summoned home by his family and friends, who informed him that the investigation which they had been carrying on into the antecedents of his wife had convinced them that his marriage to her had been invalid, owing to the fact that instead of being a widow, as she had alleged herself to be, her first husband, a man of the name of George Manley Smith, still was living. Accordingly a suit was commenced in London by Lord Euston with a view to having his marriage annulled.

George Manley Smith was found in New Zealand, with considerable difficulty, brought to London at great expense, and everything pointed to a complete victory for Lord Euston. Suddenly, at the last moment, cross-examination brought to light a fact, ignored even by Lady Euston and by her lawyers, that at the time when she married George Manley Smith he himself had a wife living, whom he had wedded three years previously.

His union with the so-called Kate Walsh being thus rendered invalid by his former marriage, had been no legal obstacle, therefore, to her matrimonial alliance to Lord Euston, and Countess of Euston she remained until her death, about three years ago, restored her unfortunate husband to freedom. During the last ten years or so of her existence she had been mentally unbalanced, and legally irresponsible for her actions, Lord Euston having therefore no redress whatsoever for her extravagances of conduct.

Lord Euston, like his father, the Duke of Grafton, is entitled to bear the royal arms of England "brided" by a bar sinister. For they are descended from the first Duke of Grafton, whom Charles II. believed to be his son, by his favorite, Barbara Villiers, who, after flourishing successfully as wife of Roger Palmer, Earl of Castlemaine, and of "Beau" Fielding, died as Duchess of Cleveland, Countess of Southampton, and Baroness Yonsuch.

True, it is claimed by eminent genealogists and by students of history, that research shows the father of the fair Barbara's son, Henry Fitzroy, first Duke of Grafton, to have been Sir Charles Berkeley, one of the boon companions of the merrie monarch. But the royal college of heralds of England, the crown, and all the standard "peerages" admit the pretensions of the Dukes of Grafton to be descended from Charles II. and so the royal ancestry may be described as official, though open to question.

The principal home of the Duke of Grafton, Euston Hall, in Suffolk, was badly damaged a few years ago by a fire, which fortunately spared the Van Dykes and other valuable paintings. It has been in the possession of the family since the first duke, who figured as lord high constable of England at the coronation of his uncle, King James II., and afterward was one of the principal commanders of the army that defeated the insurrection of his half-brother, the ill-fated Duke of Monmouth, also a son of Charles II., and who perished on the scaffold.

Later on, this first Duke of Grafton deserted the cause of King James II. for William of Orange, and while fighting for the latter was mortally wounded in storming the city of Cork. The present duke has been badly wounded on the battlefield—namely, in the Crimea, a bullet entering his chin and passing through his body without touching his spine.

For several days his life hung in the balance, but ultimately he recovered.

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ered, and on his return to England was appointed one of the equerries of the late queen, with whose household he remained connected in that capacity until her death, being reappointed to the office on the accession of the present King, whom he has known since early boyhood.

From a historical point of view the most famous of the Dukes of Grafton was the third duke, the great-grandfather of the present peer, and who played so great a role as statesman throughout the long reign of George III. To him many of the most famous of the public letters of the still mysterious "Junius" were addressed, and during his day Euston was the scene of many an important political gathering, in which Fox, Pitt, Lord North, and Lord Rockingham participated.

One word more about the present Duke of Grafton and his son, Lord Euston. The former has old-fashioned ideas about the observance of Sunday, and on his extensive estates exacts that each tenant and his family should "attend some place of worship with regularity on Sunday," and that "no work shall be done on the land" on the Sabbath, or even any vegetables taken from the ground after 10 o'clock in the morning, under penalty of the cancellation of the lease.

Of course, the duke has been a good deal criticised for this, especially in the Liberal papers. But after all it is in keeping with the excellent principles which guide the conduct of so many of the great nobles and territorial magnates in Europe, and which cause them to look upon themselves as responsible, not only for the material but likewise for the moral welfare of all the people on their estates.

