

## SIDELIGHTS ON NOTABLE PEOPLE BY THE MARQUISE DE FONTENOY

All that is necessary in England in order to transform a plain citizen into a full fledged knight, with the prefix of "Sir" to his Christian name, is a tap on the shoulder with a sword by his sovereign, with the utterance of the words "Arise, Sir John" or "Sir James," as the case may be. Once a man is thus knighted he remains a knight and is entitled to a title for the remainder of his days, and there is no legal means by which he can divest himself of the honor.

If I mention this it is because King Edward is creating a good deal of disturbance in certain labor circles by the unexpected manner in which he is thrusting knighthood upon labor leaders. Thus, the other day when at Cardiff he transformed the mayor, the labor leader of the district and the working men, from "Mr." William Crossman into "Sir" William Crossman in the twinkling of an eye and without the slightest warning.

The labor party at Cardiff is of the most advanced radical type, strongly socialistic, and with leanings towards republicanism, and for the King to have suddenly transformed its leader into a knight constitutes a coup on the part of the sovereign which has given rise to a certain amount of confusion in this royal recognition of the labor party; others resent it. But no matter how they may take it, the fact remains that it would be difficult for a man who has just received a title from the sovereign to lead his followers any further in the direction of republicanism and to preach socialistic war against the monarchy.

A few months ago the King had John Kirk, of London Fresh Air Fund and Ragged School Union celebrity, under the flat of a sword blade and converted into Sir John Kirk before that modest and retiring philanthropist knew what was happening, and it is no secret that if Sir John had had the slightest idea of what was in store for him when he was summoned by the King to Buckingham Palace to receive as he believed a subscription to the fresh air fund, his aversion to titles and his modesty would have kept him away.

The knighthood of Sir William Crossman is not the first distinction of the kind conferred upon a working man. For three weeks ago the King knighted William Randall Cremer, M. P., the peace propagandist, who is almost as well known in America as in England. Sir William Cremer was originally a working man, and by trade a carpenter. Indeed, he still remains to this day a member of the carpenters' union.

I notice that Keir Hardy and William Crooks, two of the labor members of parliament, the one a miner, the other a cooper, were present at the royal garden party at Windsor at which Mark Twain was one of the guests. But after the experience of Sir William Crossman at Cardiff, it is doubtful whether they will consider it quite safe to attend any more functions at which the King is present. He might take it into his head to transform them into knights and thereby destroy their political future and their hold upon their party before they could say or do a thing to avert the catastrophe.

Let me in this connection recall the clever manner in which the King, while still Prince of Wales, transformed the late Anthony Mundella, son of a Carbonari conspirator, from a red hot republican and adversary of the crown, into a champion of the royal family. Mundella was at the time the ultra radical member of parliament for Sheffield. One day while he was at the railroad station there a royal train arrived on its way north, stopping merely long enough to change engines. On board were the then their apparent and his consort.

Somebody notified the prince of Mundella's presence. At once the prince, who had never met him before, presented him to the princess who treated him to one of her winning smiles, and then exclaimed: "I hear, my dear Mr. Mundella, that you are about to address your constituents this afternoon here. I wish you would avail yourself of the opportunity to convey to the good people of Sheffield the expression of the princess and myself retain of our last visit to their city, and of the magnificent welcome which they accorded to us. I am sorry that we cannot make a longer stay on this present occasion, but we are both looking forward to visiting Sheffield again."

That afternoon when Mundella faced his constituents, instead of treating them to one of his customary red hot diatribes against the reigning house, he inaugurated his speech with an intimation to the effect that he had been commissioned by the Prince and Princess of Wales to convey to the people of Sheffield the gracious message given above. He delivered the message withunction and manifest satisfaction, and from that time forth his animosity against the royal family was at an end. In fact, he fled as a privy councillor and as one

### LADIES ARE INTERESTED.

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of the most loyal champions of the reigning dynasty.

Duke George of Leuchtenberg is the newest recruit to the growing colony in Paris of expatriated members of the reigning house of Russia. The duke, recently divorced by Princess Stana of Montenegro (who has since become the wife of Grand Duke Nicholas Nikolaevitch, commanding in chief the troops of the metropolitan district of St. Petersburg, and de facto generalissimo of the Muscovite army), has bought a mansion in the Rue General Appert, in Paris. Others who have their homes there are Grand Duke Cyril, Grand Duke Paul, Grand Duke Alexis, and Grand Duke Boris, all of whom have been recommended by the Czar to leave Russia and to live abroad. To these may be added Grand Duke Michael Michaelovitch, who lives in England with his morganatic wife, Countess Torby, and Princess Yurieffska, the morganatic widow of Alexander II., who has her home in Paris. All of them are virtually exiles.

