

Beautiful Baby Beds!

To-day we show for the first time in our Western Window the last word in Baby Beds. This Bed makes the falling out of the baby impossible. It is the only real, modern, sensible sleeping arrangement that saves both mother and baby. It is in use in every civilized country on earth, and is bought by the nobility and peasants of all Europe, etc., as well as by the wealthy and poor alike in the United States.

It will mean more to you and to your baby than anything else on earth that money can buy.

It places the baby in bed with you snugly and yet not in at all.

J.M. Devine
THE RIGHT HOUSE

The World's Greatest Love Stories.

How Thomas Coutts, the Famous Banker, Married a Maid-servant and Left His Millions to an Actress.

The famous bank of Coutts and Co., in the Strand, has, since the 18th century, safeguarded the fortunes of the richest and most aristocratic families in England. It was founded by four brothers, who came from Edinburgh in 1762, and its prosperity was mainly due to Thomas Coutts, the youngest of them, who eventually became the sole director of the firm and one of the wealthiest men in the country. How, for love, he bestowed his great fortune upon a Scots servant-girl, and then upon a strolling play-actress, is one of the strangest romances in London life.

Thomas Coutts lived over the counting-house of a branch office, while James, his brother, dwelt in the head bank at 59, Strand. By the time the business had been securely established, receiving the patronage of the nobility and gentry, both partners were courted by the leaders of London society. Thomas Coutts, especially, was welcomed in the highest circles. A handsome man, with a quiet dignity and charm of manner, and a shrewd sense of humour, he was also very cultured, and could hold his own in the most intellectual and fashionable assemblies. Many great ladies set their caps at this bachelor, who was the biggest banker in England, and women with great titles, or with young daughters, smiled most sweetly and prepared their most honeyed compliments when he came into their drawing-rooms. Whenever "Tom Coutts," as they called him, made up his mind to marry he might take his choice among many ladies of quality eager to give him their beauty and affection in return for his money-bags.

A Bride From the Basement.
Imagine, therefore, the consternation, the shrill laughter, the spiteful words, the malicious gossip, when the news leaked out that Tom Coutts, the most desirable bachelor in the town, had become engaged to his brother's maid-of-all-work!

"The man is mad!" screamed my Lady Lavington. "He does it to flout us," cried the beautiful Countess of Buntingford. "He ought to be sent to the Tower," exclaimed the Honourable, Letitia Parnaby. Even James, the elder brother, was deeply annoyed that Tom should stoop so low for his bride—as low as the basement kitchen of 59, Strand.

But Thomas Coutts smiled in his

quiet way, and arranged for his wedding with Betty Starkey, who had come down from Edinburgh with a print frock, a pair of potters, a wooden box with a change of linen and a best dress, a bonny face, a laughing heart, and strong arms to clean and scrub. Tom Coutts had heard the magic of her laughter. The sound of it had pleased him more than the simpering smiles of the fashionable beauties in London drawing rooms. He had seen that the bloom on her cheeks did not come off like that of the painted ladies of high society. He had tasted her apple pies and found them very good. He had seen her sewing and scrubbing and dusting, with untiring industry and unflinching cheerfulness, and this Edinburgh lassie seemed to have better qualities for wifehood than the women who whispered scandal behind their fluttering fans. He put his arm about her waist, kissed her on the cheek, and gave her money for a wedding gown.

The Banker's Wife.
For a while the engagement was kept secret and Betty Starkey continued to perform her household duties. One day a young clerk came in with dirty boots, which Betty asked him to wipe on the mat. He refused insolently, whereupon Betty "dressed him down," and said, "Before long I will make you pull off your shoes, and stockings, too, if I choose!"—upon which the young clerk was naturally most mystified.

By degrees James Coutts swallowed his pride, and at last attended the wedding feast at the house in St. Martin's Lane to which Tom took the lady of his choice, described by Lord Dundonald as "a most modest, respectable, and handsome young woman." Here many great gentlemen visited them and, to quote Lord Dundonald again, Mrs. Tom Coutts's "good sense, amiable disposition, and exemplary conduct endeared her to all her husband's family, and commanded the respect of everyone who knew her."

The splendid common sense and simplicity which distinguishes so many Scotswomen, however humble in rank they may be, enabled Betty to take her place in the best society without embarrassing her husband, whose private fortune increased steadily as the years passed by, and who became the supreme head of the bank upon the death of his brother James.

Married Aristocrats.
His wife bore him three daughters, and when they were on the threshold

of womanhood, their beauty, as well as their fathers' wealth, attracted many suitors. London in the time of George III. was a dangerous place for young heiresses, and many rakes of dissolute men of fashion endeavoured to capture "Tom Coutts's daughters," as they were called, but found them well guarded by a man who was as shrewd in social life as in his business. But he was not austere, and for his daughters' sakes he gave splendid entertainments at his house, which were attended by many of the rich noblemen whose fortunes passed through his ledgers at the bank.

So it happened that the children of Betty the servant-maid, made great matches and became the wives and mothers of aristocrats. Susan the eldest, married the Earl of Giltford; Frances, the second, married the Marquess of Bute; and Sophia, the youngest, married Sir Francis Burdett, from whom was descended the Baroness Burdett-Coutts, the greatest "lady beautiful" of Victorian England.

