

SIDELIGHTS ON NOTABLE PEOPLE BY THE MARQUISE DE FONTENOY

Dynastic requirements and necessities occasionally lead to something much akin to domestic tragedies among the reigning houses of Europe. It is difficult to describe by any other name than that of tragedy the shipwreck of the matrimonial happiness of a prince of the blood who is forced to put aside a morganatic wife to whom he is devoted and to take leave of her and of the children that she has borne him in order to contract a loveless marriage for the purpose of assuring the succession to the throne.

This is the fate that is now overtaking Duke Adolphus Frederick of Mecklenburg-Schwerin, who, although no mention is made thereof in the Almanach de Gotha, has been for several years past exceedingly happily married with a woman of bourgeois birth, but of much refinement and education, as well as of irreproachable antecedents. She is extremely attractive, has borne him a couple of children, and he has not only been happy with her, but is likewise passionately devoted both to her and to his little ones. Yet so much pressure has been brought to bear upon him that he has been compelled to yield, and the necessary steps for the dissolution of his marriage have been inaugurated, in order that he may provide by a royal alliance for the perpetuation of the ancient dynasty of Mecklenburg-Schwerin.

The duke was urged and entreated to take this step not only by the members of the grand ducal family, but also by the leading statesmen and by the people of Mecklenburg-Schwerin, as well as by the rulers and princes of the other sovereign states of the confederation known as the German Empire.

The reigning Grand Duke of Mecklenburg-Schwerin, who has been married for the last four years to Princess Alexandra of Great Britain and of Brunswick, daughter of the Duke of Cumberland, has no children and no hopes or expectations are entertained of their union resulting in any offspring. He has no brothers and his only uncle, namely, Henry, has become prince consort of Holland, and as such ineligible to the succession to the grand ducal throne. Another of his uncles, Duke John Albert, the regent of Brunswick, a quite elderly man, has lately lost his wife, to whom he was much attached, and will not hear of marrying again. A third uncle, Duke Paul, is like his only son, a bankrupt, and moreover was obliged on the occasion of his marriage to the Roman Catholic Princess Marie Windschgratz to surrender for himself and for any sons born to the union all rights of succession to the throne of Mecklenburg-Schwerin. He and his wife and son are, by reason of

their financial irregularities, under the ban of the various royal houses of Europe, unable to live in Germany, and subjected to the severest kind of boycott.

Adolph Frederick is the only remaining uncle, and being 35 years of age, handsome and popular, is looked to by the members of the house and by the people of the grand duchy to perpetuate this dynasty, which claims to be the most ancient in all Europe.

The duke is devoted to sports of every kind, has broken collarbones while steeplechasing, his arms and ribs in motor accidents, and has ridden on horseback all the way from Berlin to Constantinople, where the Sultan bestowed upon him the Ottoman life-saving medal for having during the course of a private audience jumped up to prevent a light wooden screen from falling upon the head of his Turkish majesty. The prince is one of the most enthusiastic fox-hunters in Berlin, and a welcome and dashing figure at court and in society, much better favored than any of his brothers. He has achieved considerable fame as an African traveler and explorer, bringing back many trophies of big game from the dark continent.

In the event of the present Grand Duke of Mecklenburg-Schwerin and his uncles, Adolphus Frederick and Duke John Albert, regent of Brunswick, dying without leaving any sons of royal rank, the throne would pass to the ruler of the neighboring grand duchy of Mecklenburg-Strelitz, and Mecklenburg-Schwerin would lose the independent existence that it has enjoyed for the last 200 years or more.

The dissolution of a morganatic union is from an ecclesiastical than a civil affair, for a morganatic marriage differs in this from the ordinary marriage in that it is purely civil, not a civil contract. It is a marriage which legalizes the relations of the husband and wife in the eyes of the church, but not in those of the law, not, at any rate, to the extent of investing the wife and the children born to the union with the customary rights to the name and property of the husband and father.

Quite a long list of names could be furnished of royal and imperial princes who morganatically married, having been obliged to secure in one fashion or another the annulment of these unions by the church, for reasons of state and for dynastic causes. In several instances the royal husbands have taken advantage of the fact that their morganatic marriages were not binding in the eyes of the law to wed a woman of their own rank without taking the trouble to surrender their former union by means of an ecclesiastical severance.

