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## A Canadian Princess.

Perhaps no Canadian girl ever had a more varied and adventurous career than the Princess Salm-Salm, who died just recently at the age of seventy-two. She was not born a Princess, and there was nothing in the circumstances of her early youth to point to a high or prominent position in the future. It was in the little village of St. Armand West, in the Province of Quebec, that the little girl who afterwards became a Princess, was born in 1840. Her father was Captain Joy, a fisherman. Agnes Joy, as she was named, was what is called a stirring child. She was at home on the sea or in it, she rowed, swam, and dived, was an adept at village sports and could ride any horse in the district.

### With Travelling Circus.

A travelling circus was the beginning of her career in the outside world. Obtaining a position in the company, she created a sensation as a daring and graceful equestrienne, who seemed not to know what "nerves" meant. In Washington her path crossed that of a dashing soldier of fortune, Prince Salm-Salm, a younger son of a Prussian royal house. He had served in the Austrian army, but having gone through his fortune, the pressure of debts drove him to make a fresh start in the new world, and he came to the United States to offer his services to the Federal forces. He fell in love with the young equestrienne of the circus, and they were married in St. Patrick's Church, in Washington, August 30th, 1862. Thus began the third chapter in the life of the Quebec fisherman's daughter.

### Hardships of Campaign.

A commission in the Federal army that was being organized was not immediately forthcoming. In fact, it seems to have been due to the persuasive ways of his wife, that the Prince finally was appointed to the command of a regiment, stationed in West Virginia. Thither the Princess accompanied her husband. It was soon after her arrival with "the boys in blue" that the Princess received her first real lesson of the hardships of campaigning in war time. News

came one night that the enemy were advancing, and the encamped soldiers received the order to retreat. It was raining hard, and the twelve-mile ride to the next tenting ground was through a downpour and mud almost knee-deep. The Princess rode with her husband, carrying with her from the camp a long red ostrich feather for her hat. The company was poorly provided with food, and the recent favorite of the Washington public had to content herself with salt pork and hard tack, while her bed was made of some rough boards, a straw mattress, and a couple of buffalo skins. When the war ended, Prince Salm-Salm had risen to the brevet rank of Brigadier-General, and through all his campaigns the Princess accompanied him, sharing the hardships and danger.

### Prince Went to Mexico.

From the United States, after peace was declared, Prince Salm-Salm went to Mexico, to join the forces of the Emperor Maximilian, who was then just beginning the campaign for the maintenance of his Empire. The Prince was appointed as a Colonel on the staff, but soon after was made aide-de-camp to the Emperor, and chief of his household. The Princess was quite well qualified to rise with him to this new position. It was in this campaign that she was destined to go through the most stirring events of her remarkable career. When the fall of the city of Queretaro made the Emperor a prisoner, with most of the leaders of his crushed undertaking, it was the Princess upon whom fell most of the planning and scheming for their rescue. She took long, midnight rides across the country, swarming as it was with lawless men in the unsettled times of war; she was frequently under fire, but always escaped uninjured. Her husband, as one of the Emperor's aides, was imprisoned with his leader, and to rescue them in some way was the absorbing object to accomplish which the Princess set herself to do all that a fearless, resourceful, and persevering woman could do. She sought to interest Porfirio Diaz in the royal captive, and to arrange a conference, between the

fallen Emperor and the general commanding the opposing forces. When these attempts failed, she plotted day and night to effect the escape of the prisoners, but her carefully laid plans were frustrated, chiefly through the lack of ready money. She rode to San Luis Potosi to implore President Juarez to save the Emperor and his aides. The President told her that her husband was in no danger, but the Emperor must die.

### Like One Distracted.

"I was like one distracted," she wrote in her diary after it was all over. "I was convinced that the Emperor was lost beyond hope, but I struggled on for his life. The last day before the execution I made another effort, the last, to save him. It was eight o'clock in the evening when I went to see Mr. Juarez. He was pale and suffering himself. With trembling lips I pleaded for the life of the Emperor, or at least for delay. The President said he could not grant it; he would not prolong his agony any longer; the Emperor must die to-morrow. When I heard these words I was frantic with grief. Trembling in every limb and sobbing, I fell down on my knees and pleaded with words that came from my heart, but which I cannot remember. The President tried to raise me, but I held his knees convulsively. I said I would not leave him until he granted me the life.

