

SIDELIGHTS ON NOTABLE PEOPLE BY THE MARQUISE DE FONTENOY

Ronald C. Jervis, the new and sixth Viscount Jervis, spent a number of years in America, eventually marrying a Canadian girl, a daughter of James Brown, of Orchard Carleton, N. B. Through the death of his elder brother he has just come into possession not only of the latter's peerage, originally bestowed upon Admiral Sir John Jervis for his famous naval victory off Cape St. Vincent in 1797, but also a very pretty country place at Newton Disney, Newark-upon-Trent, and some estates extending over an area of some 10,000 acres of valuable land.

The late viscount left no children. He was divorced about ten years ago, after his wife's elopement with a man of the name of William Thompson. He conducted himself on that occasion with considerable generosity and forbearance, offering, but in vain, to take back his wife and forgive her if she would pledge herself to hold no further communication with the man who had persuaded her to run off with him.

The fourth viscount succumbed to wounds received at Abu Klea, in the Sudan, during the course of the unsuccessful expedition for the rescue of Gordon from Khartoum in 1898. Strictly speaking, the patronymic of the Lords St. Vincent is not Jervis, but Ricketts. For the first viscount—that is to say, the famous admiral, who was Nelson's chief—left no issue, his peerage going by special remainder to his sister's son, and son's son.

It was the daughter of the second Lord St. Vincent—namely, the Hon. Mary Jervis—who created so great a sensation in the early part of the reign of Queen Victoria by her marriage to the Eurasian and dusky Dyce Sombre, the millionaire son of a Scotch soldier of fortune and of an East Indian princess, the London Times devoting a lengthy leading article or editorial to a scathing condemnation of "such a natural and unholy matrimonial alliance."

Dyce Sombre's father was a Scotchman of the name of David Dyce, who was the original of "George Middleton" in Sir Walter Scott's well-known novel, "The Surgeon's Daughter." David Dyce went out to India in the service of the East India Company, which, however, he speedily deserted for that of the King of Oude, then at war with England. Suspected of having participated in the infamous Patna massacre, he contrived to escape after the battle of Buxar, and married the begum or native queen of Sombre Sirdiana. Both he and his wife then waged war against Wellington, but subsequently came to terms with him. It was this latter son, who styled himself "Mr. Dyce Sombre," who inherited their immense wealth, though not their sovereignty, which was absorbed by the English. He came to London at about the time of Queen Victoria's coronation, and was styled by society, until he sought and obtained the hand of the Hon. Mary Jervis, the reigning beauty of the day. The marriage, which was universally condemned, did not turn out happily. His inordinate jealousy led him to commit such atrocities, including the dispatch of a challenge to the Archbishop of Canterbury, with whom he wanted to fight a duel, that steps were taken by his wife's relatives to place him under restraint as a lunatic. Learning thereof in time, he escaped to the continent, where he remained in hiding until his death, whereupon his widow, finding herself in possession of his enormous fortune, married in a second nuptials, the third Lord Forster.

One of those dramas which furnish the romance to so many of the houses of the old world aristocracy is said to lie at the back of the demand which has just been made upon the provincial authorities of British Columbia to resume, after the lapse of ten years, investigation into the mystery surrounding the disappearance of Sir Arthur Curtis, third baronet of his line, who vanished in June, 1893, with an Indian guide, while on his way from Ashcroft, on the Canadian Pacific Railroad, to the Klondike.

Six months later Lady Curtis applied to the courts in London for leave to presume her husband's demise, and, although no definite evidence was ever produced that he was really dead, beyond the fact that he had wandered away from his companions and had disappeared from view without leaving any trace, the decree was granted, and not long afterwards Lady Curtis, whose only boy, Roger, had thus become fourth baronet, married Col. Robert M. Brady, of Burnham, Donegal, nephew and heir to the baronetcy of Sir Francis Brady, and by whom she has several children.