Lord Euston is much more sensitive to attacks in print than his ancestor, the third Duke of Grafton, who never allowed himself to be perturbed by anything that "Junius" wrote about him. For some years ago the earl, on finding himself the victim of a particularly atrocious calumny in print for which there was not even the shadow of a foundation, followed the example of his friend, Lord Carrington in an analogous case, and instead of instituting proceedings for criminal libel against the scribe, inflicted upon him such a terrible thrashing that the fellow was confined for months to the hospital. If my memory serves me aright, Lord Euston, on being charged with assault and battery, was acquitted with flying colors, on the ground that the thrashing had been thoroughly deserved, and was in every respect justified.

As Lord Euston, now a widower, has no children, the dukedom of Grafton eventually will go to the only boy of his younger brother, Lord Alfred Fitzroy. The young fellow is a subaltern in his father's and grandfather's old regiment, the Coldstream Guards.

Strenuous efforts are being made at Rome by the court and Government at Vienna to secure the elimination from the memoirs left by Count Nigra, ready for publication, of any reference to the tragedy at Meyerling. Count Nigra was Italian ambassador when that event took place, and made no secret among his friends of his dislike of the story, according to which the ill-fated Crown Prince of Austria took his own life. The count was one of the first arrivals at Meyerling after the news of the affair had reached Vienna. He had been on terms of considerable intimacy with the heir apparent, and when he reached Meyerling, was taken by the prince's valet, Loschek, to the room where Rudolf had been laid out on a bed.

The dead man's head was swathed in bandages. Count Nigra, in talking about the matter with intimate friends after his retirement into private life, related that with his eyes rather than with any words he inquired of Loschek the cause of the tragedy, whereupon the valet to disprove the rumor already started ascribing the tragedy to suicide, raised the bandage, and showed that one side of the head just back of the temple there was a hole almost large enough to contain a fist. The whole side of the skull appeared broken, smashed as if by a club.

"It was horrible," added the count. "Hair, fragments of bones, and brains were all mingled together. I do not see how the prince could have possibly inflicted such an injury upon himself. It was a murder. Of that I am convinced." While Count Nigra was still in the room Emperor Francis Joseph arrived from Vienna and the ambassador was witness of the heart-rending scene that followed.

It is understood that the count wrote fully about all the circumstances in connection with the death of Crown Prince Rudolf in his memoirs, and that he reveals therein many incidents which the House of Hapsburg and the Austrian Government are particularly anxious to prevent from becoming the subject of public discussion. The intervention of King Victor Emmanuel and of the authorities at Rome has been invoked from Venice, and, if it is possible to subject the memoirs of Nigra to the same cautious and discreet revision as those of Crispien and of Bismarck underwent, but from which those of the late Prince Clovis Hohenlohe escaped, it will be done, and nothing in that case will be found in the correspondence of Count Nigra to raise the veil of mystery which still enshrouds the tragedy of Meyerling.

Miss Florence Padelford's marriage to the Hon. Robert Victor Grosvenor, eldest son and heir of Lord Ebury, will not be the first matrimonial alliance of an American girl with his family. For Lord Ebury's younger brother, the late Thomas Grosvenor,

while secretary of the English legation at Peking, married there Miss Sophia Williams, only daughter of Dr. S. Wells Williams, who was for so many years United States minister to China. After the death of Thomas Grosvenor, his widow married a member of the English bar, Albert Gray, one of the counsel of the House of Lords, and Chancellor of the Diocese of Ely. Miss Padelford's fiancé is about 33 years of age, and served as a captain in the army throughout the South African war. His father, Lord Ebury, is a grandson of the first Marquis of Westminster.

Moor Park, the home of Lord Ebury, which will on his death have an American chateau in the person of the present Miss Florence Padelford, is one of the most beautiful of the best examples of Italian architecture in England. Originally it belonged to the Abbey of St. Alban's. After the battle of Bosworth, Henry VII. granted it to John de Vere, Earl of Oxford, who, conscience stricken at being the possessor of church lands, restored it on his deathbed to the monks. At the time when Henry VIII. finally confiscated the property of the religious orders Moor Park was assigned, along with Tavistock Abbey, to the House of Russell.