Lord Lamington has been compelled by his wife's health to resign the lucrative office of governor of Bombay, and is returning to England after a long term of office abroad, his governorship of Bombay having been preceded by that of Queensland, where he endeared himself to the Australians and appealed to the sporting instincts of the colony by acquiring the difficult art of breaking buck jumpers.

He is a useful member of the peerage, will be remembered in America as having officiated as best man to Lord Curzon on the occasion of the latter's marriage to Miss Mary Lettice at Washington, and has acquired fame as an Asiatic traveler and explorer.

He was the first white man to enter and to explore the Shan state—and that alone—and on one occasion disappeared for so long a period into the wilds of Asia that he was given up for lost, subsequently returning, however, to civilization with a wonderful amount of information.

His title is of relatively modern creation, though his family is an ancient one. His father, Mr. Cochrane-Baillie, was a school fellow of Disraeli, who immortalized him in his novel "Coningsby," under the name of "Ruckhurst."

The story goes that when the two lads were at school, young Disraeli who already indulged in dreams of future greatness, said to young Cochrane: "When I am prime minister of England, Cockie, I will make you a peer." This proved to be a prophetic utterance, as Cochrane-Baillie was in due course nominated to the House of Lords by Lord Beaconsfield in recognition of services rendered to the Conservative party.

His son, the present Lord Lamington, is known among his friends by the name of Wallace, and, while proud of his Cochrane ancestry—he represents a junior branch of that ancient and historic Scottish house of which the Earl of Dundonald is chief—prizes still more highly his descent from Scotland's most famous hero, Sir William Wallace.

According to the popular legend current throughout Scotland, and there universally believed, the patriot Wallace contracted a marriage with the fair Marion de Braodute, daughter of Hugh de Braodute, owner of Lamington Castle.

She was killed by the English about two years after her marriage, but not before giving birth to a daughter, who married one of the Baillies, who inherited Lamington. Nineteenth in descent from this union is the present Lord Lamington, Lamington, once the home of William Wallace, having passed into the possession of Lord Lamington's Cochrane ancestors through the marriage of his grandfather, Adam, with Sir Thomas Cochrane, to Mathilda Ross Baillie, heiress of the Baillies of Lamington.

Of the old Lamington Castle little save the tower of Lamington, a picturesque fragment of the fortress, remains. But the present mansion, a handsome stone house with projecting eaves, was, with characteristically Scotch thrift, built for the greater part with stone taken from the old castle, where Mary Queen of Scots tarried a while on her road to Dundrennan, and where the Jacobite pretender found refuge after his disastrous retreat from Derby.

Lord and Lady Lamington are particular favorites of the Prince and Princess of Wales, and although Lady Lamington, a fair-haired, pleasant, sunny tempered, and pretty woman of medium height, has been away from England for so many years and never has been able to take her turn of duty in attendance on the Princess of Wales, yet the latter always has insisted upon retaining the name of Lady Lamington on the list of the members of her household as one of her ladies-in-waiting.

Lord Norreys has followed the Earl of Clancarty and Sir Humphrey de Trafford into the court of bankruptcy, attention to the fact being called by his application in person that the execution of judgment obtained against him for a washing bill might be suspended, owing to the fact of his affairs being in the hands of the bankruptcy court. This goes to show that members of the aristocracy rarely make good business men. For Lord Norreys, who is the eldest son and heir of the Earl of Abingdon, has been in all kinds of commercial ventures, including cycle companies, automobile concerns, and, above all, hotel keeping enterprises. He was, indeed, the managing director for a time of

that great syndicate which owns a whole string of hotels extending from London to Paris, the Riviera, and even as far east as Egypt.

Lady Norreys, his wife, is one of the smartest and most popular women in London society, a sister of Lord Wolverton and a daughter of that universal favorite, the late Admiral Olyn. The admiral was, even when well advanced in years, an object of such romantic attachments on the part of that lovely actress, Adelaide Neilson, that when she died with such tragic suddenness in the Bois du Boulogne in Paris it was found that she had bequeathed her entire fortune, amounting to near \$200,000, to him. One of the sisters of Lord Norreys is the wife of Lord Edmund Talbot, the present heir presumptive to the dukedom of Northumberland and the premier peerage of the United Kingdom.