A case of this kind was that of King George IV., who in spite of his secret marriage with Mrs. Thomas Fitzherbert, and without taking any steps to obtain a dissolution of the union, contracted another matrimonial alliance with Princess Caroline of Brunswick. His marriage to the latter was prompted solely by financial considerations; Parliament had promised to pay his enormous debts if he would marry a princess, and thereby not only provide for the succession to the throne but likewise set at rest the popular rumors as to the existence of his marriage to a Roman Catholic. That this marriage with Mrs. Fitzherbert, which according to the terms of the English constitution and of the act of settlement, should have deprived him of all his rights to the English throne, really existed has been established by the publication two years ago, with King Edward's permission, of the certificate signed by George himself, by the officiating clergyman, by Mrs. Fitzherbert's brother, Jack Smyth, and by her uncle, Henry Errington.

On the other hand, King Frederick William II. of Prussia, although married, first of all to Princess Elizabeth of Brunswick, and then to Princess Louise of Hesse, contracted during the existence of his union to the latter of these princesses morganatic, that is to say, ecclesiastical, marriages with Countess Julia Voss, whom he created Countess Ingenheim, and after her death with Countess Donhoff, whose children by him received the titles of counts of Brandenburg. In each of these morganatic marriages were celebrated by pastors of the Lutheran Church, Queen Louise giving her consent in writing to the union.

It is a great mistake to imagine for one moment that all the morganatic marriages of royalty are recorded in the Almanach de Gotha and in similar works of reference. In many instances they never reach the ears of the public and remain unknown to all save those connected, directly or indirectly, with the courts concerned. Thus, few people beyond the members of the reigning houses of England and Germany are aware of the fact that King George IV.'s favorite sister, Princess Elizabeth of Great Britain, was privately married to a Mr. Rogers, one of the gentlemen in waiting to the king's father, for a number of years, before at the mature age of 43 she became the consort of the land-

grave of Hesse. It was her monument at Homburg which the Kaiser and King Edward jointly dedicated the other day on the occasion of their meeting at Kronberg, near by.

The marriage of the princess to Rogers, when she was 20, had been contracted with the knowledge and even with the unofficial approval of the reigning family. It is on record as having been quietly solemnized in the chapel royal, St. James, Palace, in the presence of her parents, the King and Queen, and of several of her brothers and sisters.

Col. Sir John Hanbury Williams has just been given a handle to his name by means of knightship conferred upon him by the Prince of Wales in connection with the Quebec centennial. His appointment as military secretary to the Governor-General of Canada four years ago, was made at the personal instance of the King, who entertains the highest regard for Hanbury Williams, and who wished to atone for the undesired slight placed upon him through the cancelling of his nomination to the post of military attaché of the English embassy in Paris. The assignment was cancelled at the request of the French Government and military authorities, who objected to it in consequence of the fact that the colonel's wife was a Miss Annie Reisse, a Maestricht, member of the Hebrew race, though not of the Jewish creed.

It was considered by the authorities at Paris that in view of the anti-Semitic feeling that still prevailed among military men in France, and also in certain political and social circles in Paris—four years ago the anti-Dreyfus fever was still strong—the fact that Mrs. Hanbury Williams was a Jewess would give rise to difficulties.

King Edward, who, like Emperor William, entertains no prejudice whatever with regard to the Jewish race and who cannot understand intolerance of that kind, not only endeavored to atone for the affront by inviting the Hanbury Williamses to be his guests at Balmoral, but likewise directly interested himself in their future, the colonel's appointment to the staff of the Governor-General of Canada being made, as I have mentioned above, at his suggestion.

