

THE ST. JOHN STAR

# WILSHING AMERICAN GIRLS UP FOR MAKING KING EDWARD'S COURT.

## MISS BURY-PALLISER, HEREDITARY INSTRUCTOR OF PRINCESSES, HERE TO TEACH THEM HOW TO WALK AND DANCE ACCEPTABLY



MISS BURY-PALLISER'S  
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ABSOLUTELY there is no room for longer doubting that the American woman has "arrived" in her campaign of generations in duration to attain an assured position in court society in England.

Impressive proof of this is afforded by the presence in this country of a highly accredited instructor in court etiquette. Her mission here is to take American matrons and girls—for that matter, fathers and sons, too, if they will—in hand and instill into them the tedious and exacting requirements which must be learned before one may be presented to King Edward and Queen Alexandra.

This is the first time that the most brilliant court in Europe has recognized the constantly growing influence of socially ambitious Americans of wealth and station by sending to us an Ambassador Extraordinary, learned in the niceties of deportment as they are insisted upon by those charged with the duty of preserving intact the formality of court functions.

So a pretty young Irish girl, Miss Ethel Bury-Palliser by name, has crossed the Atlantic, to give instructions to the dowagers and belles in the art of curtsying, walking, backing, managing the excessively heavy trains to their court gowns and acceptably performing the other movements to which one must accustom one's self in preparation for admission to the presence of royalty.

MISS BURY-PALLISER is a descendant of a long line of notable instructors in court etiquette. Her great-grandmother was the famous Mme. Michau. Mme. Michau figures honorably and prominently in the social annals of the courts of Napoleon I, King George IV and King William IV. She was the matrone de danse to each monarch, managed the court balls and intruded dignifiedly into the graceful agility into the feet of Princess and Princess of the blood royal, Dukes and Duchesses, Marchesses and Marchionesses, Earls and Countesses to the noble rank of the peerage.

A great-aunt of Miss Bury-Palliser led King Edward and the rest of Queen Victoria's children through the intricacies of the waltz, the schottisch, the polka and the obolote, but gracefully remembered, square dances Mme. Michau, her mother, has coached royalties and noble women to their Majesty's drawing rooms for a generation.

Admiral Palliser, of the British Navy, is her uncle, and Captain Marryatt, the sailor-novelist, was a great-uncle. She brought with her to the United States letters of introduction from the Lord Chamberlain's officers, the Princesses Duleep Singh, the Dowager Countess of Winchelsea and Nottingham, the Viscountess Templeton Harrington, Lady Mungrove, Lady Burgoyne and a score of other notables.

"You see," said Miss Bury-Palliser to the interviewer whom she received at her hotel in New York last week, "American women are so important these days in the highest, the very best, English society that they have adopted the customs and social habits of the English women quite as a matter of fact.

"They are ambitious, extremely so, and they are willing to go to no end of pains and exertions to appear to court, or at any society function. No, I do not mean that they would appear at any marked disadvantage—the well-born, highly refined American woman—in any position, or in any company, but you know, we do things so very much different in England—court etiquette is especially exacting.

### COURT ETIQUETTE IS UNYIELDING

"When one goes to court one must conform to the usages of custom and tradition. So it is that Americans are sent to us by the Lord Chamberlain's office to be drilled before they attend a drawing room. So many things are allowed by you and not considered bad form, which would be very bad form in the presence of the King and the Queen. We usually have to begin by unteaching the Americans before we can teach them. We like to take the girls, especially, in hand, and teach them not to—well, waggle is the only word that expresses it. For they do waggle dreadfully, you know.

"By wagging I mean that they do not walk with any degree of dignity or composure. Instead of moving steadily and gracefully, with no appreciable movement above the waist line, either of the body, the arms or the head, they just—well, they just waggle like this—"

Miss Bury-Palliser strode across the room, giving a very excellent imitation of the "bangero walk," moving her arms energetically forward and back, twisting her shoulders and nodding her head unsteadily. The same gait may be observed in Fifth avenue any pleasant afternoon.

"You don't mind those things over here," she went on, "you are used to them, and really, it doesn't imply ill-breeding or poor manners for one to do it, but it is not right from our viewpoint. How few American girls one sees walking steadily and gracefully along the streets! They seem so nervous, so full of energy; they lack repose.

"I have noticed them particularly when they enter a room and meet persons. They know that they are being watched, and it disconcerts them a trifle. They



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are too self-conscious, so to hide their nervousness they put on just a little extra swagger and waggle, which spoils them completely.

"English girls don't waggle. They are taught not to from their childhood, or, rather, they never see any other girls wagging, and you know how potent the force of example is. American girls seem more bounding than our girls. But they learn quickly, oh so quickly. They're smart as steel traps, as you say. I find that they are the most apt pupils we have. Their sense of fitness is so acute that they speedily realize that oddities of gait or manner make them conspicuous, and they resolutely apply themselves to remedying their faults.