Before that it had been occupied for a time by Cardinal Wolsey, who entertained King Henry VIII. and Queen Catherine of Aragon there for several weeks. Charles II. purchased it from the Russells for his favorite son, the Duke of Monmouth, and when he lost his head on the scaffold, after his effort to wrest the throne of England from his uncle, James II., his widow, the Duchess Anne, ancestress of the present Duke of Buccleuch, caused the head of every oak in the park to be lopped off in token of mourning. And some of the oaks were already venerable with age when Archbishop George Neville, of York, was wont to welcome there his brother, the great Earl of Warwick, surnamed "the king maker," and portrayed by Bulwer Lytton as "The Last of the Barons." King Henry VII. and King Edward IV. also frequently staid there, and roamed under the trees, some of which are still in existence.

On the death of the widowed Duchess of Monmouth and of Buccleuch, Moor Park was sold to a man of the name of Benjamin Huskin Styles, who had acquired an enormous fortune through the South Sea bubble and who caused the house to be almost entirely rebuilt according to the designs of the famous Italian architect, Giacomo Leoni, assisted by Sir William Thornhill. Lord Anson, its subsequent possessor, had the gardens laid out by the famous landscape gardener, "Capability Brown," and through the Ansons Moor Park came to Lord Ebury's branch of the house of Grosvenor, of which the Duke of Westminster is the chief.

With regard to the Grosvenors, they are an ancient Norman family, and their pedigree runs back in an unbroken and unquestioned line to an ancestor who came over from France to England with William the Conqueror. One of their hereditary characteristics is the so-called Grosvenor "cackle." The Grosvenors all speak in low, soft, and measured tones, with that curious fine delicacy of "timbre" which no practice can bestow, but which is wholly inborn. As some one aptly said, they have silver thread voices.

The fortunes of the family, now probably the richest in the English peerage, owe their origin to Sir Thomas Grosvenor, who married the only daughter and sole heiress of Alexander Davies. Davies was the most famous banker in London during the reign of Charles II. and it is said that he derived his wealth mainly from the property and title deeds left in his charge during the great plague, which were never reclaimed by their owners. He had obtained much of the capital needed for his business as the executor of a celebrated money lender of the time of James I., known as "Rich" Audley.

Mary Davies was married at the age of a little over 12 to Sir Thomas Grosvenor, bore him eight children, and ultimately died as a lunatic, a fact of Parliament referring to her in the following terms: "The said Dame Mary Grosvenor continues a lunatic and the custody of her person stands committed to Robert Middleton, of Chirk Castle, in the county of Denbigh, esquire."

It was not until her death that her eldest son succeeded to her landed property in London, which, comprising what is today the most fashionable district of the metropolis, was

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valued by the state for purposes of taxation at the death of the late duke at \$80,000,000. Sir Thomas and Dame Mary Grosvenor's grandson became Lord Grosvenor and distinguished himself mainly by securing a judgment of \$50,000 damages from George III's brother, as co-respondent in the suit for divorce which he brought against his wife.

Miss Florence Padelford is the daughter of Edward Padelford, of Washington, and of his first wife, who was a daughter of James McPherson, of Baltimore. She after obtaining her divorce from Edward Padelford, married in London Ernest Cunard, grandson of Sir Samuel Cunard, and who had a short time previously been jilted on the eve of marriage by Miss Grey Egerton, who married, instead, Lord Romilly.

Lord Arundell, of Wardour, having been a priest of the Roman Catholic Church, has left no issue to inherit the honors and estates which came to him on the death of his brother last year, and it is, therefore, a distant cousin, Edgar Clifford Arundell, descended from the sixth baron, who now becomes the fourteenth Lord of Wardour, and owner, or rather life tenant, of Wardour Castle.

He is a man of about 50, has been married for about ten years, and has no children. His heir is therefore his only brother, Gerald, a bachelor of 47. Should the latter fail to wed and to leave issue, the barony of Arundell of Wardour, created by King James I., will become extinct. It is a peerage which was conferred upon Sir Thomas Arundell, who, in the reign of Queen Elizabeth, entered the service of the Emperor of Germany, and so greatly distinguished himself at the battle of Gran, against the Turks, capturing their standard with his own hands, that he was then and there created a count of the holy Roman Empire by Emperor Rudolph II., being raised to the English peerage as Lord Arundell, of Wardour, on his return to England.