Lord Norreys' difficulties must be considered as merely temporary. For on the death of his father, Lord Abingdon, now a man of 72, he will inherit, jointly with his two sisters, the large fortune of his dead mother, heiress of the late Col. Charles Townley, of which the old earl has a life enjoyment. There seems to be a species of ill-luck which dogs the steps of the Lords Norreys—that is to say, the eldest sons of the Earls of Abingdon—and this is recalled in connection with the death of the present Lord Norreys. Thus one of them, the eldest son and heir of the third earl, was burned to death in his bed, while many of them died in infancy.

Although Lord Abingdon and Lord Norreys give Sir Henry Norris, Queen Elizabeth's ambassador to the court of France, as the founder of their family, yet they are only Norreys, "par les femmes." Their patronymic is Berte, and they owe their connection with the Norreys to the marriage of Bridget Wray, granddaughter of the second and last Lord Norris of Royston to Montagu Bertie, second Earl of Lindsey, as his second wife. Their boy, who bore the name of James Bertie, and who succeeded the Norreys in property, his mother, was created Lord Norreys and Earl of Abingdon. He played an important role in bringing over William of Orange to take the place of King James II. on the throne of England, contributing, indeed, \$150,000 to the venture, and it was this that won for him his earldom.

Lord Abingdon has sold, with the consent of his son, much of the old Norris property, including both Ryecote and Cumnor Hall. The sale of the latter to a Mr. Scott Hall led to some extraordinary and unusual proceedings. In fact, it is the only instance on record of the purchaser of an ancient mansion going to law against the vendor and seeking to break his contract because the ghost of the place did not materialize.

The ghost which was the cause of the suit was that of Amy Robsart, the ill-fated consort of Queen Elizabeth's favorite, the Earl of Leicester. It will be remembered by all the readers of Sir Walter Scott's "Kenilworth," that Amy Robsart was murdered by some of her husband's followers in order to render him free to wed the virgin queen. The crime took place at Cumnor Hall, situated about four miles from Oxford, perpetrated by Sir Richard Varney and a squire of the name of Forster, who first stifled her in her bed and then flung her downstairs, breaking her neck. She lies buried in St. Mary's Church at Oxford.

Cumnor Hall passed into the possession of the Lord Norris of the Elizabethan era, and remained in the family until its sale by the present Lord Abingdon, who disposed of it through a well-known London firm of real estate agents. The purchaser, Mr. Scott Hall, subsequently declared in court that he had been prompted to become the owner of the place by the representation that it was haunted by the ghost of Amy Robsart, and that, while she "walked" the entire mansion at times, there was one room particularly affected to her nocturnal visitations. Amy Robsart did not show up, and at the end of two or three years Mr. Scott Hall, feeling that he had been "done," instituted legal proceedings against Lord Abingdon, demanding the annulment of the sale on the ground that the spook had not materialized, and that he had, therefore, been defrauded.

Lord Abingdon indignantly repudiated any intention of enhancing the value of his property by ascribing to it any such spectral attractions, and the court, declining to commit itself to a judgment to the effect that these supernatural visitations were obligatory, and that they were required to be visible to the eyes of Mr. Scott Hall and of his household, decided the case against him. I believe he has Cumnor Hall still in his possession to this day.

Lord Abingdon's two marriages, first to the heiress of Col. Charles Townley, and then to the sister of the present Lord Dormer, has led to a curious condition of affairs among his children. For his eldest son, Lord Norreys, now 47, has a sister in the person of Lady Elizabeth Bertie, who is 35 years his junior and who is 8 years younger than his (Lord Norreys) eldest boy.

Lord Abingdon is, through his descent from James Bertie, younger son of the second Earl of Lindsey, next heir to the earldom of Lindsey, created in 1626, the present Lord Lindsey having no son.

W. W. Astor's Fall Mail Gazette and other English papers devote some space to the discovery in a state of absolute destitution of the only son of Michael William Balfie, the composer of "The Bohemian Girl," and of other well-known operas—composer

whose centennial will be celebrated by the musical world next year. It seems that the man to well advanced in years, is laboring through chronic sickness, and is in dire want. He is a brother of the late Duchess of Frias, who died in 1871 after a most romantic career, and the present Duke of Frias, probably the best polo player in Spain, if not on the continent of Europe, is a grandson of the Composer Balfie, and a nephew therefore of the man for whom charity is now being looked. The duke, however, is far from well off, has been more than once in financial difficulties himself, notably when secretary of the Spanish embassy at Vienna, and is not in a position to give any serious assistance to his destitute kinsman.