"What you term our American Duchesses are prime examples of how skilful your women are in adapting themselves to their surroundings. I have been told by friends of some of them that there is the greatest possible difference in their deportment now and as it was when they came over to live in England. I do

not assert, please remember, that our ways are superior to the ways that the American girl is so eager to abandon when she appreciates that she is conspicuous, but it is always nicer when in Rome to do the things that the great majority of the Romans think proper, isn't it?

"Such a number of the American mothers who have come to us to be taught court etiquette, and have their daughters taught, have suggested to me that it would be more satisfactory if they might receive that training before they go abroad, instead of waiting until they get to England and using valuable time there in taking lessons. That is what determined me to make this journey.

"Oh, yes, indeed, American women are greatly admired in England. They are so handsome, so bright, so original. The men like them immensely, and I do not blame them. Your women wear their clothes so much better than most English women do. English women, I think, dress much more sensibly for the street. They could hardly wear to advantage the bright-hued gowns that the American girls don every day. When she is dressed for the evening, however, then the English woman comes into her own.

"You notice the difference in the street garb of the women so much in New York. On matinee afternoons, especially, the scenes about the theatres and in the trams are positively brilliant, and still the women do not impress one as being overdressed, although they would be, I fear, in London. And they wear such superb jewels. They quite put the English women in the shade at the theatre, so far as ornaments go.

### AMERICANS SHOW GOOD TASTE

"I noticed an odd thing at the opera in Paris. Quite all of the women in décolleté gowns were French and American. Scarcely any of the English women wore long gowns, although at home they do rigorously, candidly, I believe that the American girl is much more to be commended, so far as décolleté is concerned, than the English woman. We carry it to extremes, I really believe. We could very well take a leaf from the American woman's book in this regard, I am sure.

"It seems to me, though, that the English women wear better than yours do; I mean they do not age so quickly. Of course, like you, we have progressed; we no longer have any grandmothers in England. The day of the cap and the quiet corner by the fireside for the grandmother has passed away. But I think our

women preserve their good looks to a more advanced age because they are more phlegmatic in temperament; they least placed lives; there isn't the nervous strain upon them that there is on American women.

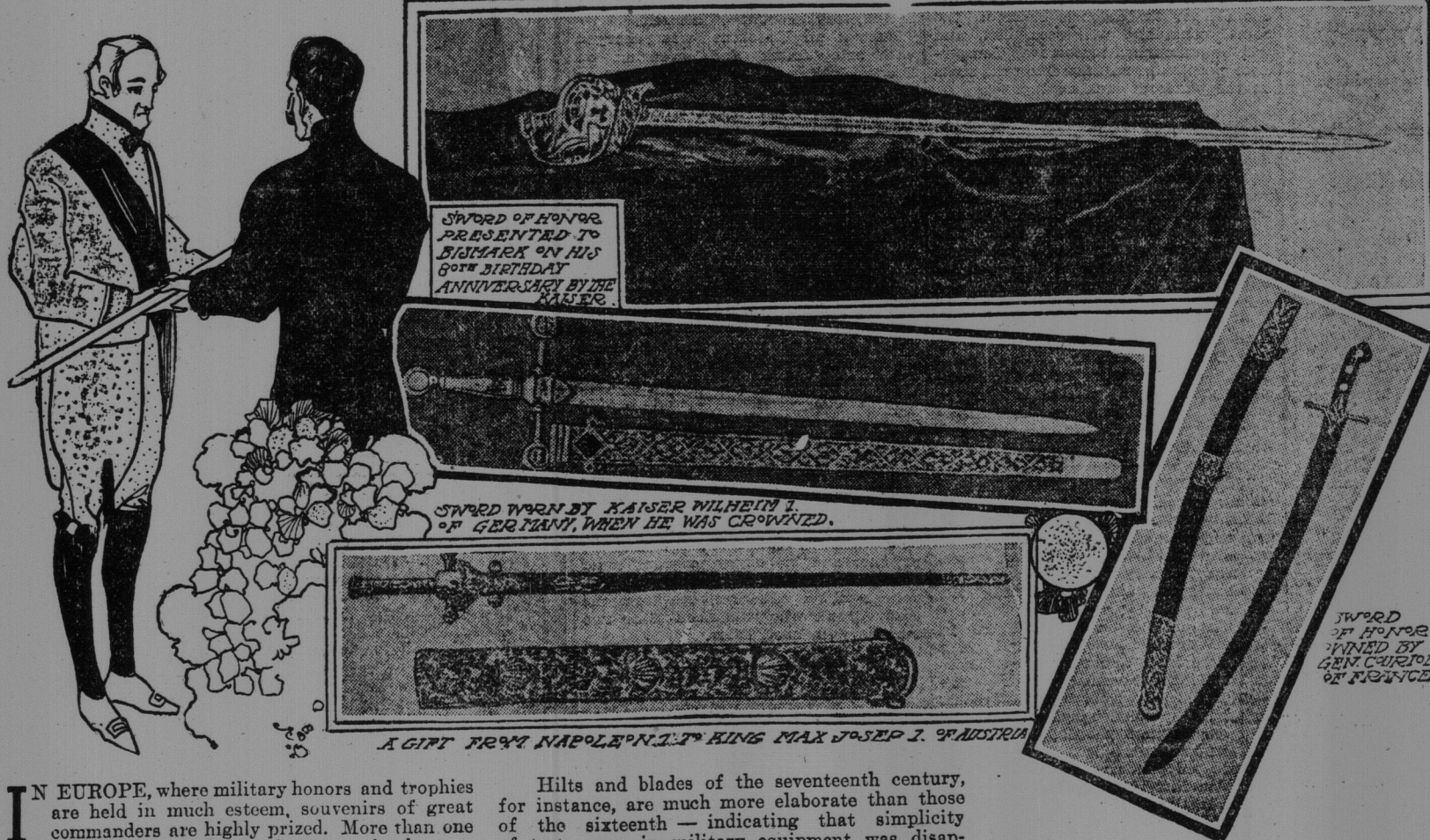
"They stay young just as long as they possibly can without the aid of the beauty doctors. Our beauty doctors haven't the vogue or the clients that yours have. I have been told that our climate is better for the complexion than that of the United States.

