

SIDELIGHTS ON NOTABLE PEOPLE BY THE MARQUISE DE FONTENOY

To what extent the old world royalty dreads publicity where its ailments are concerned has just been shown once more by the extraordinary mystery which has been observed in connection with the operation which the English princess royal, wife of the Duke of Fife, has lately undergone at Mar Lodge, her favorite home in Scotland. The princess, who is the eldest daughter of the King, has been in bad health for some time past, and the physicians realized that an operation was inevitable. As soon as Queen Alexandra heard this, during her stay in Norway, she wished to return immediately to be with her daughter, and it was only when Sir Frederick Treves was dispatched in hot haste by the King to beg her to remain abroad until after the operation was over that she consented, reluctantly, to stay away. Sir Frederick, who has retired from the practice of his profession, promised to be present at the operation in an advisory capacity, insisted that there would be no great danger, and pointed out to the Queen that if she interrupted her stay abroad and hastened to Mar Lodge, public attention would be drawn to the condition of the princess, which would thereupon be discussed by the press in a manner calculated to distress the royal patient and consequently impair the success of the operation. The Queen yielded to these arguments.

The princess royal is the shyest of all the members of the reigning house of England, lives a retired life, with her husband and daughters, who now have the rank of princesses, and shuns publicity in every form. Her marriage has turned out a very happy one, in spite of the disparity of her years with those of her husband, for the duke is a contemporary of his father-in-law, the King, and one of his former cronies. He is an uncle, by the way, of young Lord Townsend, whose mental condition has recently been engaging the attention of the courts, the widowed Marchioness of Townsend being a sister of the duke.

The duke has had no end of trouble

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with his three sisters, all of whom have been heroines of sensational elopements. In the case of the now widowed Lady Townsend, her brother, the duke, followed her and the companion of her flight to Paris, administered such a thrashing to the man that the latter was confined to his bed for weeks afterwards, and carried his sister back to her husband, the marquis, who was a crank, took his wife back, and even went to meet the companion of her flight out at dinner and in society without manifesting any ill-will toward him. More than two decades after, however, the late Lord Townsend suddenly seemed to awake to the realization of his wrongs of twenty years previously, and without the slightest warning, suddenly attacked the man in the case with his umbrella in Piccadilly, inflicting but little damage. The assault, coming especially at the time it did, was so comical that it set all London laughing, and served to convince people more than ever that the marquis, famous for his persecution of organ grinders and mendicants, was mentally unbalanced.

Of the other two sisters of Lady Townsend, one, Lady Hope, eloped with her butler, a most distinguished looking man of the name of Wilson, whom she subsequently married, while the other, wife of the late Viscount Duplin, ran off with Herbert Flower, and is now the wife of the famous surgeon, Sir Alfred Cooper.

The Duchess of Fife is the fourth member of the royal family to undergo the knife in recent years. King Edward's operation for appendicitis has been followed by that of his second daughter, Princess Victoria, and of his niece, Princess Louise of Schleswig-Holstein. In fact, these operations seem somehow or other to run in families, and often when one person is called upon to submit to the surgeon's knife, others of the household, for some mysterious reason or other, are called upon to follow his or her example.

In view of the centennial celebration of the death of England's famous statesman, Charles Fox, it may be stated that Chiswick House, near the Thames, where he died, was not destroyed, as has been alleged in a number of English papers, but is still in existence. It is now being used as a lunatic asylum, its great walls and a wilderness of trees and shrubs shutting it out from the public eye. Fox's death-chamber is a small, gloomy room on the left of the long hall. Canning, too, died at Chiswick. Fox was a frequent visitor there. Georgiana, the famous Duchess of Devonshire, was wont to gather Gray, Sheridan, Hare, and a grand circle of wits and poets

around her at Chiswick, while Sir Walter Scott in his "diary" devotes several pages to a description of a visit which he paid to Chiswick. Garibaldi was likewise a guest there when he came to England, and the last function of any social importance which took place there was when Cardinal Manning baptised the present Marquis of Bute. It may be of interest to add that the former gates of Chiswick House were removed by the Duke of Devonshire when he sold the place, and now figure at the entrance of Devonshire in Piccadilly.

