

Princess Victoria, the only unmarried daughter of King Edward, is likely to be seen but little from henceforth in London society. Her health, always delicate, instead of improving, has become more frail, so much so that her physicians insist that she should from now on spend the greater part of the year, and especially the winters, in the south of Europe. In fact, negotiations are already in progress to purchase for her use a villa with extensive private grounds somewhere on the French Riviera, and several of them, notably the late Lord Salisbury's Reuilleville, Sir Edward Malet's Chateau de la Motte, and the one recently acquired by Monaco, are being seriously considered. The late Duke of Devonshire, through the widow of his friend, Prince Leopold, Duke of Albany, has all been under consideration.

The princess will be sadly missed by both her father and mother. As the eldest member of the family who has remained at home, she has been in quite a special degree the companion of both her parents. It may be remembered that on the occasion of his yachting trips after his operation, and also after the fracture of his knee cap some years previously, the king was accompanied by his daughter Victoria on board throughout his cruises, and in the same way she has usually accompanied her mother on the occasion of the latter's stays in Denmark and elsewhere on the continent. She was much beloved at Sandringham, and among the more intimate acquaintances of the royal household, and her presence, having contributed by her tact and conciliatory ways to smooth away many little difficulties and jars.

Coningsby Disraeli, the present owner of Hughenden Manor, which he has leased to Lord and Lady Chylesmore, the latter a sister of Mrs. Alfred Waverley, of New York, is once more making trouble in connection with the literary remains of his famous uncle, Lord Beaconsfield, and having learned that Mr. Moneybags, formerly the Lord's confidential secretary, has discovered among the late earl's papers a very large bundle of letters in his handwriting, addressed to Mrs. Wyndham Lewis, demands that this correspondence shall be published in extenso in the form of a book, instead of being boiled down into a chapter of the autobiography of the late Lord Beaconsfield, which is now in course of preparation.

Mrs. Wyndham Lewis was the mother of the lady who was led by her admiration for Beaconsfield, as young politician, to befriend him in a variety of ways, and to bequeath him at her death a considerable fortune enabling him, indeed, to buy HUGHENDEN Manor. Disgraced, like her husband, by his rapid rise to a high degree the otherwise rare virtue of gratitude, and kept Mrs. Wyndham Lewis carefully posted as to everything that was going on, political or social, in London, until her death, these letters which have now been collected, and which are written in the most bright and conversational style, Mrs. Wyndham Lewis preserved the letters carefully, and left them to him at her death, along with other papers.

the necessity of leaving Hughenden Manor, an estate of which he was very proud, to his nearest living relative and bearer of his name. All his papers, however, and his most cherished belongings, he bequeathed to his faithful and devoted secretary, Montague Corry, Lord Rowton.

When Coningsby Disraeli grew up, and entered into possession of Hughenden Manor, some of his uncle's personal and political friends helped him into Parliament, and were disposed to further his career in the United Kingdom. However, he seems to have become imbued with the ideas that the crown should have revived his uncle's earldom of Beaconsfield in his favor on a condition that he should endeavor to bring this about, and the bitterness resulting from failure, ended by estranging from him his uncle's friends, and by causing him to forfeit whatever goodwill might have been collected by his uncle's name. He has lost his seat in Parliament, and has virtually passed out of existence, both in a political and in a social sense, though, thanks to his marriage with the daughter of a London wine merchant of the name of Silver, he is in affluent circumstances.

It may safely be taken for granted, however, that the papers of Lord Beaconsfield have been submitted to a very careful scrutiny and process of elimination by Lord Rowton, before being placed in Mr. Moneybags's hands, and that the latter, in the discharge of his duty, will be directing Lord Rowton, in dealing with the correspondence and diaries, "to scrupulously respect very confidence reposed in me, and to allow nothing to be published calculated to do injury to the public service, or to the public confidence in the living or on the families of the dead, and that no portion of my correspondence with her Majesty Queen Victoria shall be published or made known until she said Lord Rowton shall have ascertained that the publication would do no such use of the correspondence as to reflect on the character or the conduct of the part of her heirs after her death." It is generally understood that the strength of this clause of the will of Lord Rowton, who was one of the executors of Queen Victoria's will, and who, as a minister of the crown, was a life tenant, turned over to her late majesty every scrap of Lord Beaconsfield's correspondence with her, and with the members of her family, to be preserved with other papers of the same kind, and the likelihood of its being made among the family archives of the reigning house.

Grand Duke Sergius Michaelowitch must be considerably amused by the

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attempts of the European press to identify him with a particularly pious Roman Catholic priest of Russian birth, who has just died in the most famous health resorts in Austria. According to the assertions of the European newspapers, the Grand Duke Sergius, who is the youngest son of old Grand Duke Michael, would be about ten years younger than his marriage in France, or in Italy, with a "Princess Mercedes de Beauclieu" (there is no such title in the Almanach de Gotha), and was thereupon banished by the Emperor for marrying beneath his rank and dignities for having married without his consent. It is further asserted that he then took the name of Count Balesis, and that after the very sudden death of his wife, he became a Protestant, and was converted to the church, namely the Roman Catholic, but likewise entered its holy orders, which, of course, served to embitter him family more than ever against him and precluded his ever re-

There is not a word of truth in all this. The Grand Duke Sergius Michaelowitch is one of the gayest and least saintly of all the members of the imperial house, and save for annual visits to Paris, continues to live at St. Petersburg, where he is one of the most prominent figures in clubland and in the great world. He has never been banished, has never forfeited his military dignities, which he continues to hold, and which include the command of the artillery of the division of Guards at St. Petersburg, and the Inspector generalship of ordnance.