The young baronet came of age a few years ago, and there is reason to believe that he is just as little satisfied as are other people of the fact that his father is really dead. He is not living with his mother or step-father, but is understood to be on this side of the Atlantic, and it is assumed by many that it is he who is the relative who has urged the British Columbia authorities to resume the investigation. The only other remaining member of this house of Curtis is his grand uncle, Septimus Curtis, now a very old man, nearly 90 years of age, and who is at home in England.

The expedition with which Sir Arthur Curtis was travelling when he disappeared, was commanded by Roger Pocock, founder of the Legion of Frontiersmen, and in his book entitled "The Frontiersman," published a couple of years ago by Gay & Hancock in London, he devotes a chapter to this episode in his life.

He speaks very highly of Sir Arthur Curtis, whom he refers to under the initial "C," and relates how he, being out of sorts, spoke roughly and brutally to Curtis without any reason. Taking all the blame upon himself, Pocock declares in his book that he gave utterance to words that could never be withdrawn or forgiven, and how, during the same night, Sir Arthur wandered away into the woods and was never seen again.

He relates that for ten days he and his party sought Sir Arthur without finding any clue, and that then, their provisions having run out, they were obliged to abandon the hopeless quest. Pocock describes in his book how he and his party, after a long and arduous search, found the remains of Sir Arthur Curtis, and claims that Curtis would change his name. G. W. Cole added that it was nearly impossible for a man to slip away from the expedition, and claims that Curtis had been seen alive in England. He likewise adds that he knows nothing positively of the remains of the missing baronet ever having been found.

Another member of the expedition, G. W. Cole, a veteran miner, likewise expressed the conviction in the press of Vancouver and elsewhere in Canada that the baronet was not dead. He declared that he had heard Sir Arthur say that he meant to slip away from the expedition, and claims that Curtis would change his name. G. W. Cole added that it was nearly impossible for a man to slip away from the expedition, and claims that Curtis had been seen alive in England. He likewise adds that he knows nothing positively of the remains of the missing baronet ever having been found.

It is said that in the remote regions of Northwestern Canada are to be found today the clues to many disappearances as mysterious as that of Sir Arthur Curtis, of men bearing well-known names, once prominent in English life, who have in consequence of financial trouble, or some unfortunate romance, or some scrape of one kind or another, preferred to disappear, starting an altogether new existence in the new world, completely obliterating their past.

Long is the list of men who have thus vanished, among the best-known cases being those of Sir Robert Titchborne, of the elder brothers of the present Earl of Aberdeen, viceroy of Ireland, and of the ex-Duke John of Austria.

Only in a few instances have people who have thus vanished reappeared upon the scene. James Burke Roche, for instance, next brother and heir of Lord Fermoy, and father of Mrs. Arthur Scott Burden, of New York, got lost, like Sir Arthur Curtis, in the Klondike, while on the way from the Canadian Pacific Railroad to the Klondike gold fields. His companions, after searching for him for several days, found a skeleton which they rashly assumed to be his, bore it with much difficulty to the nearest town, interred it in the local cemetery, and set up a tombstone, on which a long list of virtues were attributed to him.

Roche, who happened along in full life some weeks later, saw the tombstone, caused it to be photographed, and now carries about its picture in his pocketbook as a post-mortem testimonial of his excellent character.

Owing to agricultural depression, another great estate has passed out of the possession of the family to which it had belonged for centuries, and Galloway house, along with Lord Galloway's Wigtown estates, embracing some 15,000 acres, has passed through purchase to Sir Malcolm MacEacharn, an Australian multimillionaire, who has been several times lord mayor of Melbourne, is the principal partner of the great shipping firm of McIlwraith, MacEacharn & Co., and the originator of the frozen meat trade of Australia.

At the time of the Boer war Sir Malcolm was able to place close upon him a thousand of his horses at the service of the remount department. Lady MacEacharn was a Miss Watson, daughter and heiress of J. B. Watson, the great mining king of Bendigo, her sister being the wife of W. L. Murdoch, the famous cricketer.

had engaged herself without the knowledge of her parents to Lord Rutherford, was compelled by them to break her troth to him, and to marry a suitor whom she did not love, David Dunbar, the younger, of Baldoon, dying shortly after the wedding. The River Bladnoch runs through the Galloway House property, and it was at the mouth of the Bladnoch that the Wigtown martyrs, in the Covenanters' day, were tied to the stakes below floodtide, and drowned by the rising waters.