It is not the first time that the latter has been hard up. Thus, some fifteen years ago I remember his appealing for help to the late Sir John Blundell Maple, Sir Augustus Harris, and others, who, determined that the son of so great a celebrity as the Composer Balfie should not be permitted to starve, opened a subscription in behalf of the man. It did not prove, however, a success, as a paragraph appeared in one of the society papers in London stating that the man was an impostor. He, however, was able to furnish proof that he was really the legitimate offspring of the composer, and secured a verdict of \$1,000 damages from the writer of the paragraph in favor of Mrs. Fielding Kane. He has during the course of a stormy career been compelled to earn his bread as a private in the army, as a gasfitter, and even as an organ grinder, and for a time was an inmate of the Field Lane Mission for the Destitute in London.

It was his sister, Victoria Balfie, who, while winning laurels on the operatic stage by her beauty and her voice at St. Petersburg, also won the heart of old Sir John Crampton, the English envoy there, who will be chiefly remembered in the United States in connection with his having been withdrawn from Washington at the request of President Buchanan for having permitted his name as British minister to be used during the Crimean war in connection with some trouble about the enlistment in the United States of recruits for service under the English flag. Sir John offered Victoria Balfie his hand in marriage, and the wedding took place at St. Petersburg. The shock created by this sudden transition from the stage to the highest rank of society proved more or less painful to the notions of etiquette of certain exalted personages in the Russian capital, and Sir John was at his own request some months later transferred to Madrid. Queen Isabella's notions of propriety were less than those of the late Czarina, and Lady Crampton became one of the acknowledged belles of the gay Spanish capital.

In the winter of 1863-1864 the Duke of Frias, one of the greatest nobles in Spain and a lineal descendant of the grand constable of Castile under King John II, returned to his native land after a long absence abroad. Meeting Lady Crampton at a court ball he fell desperately in love with the fair ambassador, and as the comparison between the brilliant young duke and her elderly husband could only be to the disadvantage of the latter, poor Sir John became aware that he no longer possessed his wife's affection, or even her gratitude.

The "grand passion" existing between the ambassador and the duke soon became a matter of talk, nothing, however, occurring to create a real scandal. Sir John, with the same chivalry that characterized John Ruskin in his domestic relations, realizing that his wife could only be happy with the man to whom she had given her heart, notified her that as he desired above everything else her welfare, he would offer no defense if she brought a suit in London, not for divorce, but for the annulment of the marriage under circumstances which would permit her to resume her maiden name. Like John Ruskin in the case of his wife, who afterwards became Lady Mallais, Sir John offered no defense, and allowed judgment to be pronounced against him. His chivalry in the matter was appreciated nowhere more than in Spain, and it is doubtful whether any foreign ambassador has ever enjoyed a similar amount of popularity among the countrymen of Cervantes. He remained at Madrid until his retirement from the diplomatic service in 1869.

On the annulment of her marriage the ex-Lady Crampton lost no time in marrying the Duke de Frias, and with an incomprehensible lack of delicacy the newly-wedded couple proceeded directly from Paris to Madrid, where naturally they found every door closed against them. Even easy-going Queen Isabella was outraged by the heartlessness and the lack of gratitude shown by the new-fledged duchess, and refused to receive her. In a rage the duke sent back to the sovereign his grand cross of the Order of Charles III, resigned his post of chamberlain, and withdrew from Spain. During the following fifteen years he resided abroad, mostly at Biarritz, where the Villa Frias used to be well known to visitors, and where his Irish wife died in 1871. He subsequently married there, Princess Carmen Pignatelli, with whom he returned to Spain, where he died as civil governor of Madrid. His son by Victoria Balfie is the present Duke of Frias, who was educated in England, is married to an English woman, daughter of Sir Charles McKewen, Bart., the widow of Henry Arthur Tempest.