"Whom do I regard as an excellent example of the typical American girl? Dear me, I couldn't say. You have so many types, and each is so typical of America as the others, perhaps. My own conception of the typical American girl has always been excellently conveyed by Mr. Gibson, the artist. His girls, especially when he puts them in ball dresses and does up their hair, look to me as typical as could be of an American beauty.

"Mr. Gibson, in that kind of girl, makes her quite proper in bearing, from my standpoint. I cannot imagine one of those tall, stately Gibson girls wagging, could you? It would be a desecration.

"Prim, did you say? No, there is no suggestion of primness in the demeanor of a girl who conforms to our notion of deportment. Primness is as much a fault as wagging. Dignity without stiffness is what we aim at."

## SWORDS OF HONOR PRESENTED TO GREAT MEN



A GIFT FROM NAPOLEON III TO KING MAX OF BAVARIA

SWORD OF HONOR  
PRESENTED TO  
BISMARCK BY THE  
GERMAN EMPEROR  
ON HIS DEPARTURE  
FOR BRUSSELS

SWORN UPON BY KEMER WILHELM I  
OF GERMAN, WHEN HE WAS CROWNED

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Remarkably handsome is the scabbard, which is wide and flat. It is encrusted with precious stones and ornamented with conventionalized eagles, crowned and standing upon globes.

The sword of General von Kietz is rich in silver ornamentation; that of General Courtial has a lion-headed hilt inlaid with pearl and a finely chased blade.

Included in the German collections is a sword of the Elector George William. Its long, slender, stony tempered blade is inlaid with figures, bears several mottoes, carries a portrait bust of the elector in the dress of the period and the arms of the electorate of Brandenburg.

The sword of Frederick I who raised Prussia to a kingdom in the following century, is also carefully preserved. It is a simply made weapon, severe and straight and in the form of the side pieces that were worn by the Crusaders.

Many of the swords of the time of Frederick the Great are kept in the museums. Some of those of the famous King himself. On November 7, 1711, his favorite sword played a peculiar role in Breslau when he received the homage of the Silesians.

In the course of the function the regular ceremonial sword from the royal regalia not being at hand, the King reached forth his own sword, with which he had conquered the Silesians. In pledge of fealty the Silesian magistrates kissed his hilt. Frederick gave it to his brother Henry a beautiful sword, that is still in possession of the Hohenzollerns.

**FAMOUS GENERALS HONORED**  
Swords of honor presented to Blucher, Wrangel and other famous generals are objects of daily curiosity. That of Blucher has lost its scabbard. It was presented to him by the city of London in 1814.

Honor swords of the time of the First Empire of France are in mother-of-pearl settings with gold ornaments on the hilts. Silver portraits of Napoleon are usually to be found somewhere on the weapon. Historically interesting is the sword of Francis II, of France, which Napoleon took from Madrid and put in the Louvre Museum.

The sword of Napoleon III is in a glass case in the Cadet School at Gross-Lichterfeld. It was surrendered at Sedan.

Among the cherished possessions of the German Imperial family is a representative of Oriental skill. It was among the favorite weapons of the Shah Nadir, and was presented by him to Emperor William I at the close of the Franco-German War, while the recipient was with his victorious army at Versailles.

One of the most interesting relics in the German collection is a richly chased Hubertus sword, which dates from 1623. It is a heavy affair, and was evidently not intended solely as an ornament.

Among the treasures of Sweden are a number of weapons of greater or less antiquity. Some have the straight, others the curved blade.

The sword of Gustavus Adolphus is kept at the Warburg, held by a dial, and ever it hangs the famous monarch's hat.