Last October there was a formal report of an attempt on the life of the duke at St. Petersburg. On inquiry it turned out that the perpetrators were not revolutionists, but his own servants, who had stretched a beam across the dark road of the park on his suburban palace of the Grands Princes, and had waited until the automobile in which he was returning from a visit to the famous ballerina, Krzesninska, who was at that moment the object of his infatuation. As a general rule the grand duke, with the usual disregard of the younger sons of the royal family, of the laws of the road, drives his motor at absolute breakneck speed, and there is but little doubt that if he had been committing along the road in question at his usual pace there would have been a terrible wreck with almost certain fatality to the occupants of the machine. Fortunately for Sergius, the gear of his automobile was out of order, and he was forced to proceed so slowly that the damage done by his collision with the beam was not a particularly frightful one. The servants responsible for the attempt seem to have been prompted thereto by their indignation at the grand duke's extreme parsimony in dealing with them, as contrasted with his boundless generosity and open-handedness toward the ballerina, who was composing the establishment of the

The latter is perhaps at the present moment the most celebrated premiere-danceuse in Europe, and the ballet which has been composed for her, a piece in which she is seen at her best, is called "The Slave." The piece being when she spins round and round forty times in succession the points of her toes without stopping—a pirouette which can only be described as record-breaking. As she is a very young woman, and as witty and sunny-tempered as a comet, it is not astonishing that she should be a general favorite, and she has been to such a degree overwhelmed with money that her fortune is estimated at more than \$500,000.

nity of Kensington Palace, where her earlier years were spent. But when King William came to the throne and attempted to continue his unconventional ways in going about alone in the streets he was on several occasions so severely mobbed that he not only refused to show himself no more in any public thoroughfare on foot, but likewise insisted that the other members of the royal family should adopt a similar reserve.

It was then that the custom was initiated of having shopkeepers submit their wares to royalty at the latter's palaces, and while from that time on Queen Victoria would have perodical exhibitions of jewelry, lacas, etc. at Windsor, at Osborne, and at Buckingham Palace, to enable her to make a choice, she was necessarily restricted to the taste of the tradesman and was deprived of the satisfaction of making her own selection from the whole of this stock, as displayed in his shop, and of going from store to store until she found something to strike her fancy.

Queen Alexandra is handicapped in the same way in England, and it is only when she is abroad in France or in Italy and comparatively unknown, that she is able to indulge in shopping to her heart's content, without let or hindrance. In Berlin conditions are quite as bad with regard to shopping as in London, and both the Empress and Empress have long been obliged to give up their former practice of doing their own shopping, especially at Christmas time.

Several letters have reached me asking as to the relationship of the author of the "Reminiscences" to Queen Victoria. He was a distant cousin, but a boyhood friend of her husband, the late Prince Consort, whose fellow-student he had been at Bonn; and Queen Victoria relates somewhere in her published "Journals" that among the first messages of congratulation which she received from Germany on the announcement of her engagement was one from Prince Clovis, Hohenzollern.

Her mother, the Duchess of Kent prior to her union to the English royal duke, had been married to Prince Ernest of Leiningen, by whom she had a daughter of the name of Feodora, who has therefore a half-sister of Queen Victoria. Princes Feodore Leiningen married Prince Ernest Hohenlohe, who was the father of Prince Hermann Hohenlohe, present chief of the house of Hohenlohe and governor-general of Alsace-Lorraine.

Lord Milner, who, it is said, has received orders from J. Pierpont Morgan to assume charge of the English branch of his banking house on the same basis as the late Sir Clunton Dawkins, has just completed the purchase of a magnificent residence in the east, known as Sturry Court, near Canterbury. The house dates from the reign of Queen Elizabeth and occupies the site and the foundation of an Augustinian convent, which, after the Reformation, was used as a residence of the virgin queen to Thomas Smythe, a noted merchant of the city of London and farmer of the customs.

The present Liberal administration, apparently is destined to render no power for the Lord Milner to continue in the office, and the Lord Milner cannot hope to retain any high office, such as the viceroyalty of India, the succession of Lord Cromer in Egypt, or a first-class embassy, from it, if he only wishes to continue in the making other arrangements with a view to his future life.

For he is not a rich man. He has fortune, and cannot have saved money from his pay, as he was called upon to spend much time and is terribly expensive.

Sir Clinton Dawkins resigned post of minister of finance of India to become a partner of J. P. Morgan. There is no reason therefore, why his intimate friend, Lord Milner, who is out of office, and an equally able financier, should not be left vacant in the firm of J. Pierpont Morgan. Lord Milner, who is a bachelor, was at the head of the department of internal revenue in England and deputy minister of finance in Egypt before being appointed governor and high commissioner in South Africa.

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