Countess Mathilde de Noailles, who, according to dispatches from Paris, has just parted from her husband, has already achieved considerable note as a poetess and as an author; one of her books, entitled "Le Jeune Inconnu," having been crowned by the Académie Française. She is a daughter of the late Gregory Bibesco, who, although a citizen of Roumania, where nobiliary titles are forbidden, obtained from the Austrian Government permission to use the style of Prince Brancovan on the strength of his father having been hospodar or vassal ruler of Wallachia prior to its incorporation in the present kingdom of Roumania under the sceptre of Charles of Hohenzollern.

Count Mathieu, the husband who has just been turned adrift, is the younger of the two brothers of the Duc de Noailles, and holds a commission in the Twenty-seventh Regiment of Dragons of the French army, to which corps his other brother, Count Helle de Noailles, married to Corisande de Gramont, of the ducal house of Gramont, likewise belongs.

The Noailles can trace back their ancestry, by means of official records, in an unbroken line to Pierre de Noailles, the crusader, who flourished at the beginning of the thirteenth century. His son, Hugues de Noailles, on sailing for the Holy Land in the crusade of St. Louis, in 1248, signed a deed, still in existence, according to which his lands and name were always to descend exclusively in the male line. The dukedom de Noailles was created in 1693, and a year later the title of Duc d'Ayen was likewise bestowed upon the head of the family, and is now always borne by his eldest son and heir. Among the other honors of the house are those of Duc de Mouchy, and of Prince and Duke of Poix, now borne by the Duc de Noailles' cousin, the Duc de Mouchy, and to the latter's 18-year-old grandson.

That Countess Mathilde de Noailles' marriage should have resulted in shipwreck, as it has, is, for the first place, the blood in her veins inherited from her Roumanian father and her Levantine mother is not conducive to domesticity and placid subordination to the requirements of western conventionalities. Then, too, genius, and also pseudo-genius, are always rebellious to the laws both written and unwritten; that govern society. Genius is generally selfish, by reason of its self-consciousness and lack of modesty. It is exacting in its demands for admiration and adulation, jealous of everything that alienates, even momentarily, interest from itself, and prides itself upon being superior to the law, taking the ground that genius, in order to flourish, should be free from any trammels of the kind.

That is why genius is so rarely fortunate in its domestic arrangements, and long is the list of names which could be furnished in illustration thereof, beginning with that of the Comtesse d'Ayout, known in literature as "Daniel Stern," who eloped from her husband with the Abbe Liset, by whom she had two daughters, one of whom became the wife of the French statesman and Napoleonic premier, Emile Ollivier, while the other survives as the widow of the great composer, Richard Wagner, having previously been the wife of Hans von Bulow. The romance of Madame Dudevant, better known as "George Sand," with the poet, Alfred de Musset, is well known. The relations of the famous English novelist, George Eliot, with the man who figured for so many years at the head of her household, were not sanctified by any law of the church or of the code of the land, and we have recently found the widow of Emile Zola, with a generous eye, in these days, adopting as her own offspring the illegitimate children of her husband by another woman.

In fact, the homes of genius where perfect union prevails, and where the domestic happiness remains unclouded, are few and far between; among the very rare instances being that of the French poet and playwright and academician, Rostand, whose gifted and lovely wife is so deeply devoted to him that it is asserted she is even willing to sacrifice the laurels of her muse for his sake. There are many indeed who do not hesitate to insist that all his finest poetry and plays are the work of his brilliant wife.

Sir Francis Burdett has lost no time in marrying Mrs. Alexander Boyd, and within a few hours after the decree of divorce pronounced against her last spring had been made absolute she became Lady Burdett. As he had been the co-respondent in the suit he may be considered as having made the "amende honorable," especially as he has likewise paid all the costs of the trial as well as the damages of \$25,000 which he was condemned to pay to Alexander Boyd.