Count Conrad Alexander Stanislaus Colonna-Walewski, who has just been sentenced at Leipzig to a term of imprisonment with hard labor, for a whole series of swindles, is well known in America, where he spent a number of years in an unsuccessful pursuit of fortune in the person of a rich wife. He was repeatedly engaged. But somehow or other the match was always broken off at the last moment, generally on the eve of the day appointed for the wedding. In between times, the count, who is the last of his historic race, earned a precarious livelihood as a riding master, music teacher, horse dealer, and agent for the sale of automobiles. In Paris he was arrested a year ago for swindling, but managed to escape punishment through the intervention of his married sister, who settled with the people whom he refrained, and secured a medical opinion to the effect that he was mentally unbalanced.

At the time of his recent arrest at Leipzig he was on the point of marrying a wealthy Jewish widow, who had actually become a convert to Catholicism, and had caused herself to be baptised for his sake. When first brought before the magistrate, he affected insanity with so much success that he was committed to the lunatic asylum at Sonnestein for medical observation. While being conveyed thither he managed to escape from his police escort by jumping out of the moving train, made his way to Halle, secured a room in a hotel there, and then, after having dosed himself with morphine, tried to commit suicide by opening several of his veins while in a hot bath. Rescued before much damage had been done, he has now been declared perfectly sane, and his sister-in-law is expected to count for his actions and sentenced to a year's hard labor, his marriage with the widow being, of course, off.

In the official roster of German counts (issued in connection with the Almanach de Gotha) his name is set down as an officer of the reserve of the German army. This is incorrect, for the count, who was formerly a lieutenant of Prussian artillery, was turned out of the army a number of years ago on account of dishonorable money transactions. His title is a Polish one, but has been recognized and registered in Prussia, and as I have mentioned above, he is the sole survivor in the male line of the historic house of Walewski, which has a common origin with the old patrician family of Colonna at Rome, possessing the same armorial bearings and heraldic devices.

One of the most famous of the Walewskis was the lovely wife of Count Anastasius Colonna Walewski, a lady who played the role of Judith to the Holofernes of the first Napoleon, though the latter managed to retain his head. That is to say, she sacrificed her honor on the altar of patriotism at the cost of the safety of her husband, the nationalist movement at Warsaw in the hope that she might thereby obtain from Napoleon the restoration of the ancient kingdom of Poland. One child was born of this unlawful union between the Polish countess and the French emperor, and then, when the latter failed to fulfill the aspirations of the Poles and left them to their fate, the Polish nobles, who until then had lauded the countess to the skies for her patriotism, began to condemn her for the betrayal of her antiquated husband, whose grandchildren were several years older than herself.

In fact, after the overthrow of Napoleon and his exile to St. Helena, the Walewski family actually went so far as to take legal proceedings to prevent the boy which the countess had borne to the emperor from bearing the name and title of a count Walewski. This suit was defeated owing to the fact of the boy having been born in wedlock, and it was as Count Alexander Walewski that he played a notable role in the French history of the nineteenth century, winning distinction as a soldier, a writer, a diplomat and a statesman. He was the French ambassador for a number of years in London, president of the National Legislature, and likewise minister of foreign affairs. The count, whose Polish title was confirmed by Napoleon III, left several sons, both by his wife and also by his friend, Rachel, the famous actress, and both his legitimate and illegitimate sons have belonged to the French diplomatic service, which created some confusion, since they bore his name, the only distinction between the two being that the legitimate sons were the count inherited his title, from the use of which his son by Rachel, and who died as consul-general of France at Naples, the other day, was debarred. Count Alexander Walewski's wife was a wonderfully lovely Italian, and one of the most famous beauties of the court of the Tuilleries. Napoleon III was devoted to her. But, curiously enough, Empress Eugenie never took offense at his infatuation. Indeed, the countess was perhaps the only woman distinguished by the attentions of the emperor who did not excite the jealousy of Eugenie.

Regret that no representative was present from America was expressed the other day at the great meeting of the Clear Lake Convention at Kinross, in that Loch Loven country where the Lindsays of olden days gave so many proofs of their chivalrous loyalty to the ill-fated Mary Queen of Scots. The society, which has for its president the earl of Crawford, chief of the clan, includes Lindsays in all parts of the world, and there are a

large number of members of the society in the United States, where Lindsay is by no means an uncommon name, and where many of the most eminent and successful citizens are the descendants of Scottish forebears.
The society was founded about eight or nine years ago, on the occasion of the thousandth anniversary of the constitution of the clan, and at the time an appeal sent out, signed by Lord Crawford, by the earl of Lindsay, by the gallant Lord Vane, and other Lindsay chieftains, addressed to Lindsays both at home and abroad, inviting them to join in the formation of a society that was to include all those who are descendants of the medieval lairds of Lindsay, or their relatives. The appeal met with an enthusiastic response, and a powerful and influential association was organized which now holds meetings every year.