The second Lord Arundell blew the greater portion of Wardour Castle into the air rather than leave it in the hands of Oliver Cromwell and of his troops, who had successfully besieged it, while the third lord was an imprudent soldier for five years in the Tower of London upon the perjured testimony of the infamous informer Titus Oates.

Wardour Castle in Wiltshire has been in the possession of the Arundells since its purchase from the Grevelles in 1547 by Sir Thomas Arundell, who lost his head on the scaffold during the reign of Edward VI. in spite of the fact that he had been a brother-in-law of Henry VIII., his wife having been a sister of Queen Catherine Howard, the fifth of the many wives of the Bluebeard monarch.

All the Arundells, since the first Lord Arundell, possess the title of Count and Countess of the Holy Roman Empire, and they have included in the late Lady Burton, wife of the celebrated Oriental explorer, Sir Richard Burton, and an aunt of the new Lord Arundell.

With the death of Baron Edward Robert von Swinburne, at the age of 83, the Austrian branch of the Swinburne family becomes extinct. For the baron, who was a veteran colonel of the army and a chamberlain of the Emperor, never married and was the only son of that Austrian field marshal, Baron Robert Swinburne, who was for so many years Austrian governor of Milan and viceroy of Lombardy. The Swinburnes always have been held in high honor in Austria, and Henry Swinburne, the traveler whose books on Spain and Italy, printed in the middle of the eighteenth century, are standard works today, was a particularly favorite of Empress Maria Theresa, whose son, Emperor Joseph, became godfather to Henry Swinburne's son.

The Swinburnes are one of the oldest families in England and were settled at Swinburne Castle in Normandy at the time of the Norman conquest. The castle passed through marriage in the reign of Queen Elizabeth, first to the Witheringtons, and then to the Riddels, in whose possession it is now, the country seat of the head of the House of Swinburne since 1572 having been Capheaton Hall, near Newcastle-on-Tyne.

The most famous member of the family today undoubtedly is England's foremost poet, Algernon Swinburne, son of the late Admiral Charles and Lady Jane Swinburne, and who undoubtedly would have been appointed to succeed Lord Tennyson as poet laureate had it not been for the radical and even downright revolutionary opinions which he professes in all his writings, especially with regard to Russian affairs.

The baronetcy was one of the first created by King James I., dating from 1660, and was conferred upon John Swinburne, who had previously been the subject of a romantic and sensational lawsuit. As a child he had been kidnapped, carried off to the continent, brought up in a monastery there under a different name, was believed to have perished, and when, after reaching manhood, refusing to become a monk, and leaving the monastery, he returned to England to claim his extensive estates, he had the utmost difficulty in establishing his identity.

Colonists are always averse to being described as such, and England's great dependents beyond the seas are all of them taking steps to rid themselves of the objectionable denomination. India is an empire, Australia a "commonwealth," Canada is a "dominion," and now New Zealand has received permission from King Edward to style itself henceforth as the "Dominion of New Zealand," by means of an order in council, the royal proclamation. This has been done in response to a petition that effect from both Houses of the Legislature of New Zealand. Winston Churchill, the under secretary of state for the colonies, on being asked in the House of Commons at Westminster by an inquisitive member to explain the difference between a dominion and a colony, was obliged to confess that there were no material or legal differences save in the title.

The English people have to thank themselves for this aversion of their

fellow countrymen in Canada and Australasia to be described as colonies. For many years, in fact until the imperialist administration of Joe Chamberlain as colonial secretary, and the Boer war, the visitor from Canada and from the antipodes was unwelcome at home, looked down upon, and treated with more or less contempt and ridicule as "only a damned colonial." Things are different now, and even the most dull-witted, home-staying Briton has become convinced, quite late in the day, it is true, that the colonies are the principal source of grandeur and prosperity of the mother country—that that empire upon which the sun never sets.