Sir John Hanbury Williams is a particularly able officer, distinguished himself in several of the Egyptian campaigns, as well as in the Burmese and South African wars, was made secretary to Lord Milner throughout a considerable portion of the latter's high commissioner'ship in South Africa, and was afterwards secretary to the secretary of state for war, Lady Hanbury Williams is a woman of great ability and a tactful and clever woman, who has made hosts of friends in Canada and also here. Sir John Hanbury has received, in addition to his knightship, the Star of the Victorian Order, and it is said that the Prince of Wales, intimate to him on behalf of his father, the King, that the latter was particularly pleased to bestow the honor in question on so distinguished an officer.

Lord and Lady Wimborne, the parents of Ivor, Frederick, and Lionel Guest (Frederick and Lionel having American wives), have been subjected to a Roman Catholic robbery, Templeton, at Putney, having been looted by burglars, who for some reason or other were able to work undisturbed, and who carried off, along with a quantity of other property, some celebrated paintings, including Sir Joshua Reynolds' "Immaculate," Vandeyck's "William Prince of Orange," and "The Laughing Cavalier," of Franz Hals, works of art that will probably in course of time find their way across the Atlantic.

Lady Wimborne's ways have been regarded as the feminine leader of the low church party in Great Britain, and naturally she has been exceedingly disturbed by the marriage of her nephew, Jack Spencer Churchill, to the Roman Catholic Lady Gwendoline Bertie, manifesting her disapproval of the union by pointedly absenting herself from the wedding.

By reason of her enthusiasm on the subject of religious matters she has been popularly known in society as "the Deborah of Dorset." Many regard her as the most brilliant and gifted of all the sisters of the late Lord Randolph Churchill, and there is no doubt she has exercised a powerful influence upon English society.

Lord Wimborne, who, in deference to his wife's pronounced views on the subject of free trade withdrew not long ago from the Unionist party, resigned his membership of the Carlton Club and joined the Liberals, is an enormously wealthy man, and the owner of the great Dowdall iron works in Glamorganshire, which were founded by his great grandfather, John Guest, in 1747. Lord and Lady Wimborne make their principal home at Canford Manor, in Dorsetshire. It is a grand old place, a considerable portion of which dates from the reign of King John, who used it as a hunting lodge, the huge park by which it is surrounded formerly forming part of the adjoining New Forest.

There are few places in England that have so many historic associations. Queen Adelaide lived at Canford during her widowhood. The kitchens of the relatively modern mansion, where the stone walls are twelve feet thick, served to prepare the meals of John of Gaunt, son of Edward III. and among other of its former owners have been the Montacute earls of Salisbury, who flourished long before the Elizabethan house of Cecil came into existence. Formerly the grounds were thrown open to visitors. But this has been stopped, since about fifteen years ago a number of vandals took advantage of this privilege to destroy and mutilate some almost priceless statuary in the grounds.

Among the features of Canford Manor are the great hall, 60 feet in length and over 42 feet high, the sal-

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street gallery at one end, and the majestic staircase of carved Italian walnut, acquired at Venice by the late Sir Henry Layard, Lord Wimborne's brother-in-law. It is to Sir Henry Layard, the statesman, diplomat, and explorer, that Lord Wimborne likewise owes the large collection of relics, curios, and statuary from Nineveh, which Layard, as every one knows, was the first to rediscover. An exquisite treasure of art is Baron Trilquet's figure "Cleopatra," carved out of a single block of colossal tusk of ivory, while the Gobelin tapestries are unrivalled in England.

In London Lord and Lady Wimborne make their home at Wimborne House, a thoroughfare which many consider to be as important as it was in the opinion of Horace Walpole more than a hundred years ago, the centre of the universe. The mansion belonged in turn to the late Duke of Beaufort and after him to the late Duke of Hamilton, who sold it to Lord Wimborne. It has been the scene of many notable entertainments and of all sorts of meetings of the various organizations with which Lady Wimborne is identified, some of them religious, others merely social. It has not only private gardens of its own, but likewise runs through to Green Park, on to which it looks, and few who have seen it can forget the long gallery, lined from end to end with superb pictures and statuary, the great gold Louis XVI. ballroom, and the beautiful marble-lined conservatory, where great fountains play all night when Lady Wimborne is entertaining.

Her jewels are world-famed, among the most celebrated being the great Hope ruby, so called because it once belonged to the Hope family, and which is said to be the largest and most perfect in existence. It is curiously engraved. She has likewise a parure of diamonds of the finest water, so old that the stones have not been reset since 1760.