The Lindsays are one of the grandest houses in the history of Scotland, and there are few names that are to be found so frequently, and that figure so prominently on every page of the most glorious annals of Edward VII's southern kingdom. It is claimed that they are of Scandinavian rather than of Gaelic origin, and that they are descended from the same stock as the dukes of Normandy, who after the battle of Hastings became kings of England. They were for a long time the feudal lords of the now glorified Hamiltons, and frequently intermarried with the royal houses of Stuart and of Bruce, while among the foreign sovereign families that include lairds of Lindsay among their ancestors is the royal dynasty of Bourbon and the imperial line of Hapsburg. So vast was the grandeur of the lords of Lindsay in the fifteenth century that when the chief of the clan, and the fifth earl of Crawford, high admiral, and lord justiciary of Scotland, was created duke of Montrose by King James, he refrained from assuming the title, considering it to be beneath his dignity, an example which was followed by his successors. It is owing to this that 200 years later the crown felt itself at liberty to bestow the dukedom of Montrose upon the head of the house of Graham.

Of course there is no great Scotch house the annals of which are not stained with blood, and that of Lindsay is no exception to the rule. For John, the sixth earl of Crawford, helped his sister-in-law to murder her husband, who was his only brother, while the eldest son of the eighth earl, who is known in Scottish history as "The Wicked Master" of Lindsay, assassinated his father, and was in consequence thereof, and in accordance with the ancient law of Scotland, debarred from the succession to the family estates and dignities. There passed to a distant cousin, the ninth earl, a chivalrous gentleman in every sense of the word. For with the consent of the crown he reconveyed the earldom of Crawford and the estates to the "wicked master's" only son, whom he brought up and educated, and who succeeded his son as tenth earl, his own son receiving from the sovereign as a reward for this piece of generosity a peerage with the title of Lord Edzell.

The Lindsays, by reason of the career of their last earl, or perhaps in consequence of their alleged flightiness of conduct, are popularly known north of the Tweed, as "the light Lindsays." Almost all the clans of Scotland have some saying or qualification dating from ancient times, and connected with their ancestral name. Thus every bearer of the name of Mackenzie labors under a tradition to the effect that "no Mackenzie is ever gracious until he is fed." To the predatory instincts of the MacFarlanes tribute is borne by the phrase that "in the forest there is a forest in Kintail MacFarlane will never be without cattle in his fold." Every true-blooded MacLeod should have deflected extremities in order to live up to the nickname of which his clan was once so proud, namely, "the MacLeods of the bandy legs." In the same way the Campbells are noted for their "crooked mouths," and it is added that "there was never a Campbell without guile." A few other clans have distinctive characteristics are the "Dirty Dalrymple."

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passionately attached, and who left him with a little girl, he entered holy orders, became a priest, and was created a cardinal in 1831, bestowing Stonyhurst on the Jesuits, who established there one of the most famous of their scholastic institutions. The cardinal died in 1837, almost on the same day as the demise of his aunt, Mrs. Fitz-Herbert. His daughter married Lord Clifford, grandfather of the present peer.

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Lord Clifford is well known in America, and in the early seventies spent much time in the west with Gen. Custer, with whom he enjoyed several severe brushes with the Sioux. He became a warm friend of the young officer, who has now developed into Gen. Fred Grant, and was taken by him to the White House to be entertained by President Grant, of whose tactiturnity

he still speaks with amazement. The billiard room and the great hall at Uxbridge Park have their walls adorned with many trophies of the chase from America. He read for the bar, but the late Lord Chief Justice Coleridge refused to admit him on the ground that a peer of the realm could not be allowed to practice law. Curiously enough, it was this lord chief justice's eldest son and successor, the present Lord Coleridge, who obtained a reversal of this ruling, in order to preserve his own lucrative practice at the bar. His father having left all his property to his second wife.

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