Sir Francis is a former officer of the Lancet, and a member of that baronet of the same name who was the father of the late Lady Burdett-Coutts. That Sir Francis Burdett, fifth baronet, achieved much fame through the siege which he sustained at his house in Piccadilly prior to his arrest by the officers of the Tower of the House of Commons, assisted by a large force of military, on a charge of breach of privilege, for which he was committed to the Tower of London, the last prisoner ever confined in that gloomy fortress.

He had, besides his two daughters, an only son named Robert, and three brothers, Robert inherited the baronetcy as sixth baronet and died childless, the titles and estates thereupon going to the eldest son of the second brother of Sir Francis, whose name he bore, and who became the seventh baronet.

The present Sir Francis Burdett, and eighth baronet, of Foremarks, Derbyshire, and of Ramsbury manor, Wiltshire, is his son. Like the late Baroness Burdett-Coutts, Sir Francis is descended from Americus de Burdett, who lived in the reign of Henry III, while a still more remote ancestor is Hugo de Burdett, who helped William the Conqueror to win the battle of Hastings. The Burdetts are entitled to quarter the royal arms of England and France by descent from Thomas Plantagenet, youngest son of Edward III. The sixth baronetcy is one of the oldest, having been created by James I. in favor of Thomas Burdett in 1613.

CITIES FOR THE FARMERS.

As the strength, wealth and mental and moral stability of a nation can be measured only by such qualities in her people, a distinct upward national movement is that now being undertaken by the federal reclamation service in laying out model cities and towns on the vast stretches of soil which it is wrenching from the former desert wastes and bringing to lush fecundity through the distribution of the impounded waters of mountain-born rivers.

While planning, as it wisely does, to irrigate thousands of miles of land which was once given over to the sage brush and the cactus, and which boasted as inhabitants naught but the rattlesnake, the prairie dog and the centipede, the engineers of this branch of the broadly maternalistic government plan now to irrigate the mind of the farmer while irrigating at the same time the soil from which he gets his sustenance; to draw the man who farms from the restricted and socially beggared life he leads and brings him into a closer communion and a keener competition with his kind—in fact, to confer upon him the blessings which flow from a blending of country and city life.

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There is still another way by which all may get from vacation days a great good—perhaps we would say a lasting blessing—that is by seeking out some person, or family, or association, or society, that would be made happier, stronger, or more efficient by a little sympathetic attention and material aid, and bestowing it in a quiet and gracious manner. The recipients would be cheered and encouraged—perhaps their lives brightened to the end of the earthly journey—and into the hearts of the givers would come a spiritual blessing that would cause health-giving currents to course through their bodies and make an entry in their life history that would reflect the glory of the divine.—Universalist Leader.

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Republican and the husband a Democrat, Mr. and Mrs. S. A. Johnson, of Polk City, Iowa, named the boy Jennings Howard Johnson.

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"(Signed) MRS. J. R. FLOCK, 346 Dundas Street, London, Ont., Feb. 28, 1908."

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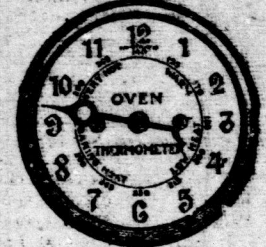
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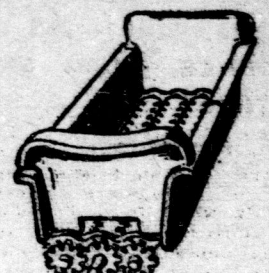
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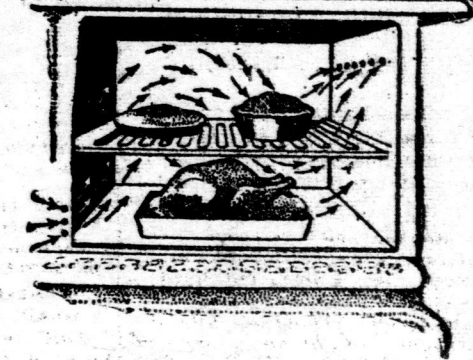
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