No sketch of Lord and Lady Wimborne would be complete without calling attention to the extraordinary silence which the standard peerages add works of reference observe with regard to the marriage of one of their younger sons, the Hon. Lionel Guest, to Flora Bigelow, daughter of the venerable John Bigelow, of New York. It is well known that Mrs. Lionel Guest was previously and unhappily married to Charles Stuart Dodge, and that this union was annulled by a decree of the courts of Sioux Falls, S. D. The fact that Lionel Guest should be set down in English standard works of reference and peerages as a bachelor only be ascribed to the circumstance that the English authorities, having become aware that the New York courts upon divorces obtained by New Yorkers in South Dakota, are disposed to regard them as of questionable legal value.

TO RESCUE THE ENGLISH TONGUE

ENGLISHMEN ALARMED AT THE
WAY THE LANGUAGE IS
BEING DEBASED.

England, becoming alarmed over the fact that the nation's tongue is worse spoken in the United Kingdom than anywhere else, has just organized a league to save the language, which is in danger of being lost to the world. A league has been formed to rescue the language in which they wrought their mighty masterpieces. It is called "The Pure English League," its home is in London, and it already has a membership of a couple of thousand, though it has only been organized a couple of weeks. For most literary men of England are allied with the new movement, one of its leaders being the famous George Bernard Shaw, a disciple of Ibsen, whose witty and brilliant plays have made his name known all over the world of letters. Mr. Shaw is one of the many noted English workers in letters who have been bemoaning the terrible havoc done to the Anglo-Saxon tongue by the horrible perversion of it known as "cockney."

Prof. Brandi did much to arouse the nation with his striking saying that "English is not English." The striking phrasing called national attention to the increasing vulgarization of the language. Then Shaw arose to protest against the gradual obliteration of the letter "g." "Bib's nime is Jimes, plin Jimes." This sentence has been used all over the United Kingdom to show how completely the accuracy of the proper English is being abandoned. That is the way the average Englishman with a classical education would refer to the fact that the new baby had received the highly honorable cognomen of James.

A leading barrister in the London courts was heard to say to a witness: "Dijer sye ye saw im in the line?"—a question which the witness, being a cockney himself, was able to translate as, "Did you say you saw him in the lane?"

These are instances of the sort of butchery of the King's English that has finally resulted in the big contemporary protest.

A large part of the blame is put by many experts on the vogue of the cockney and coster singer, as, for instance, Albert Chevalier, Maria and Alice Lloyd and Vesta Victoria.

Although America has seen and admired all these clever artists, it has no idea of the enormous vogue they enjoy at home.

Their songs, which have them for attractions are ever crowded. Their songs and witty comment are bandied from one country to the other. That which began as piquant comedy became a matter of habit, and from laughing at the pronunciations of Chevalier in one of his wonderful imitations of coster life, the British public has come to adopt the same mode of speech.

The word "cockney" has an interesting history, one quite at variance with its present application. Now applied to the low, slangy life of London, it originally has a reference to the elegant life of the pampered rich. It is connected with the Dutch word "cocker," which means literally to pamper. Then comes the French form "coqueline," which means primarily to rock the cradle. Originally, therefore, a cockney was a child delightfully reared. Gradually it came to be extended to citizens of towns where wealth was ample and all the comforts of life were obtainable.

The French "Pays de Cocagne," a slang expression among other nations, denote a Utopia, an imaginary land of luxurious ease without labor. From earliest days London was famed for its elegance, and the most fashionable section of the city was made, and which had now been abandoned by the wealthy nobility and turned over to the lower classes.

But though the pampered class has gone from the historic neighborhood of the Strand, Mary-le-bow, the ancient term "cockney" still lingers in application to those who live in the district, those gayly clad "Armys" with the side-seaming of gay colored buttons down their trousers, with their Arriet, and the preference for rides in the old-fashioned "barts" and for a fight every Saturday night.

It is singular that such a section of the town could sway influence over the use of the tongue of a whole nation, but the high word of George Bernard Shaw is on record to prove that it does.