"He answered me in a low, sad voice: 'I am grieved to see you on your knees before me, but if all the kings and queens of Europe were in your place, I would not spare that life. It is not I who take it; it is the people and the law, and if I do not do its will, the people will take it and mine also.'"

### In Franco-Prussian War.

Soon after the Emperor's death and the termination of the struggle in Mexico, the liberated Prince and the Princess left for Europe. When the Franco-German war broke out, Prince

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Salm-Salm was commissioned a major in the Prussian army. For the third time the Princess followed her husband to the field of conflict. This time she devoted herself to caring for the wounded soldiers; she organized a hospital corps and trained nurses, her past experiences in the American Civil War and in Mexico standing her in good stead. Soon, however, a great blow fell upon the Princess. Her husband, leading his troops in the charge at Gravelotte, was shot down by three bullets. He was buried in a soldier's grave on the field, but a few days later the grief-stricken widow came from the nursing lines to remove her husband's body to the burial place of his ancestors. It was on the eighteenth of August, 1870, that the Prince fell. The Princess was then about thirty; she had been married scarcely eight years, but they were years which had proved that the affection of the fisherman's daughter and the soldier son of royalty was no passing emotion.

### Stricken With Smallpox.

The Princess went back to her duties in the field hospital, until she herself was struck with smallpox, from which she recovered after a serious illness. She went into no more campaigns. Some years after her husband's death she married Mr. Charles Henneage, of the British diplomatic service, but the marriage was not a happy one, and a separation was effected. From that time, the Princess lived quietly in Germany until she was an old woman.

Her body now rests in the little cemetery of the village of her birthplace, St. Armand West.—Canadian Pictorial.

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## Do You Remember Dates.

By RUTH CAMERON.



My small niece, Rosalie, came home from school completely discouraged, the other day. She had failed in her history examination. Now if it had been arithmetic we wouldn't have been at all surprised, for Rosalie has no head for figures. But she is extremely pleased with her first history course, and so we were much puzzled until we asked a few questions about the test; and we understood perfectly. For at least half the questions were more like arithmetic than history. In other words, they were on nothing but dates. And while Rosalie seems to have a fine grasp of the facts of English history and their relation to each other, and can tell us some of its thrilling stories with a dramatic fervor, that makes them far more interesting than the history book does, she doesn't know the exact dates. And so she fumbled.

Perhaps it is because I take after my niece in having no head for exact figures, but it certainly seems to me that the attempt to make children remember lists of dates is one of the great mistakes of our education. Of course, if we put sufficient mental effort upon it we can learn dates, and doubtless it is good mental training and teaches concentration. But aren't there plenty of other ways in which one can learn concentration, and at the same time absorb something that will be more worth knowing, and that one will remember after a few years?

I emphasize those last few words because I think there isn't one person in a hundred who remembers more

than two or three dates in all the innumerable list he was obliged to learn in school.

I have asked several people lately what dates in English history they can remember. Four out of five whom I asked remembered exactly one date, and all, curiously enough, the same. Before you read on, ask yourself what date in English history you remember, and I'll wager it will be that very one—1066 the Battle of Hastings. Incidentally two of the four could not tell what that battle stood for in English history, or why it was so important—things that would certainly have been more worth remembering than its exact date.

The average person seems to remember more dates in American history, but even here he has little to show for the long lists he once learned. It is actually true that before I started talking with my friends about this subject, I could have named just four dates in American history, 1492, 1775, 1812 and 1861. And the only reason I remembered two of those dates was that they were embalmed in verse.—"In 1492, Columbus sailed o'er the ocean blue;" "1775, hardly a man is now alive;"—and verse I do not easily forget.

Doubtless I am more forgetful than the average, but my investigations have persuaded me that I am not so much so as you might think. Bring up the subject of dates sometime among your own friends, and see.

If a child learns the sequence of events in history, their causal relation to each other, and their approximate dates, it seems to me he has learned all that is necessary, and all that he will ever remember.

And for the sake of our little student, and all the other little students who find it hard to remember cold figures, I wish our school boards thought the same.

Ruth Cameron

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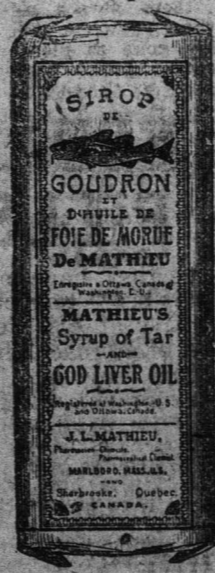
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