Col. Lord Edward Pelham Clinton, whose death has just taken place in London, at the age of 79, was a brother of the late Duke of Newcastle, an uncle of Lord Salisbury, and for many years a member of Queen Victoria's household—its master, indeed, during the last decade of her reign. He was a good soldier, who had served with distinction both in the Crimean war and in the Indian mutiny, and had shown himself a faithful and devoted retainer of the royal family, but was not at all successful as a financier.

He allowed Whittaker Wright to entangle him in his meshes and to associate his name in his enterprises, and when the crash came and Whittaker

Wright, after escaping to America, was arrested on an extradition warrant and taken back to England, Lord Edward was confronted in court with the alternative of either admitting that he was aware of the fraudulent character of the prospectuses and balance sheets of the Whittaker Wright concerns or else of confessing that he had given his name blindly to ratters of which he was totally ignorant. Lord Edward selected the latter alternative and confessed in court that "I was a fool," that he "understood nothing whatsoever about financial matters," and that he permitted Wright to use his name so freely for the directorates of his numerous enterprises that he did not actually know the names of all the companies in which he was a director.

Lord Edward was a religious man, used, in fact, to take a leading part in the prayer meetings of old Mrs. Thistlewaite, and when she died in the odor of sanctity and as mistress of one of the most exclusive and Puritanical salons in London, it was found that she had bequeathed to Lord Edward the greater part of the fortune which she had acquired in her unregenerate days when as Laura Bell she was one of the queens of the London half world prior to her sensational marriage to Squire Thistlewaite.

One of Lord Edward's brothers, Lord Arthur Pelham Clinton, died in New York under an assumed name after having survived for many years his alleged death and burial in England in 1870, when both were announced in order to admit of his escape from the consequences of a frightful and sensational scandal in which he had become involved in London.

### NO YELLOW PERIL.

Major-General Sir Henry Colville, in his new book, "The Allies," gives a number of reasons why Japan will not, dare not, and cannot reorganize the Chinese Empire with a view to the conquest of the Far East by the yellow races, a contingency which is much feared by those who talk about the yellow peril.

In the first place, the Chinese differ essentially from the Japanese in being without national aggressiveness. They have no reason to covet external territory. Their country is one of the richest in the world. They only want to be let alone. They are essentially a peaceful people, and have more respect for the merchant than for the soldier. Indeed, they have no respect for the latter. In the second place, what we call loyalty, or patriotism, is hardly known in China, the absence of a common spoken language making the inhabitants of the various provinces almost strangers to each other.

"The people of Canton and Peking can no more talk together than those of Rome and Madrid, while they take even less interest in each other's affairs. The Cantonese said, when told of the Japanese victories, 'That belongs to Peking side; no my pidgin.'"

Years after the close of the war between Japan and China there were places in the Middle Kingdom the inhabitants of which were in complete ignorance of the fact that there had been a fight.

In the third place, the organization of China by Japan would have to be preceded by a complete change in sentiment of the two empires, which have always hated each other cordially. A Japanese Emperor once headed the members of a Chinese mission, while only a short time ago Prince Fushimi, the first Japanese prince to pay an official visit to China, was snubbed by the Court of Peking.

A Japanese statesman is quoted by Sir Henry Colville as saying that China is the Turkey of the East, and will owe her safety from injury at the hands of her enemies to the fact that those enemies distrust each other as profoundly as did the foes of the Sultan in Europe. So as English hatred of Russia kept the Czar out of Constantinople Russian hatred of Japan will keep the Mikado from having too much influence at Peking—New York Evening Sun.

### CENTURIES OF TENANCY.

A Dorsetshire farmer writes as follows to the London Standard: "A recent legal complication led me to look up the records of my family, and I think the result will interest your readers."

"I am a tenant farmer in this country, many centuries, and I knew that our connection with our present holding had existed for many generations. Through hunting up records for the case I referred to, however, I became sufficiently interested to undertake a more serious search than I had at first intended."

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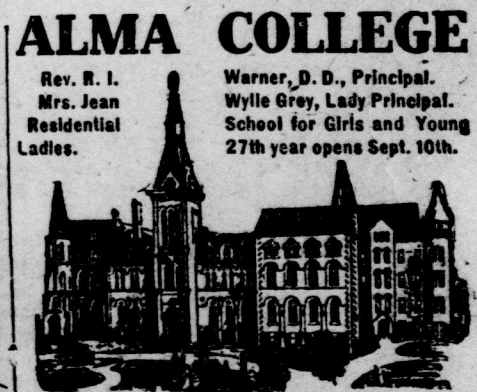
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