It would be a perfect analogy to imagine the tough dialect of the Bowery in New York dominating the English of the entire country.

Such a thing would of course be impossible, but the American has no such affection for the Bowery as all England has for that part of London which is the home of the cockney, a distinctive type, not to be matched anywhere else in the world.

The American who goes to London is more interested in going to see the true cockney in his own habitat than he is in visiting Westminster. The "Pure English League" was founded at Hornsey, a North London suburb, and its appearance was hailed as an encouraging symptom of better English to come.

The newspapers of the nation are lending all possible aid, and all over the land are advocating the formation of branches of the parent league. The plan of procedure to achieve the desired object is a most elaborate one.

Literature will be sent out calling attention to the error of letting the tongue fall into disuse and vulgarization.

New methods of teaching will be introduced into the public schools, and one of the first things to be done will be a revival of the study of etymology, a study which never should have been permitted to pass from the curriculum, since by teaching the derivation of a word, its beginnings and its various evolutions down to the present time, the student gets an exact understanding of the history of the word, and hence is less likely to mislead it in the pronunciation.

As befits a man prominently connected with the stage, Mr. Shaw has guaranteed to interest theatrical managers to insist on the use of flawless English by characters in their plays, excepting, of course, where, as in a low comedy role, a cockney dialect is essential to the part. But those characters who are supposed to be speaking good English must do so or get ruled out of the casts.

Parents are to be urged to teach their children the value of accurate speech, and lyceums for oratory will also make their contributions.

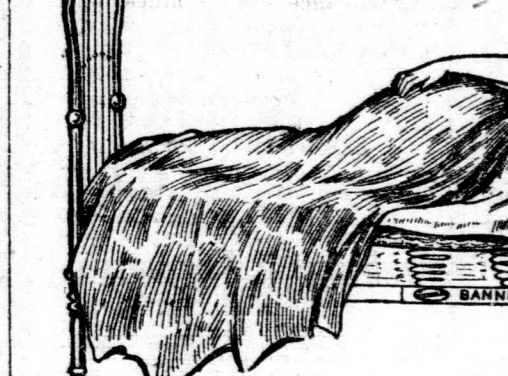
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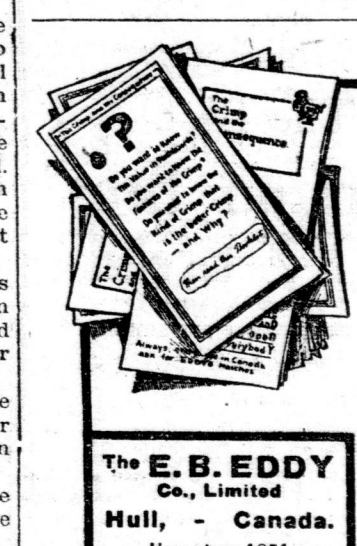
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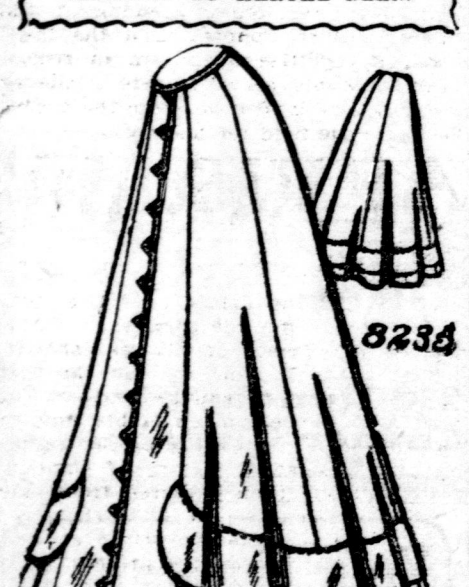
"Most of the old organs of Europe, that is, organs built from 100 to 300 years ago, have a mellowness of tone that distinguishes them from modern instruments, and although the skill of the toner is now lessening the difference between new pipes and those that have been seasoned by long use, there is still a difference between the old organs and the new, just as there is between violins made now and those Cremona instruments that have mellowed with time.

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