England has a considerable sum of money invested in silver dinner service at her various embassies. That of the British embassy at Paris, of which the ambassador has the use while in office, and which he is required to turn over complete to his successor, is valued at \$50,000, and is adorned with the arms of Great Britain. Curiously enough, the official silver plate at the English legation at The Hague cost \$40,000, whereas that of the embassy at Berlin is valued merely at \$22,000. This condition of affairs dates from the time when Holland was politically of greater importance to England than Prussia. Even the legation at Lisbon is better off in this respect than the embassy at Berlin, for its plate service represents a value of \$28,000. In good old times the various ambassadors on appointment received an allowance of \$30,000 or \$40,000 for the purchase of plate, which they caused to be engraved with their own armorial devices, and retained as their perquisites on their retirement. But this practice was done away with in the reign of King William IV.

Of course, when I use the word "plate," I mean the dishes, the plates, the epergnes, centerpieces, etc. The service of plate which belongs ex officio to the speaker of the House of Commons cost \$30,000, and dates from 1872. Up to that time each speaker on appointment had a right to 4,000 ounces of plate as a perquisite of his office from the crown, and which was furnished to him by the royal jewel office.

Among the spiritual lords of Parliament, that is to say, the Episcopal members of the British House of Lords, there is one who, though he has a seat in the Upper Chamber, has no vote there, being, indeed, the only member of that House who, though permitted to take part in its deliberations, is barred from voting. It is the Bishop of Sodor and Man, whose see having become vacant through the death of Bishop Stratton, has just been filled by King Edward, acting in his capacity as supreme head of the Church of England.

It is hardly necessary to mention that the Episcopal See of Man comprises the Isle of Man, the first bishop of which was St. Germanus, consecrated as such by St. Patrick, in 447, after having converted the Manxmen to Christianity.

As for Sodor, it is the name of a small village in Iona, where it is said an Episcopal see was established in the ninth century by Pope Gregory IV. In 1098 Magnus, King of Norway, having conquered the Scotch Hebrides and the Isle of Man, united them under one bishop, under whose jurisdiction they continued until well on towards the end of the fourteenth century, when England secured possession of the Isle of Man. Since then the bishop of the island, although he has neither enjoyed nor exercised any jurisdiction in Sodor, has retained the ancient title, being still styled "Bishop of Sodor and Man."

The bishop, like the Archbishops of Canterbury and of York, and like the Bishops of London, Durham, and Winchester, takes his place in the House of Lords immediately on appointment, and being obliged, like the other bishops of English sees, to wait his turn for a seat, there being more seats than seats for spiritual lords of Parliament in the Upper Chamber. The Bishop of Sodor and Man does not, however, take his seat on the bench of bishops and archbishops; but on a stool at the extremity thereof. He has, nevertheless, some compensation for this treatment, having a legislative position of his own in the Manx Parliament, or so-called "House of Keys." His salary is a small one compared with those of his Episcopal colleagues, amounting to but \$8,000 a year, as compared with the \$30,000 which is their average stipend. But then living is cheap in the Isle of Man, where the governor, Lord Raglan, has only \$9,000 a year salary.

It may be of interest to add that the Manxmen came originally from Norway, that King Henry IV., on becoming possessed of the island, bestowed it upon the Stanley family, and for the next 350 years the Earls of Derby were sovereigns of Man. When, in 1735, the tenth Earl of Derby died without male issue, the earldom and English estates went to his next male heir, while the sovereignty of the Isle of Man, descending through the female line, went to his heir general, James, second Duke of Athole. The third and fourth Dukes of Athole sold to the crown for sums aggregating some \$2,000,000 their sovereignty of the Isle of Man.

With regard to the rumors current concerning an impending divorce of Grandduke Cyril of Russia from his consort, Princess Victoria Melita of England and of Coburg, divorced wife of the reigning grand Duke of Hesse, it may be well to point out that the marriage never has received from the czar that sanction which is needed to render it a valid union in the eyes of Russian law and of the Russian Church. It is doubly illegal in the sight of the latter, owing to the strict ecclesiastical prohibition of marriages between first cousins, and is virtually non-existent. There will be no difficulty, therefore, about annulling such bonds as may exist. Grandduke Cyril's family has always been bitterly opposed to the union, which has been the result of exiling Cyril from Rus-

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and the severance of the ties between the young couple will have the effect of reconciling Cyril to his family, and to the Emperor, and of enabling him to resume his position in the immediate line of succession to the throne.

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