In the autumn of his life a domestic tragedy afflicted Thomas Coutts, who had risen to such prosperity and was seemed to be the most enviable of mortals. Betty, his wife, whom he had loved with an enduring affection, was stricken with illness and lost her reason. It was a blow at the heart of a man who, beneath his garb of manner, had a tender and sensitive nature, and who, at seventy years of age, when his daughters had made homes of their own, still desired womanly companionship.

It was at this period of his life, when, according to public opinion, he was "old enough to know better," that the great banker plunged into a new romance.

For some years he had taken a great interest in the drama, and had been a generous patron of many theatrical enterprises. Needless to say, such a friend of the playhouse was welcomed behind the scenes, and he had no difficulty in forming the acquaintance of any actor or actress to whom he wished to pay his compliments. It soon became whispered about the town that "old Tom Coutts" was paying many compliments to Harriet Mellon, whose pretty face had captured younger hearts than his own.

Born in a Barn.
This charming little actress had been born in a barn—the daughter of a strolling player and his wife, who wandered about the country performing in small halls and earning a precarious livelihood. The child trotted by the side of her mother's skirt, and as soon as she was old enough played small parts in stock companies rather similar to that of Mr. and Mrs. Crumple, with their remarkable boys and the "infant phenomenon," as described by Dickens in "Nicholas Nickleby." From this rough-and-tumble life little Harriet was rescued by some benevolent ladies and sent to a good boarding school. But the spirit of play acting was in her blood, and as soon as she left school she went back to her old profession and toured the provinces again. She had a talent and vivacity and, regular beauty which quickly attracted the notice of managers and made her a favourite with the public. A critic comparing her with other celebrated actresses, remarked that, while Miss Farren was elegant, Mrs. Jordan fascinating, Mrs. Goodall delightful, and Miss De Camp "set half the fellows mad," Miss Mellon looked like a girl fresh from the country, with blooming complexion, a tall, fine figure, raven locks, ivory teeth, a cheek like a peach, and coral lips.

Just as Tom Coutts had been fascinated by the simple charms of Betty Starkey, the maid-servant, so now he was smitten by the fresh beauty of Harriet Mellon. He was an elderly man, with grown-up daughters, but there seems to be no age-limit for romance, and he was touched with a tender sentiment for this actress.

Soon after their first meeting he sent her a note for £100, assuring her of his esteem. A little later the gossips began to wag their tongues when Harriet gave out to her friends that she had won £100,000 in a lottery. As she would not mention the name of the lottery, suspicion was aroused and scandal set on foot. Journalistic blackmailers threatened to expose the actress unless she paid for silence. Paragraphs were published in the newspapers hinting that "a certain well-known actress, Miss H—M—, was receiving favours from a rich and venerable banker whose house of business was not a thousand miles away from Charing Cross." One of these papers remarked that "a rich banker had lately acquired a relish for melon, and had purchased a slice at a very dear price."

A Visit to Drury Lane.
Thomas Coutts gave scandal an easy excuse for malicious gossip when he bought a house called Holly Lodge, near Highgate, for the actress whose name was linked with his own, and furnished it on her behalf in a costly manner. Then one night he went on a special mission to see Harriet Mellon at Drury Lane, where she was acting her most famous part as Audrey in "As You Like It," and wearing, we are told, "a short petticoat

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and yellow silk stockings with black clocks." She saw him between the acts, and found that he was very grave. He said he could no longer bear to see her "made up for the stage," and he urged her to abandon her profession for his sake. She obeyed his wish there and then, and never appeared behind the footlights again. But the relationship of the elderly man to this pretty and popular girl could only end in one way, and shortly after his wife's death Thomas Coutts called upon the young lady at Holly Lodge.

"My dear," he said, "you must come with me to church and be married. Your reputation will otherwise be destroyed."

She obeyed again, and the child who had been born in a barn became the wife of the greatest banker in England.

"Dear old Tom," as she called her husband, did not regret the romance of his old age. Harriet was a faithful wife to him, and although he gave her unlimited money to spend—no less than £28,000 for pin money in one year—she gave most of it away in charity, and was always a simple-hearted woman with great gifts of gaiety, and with a warm heart beneath her beauty.

Duchess of St. Albans.
When Thomas Coutts died there was found in his study a portrait of his wife across which he had written the date of her retirement from the stage, "when," he wrote, "she married Thomas Coutts, banker, of the Strand, which proved the greatest blessing of his life and made him the happiest of men."

But the greatest proof of his devotion was the fact that upon his death he bequeathed every penny of his vast fortune to his wife. The widow of "old Tom Coutts," who as a child had often gone hungry, was now one of the richest ladies in England. Five years later she became a duchess as the wife of the ninth Duke of St. Albans. But she was still as generous and simple-hearted as when she had used her "pin-money" for charity and shared her pay as an actress with poorer friends. Dying without children in 1837, she gave back to the Coutts family the entire fortune she had received, and it went to the Baroness Burdett-Coutts, who made a noble use of it.

Whatever may be said of the character of Thomas Coutts himself, at least is certain—that in the choice of his first wife, Betty the maid-servant, and of his second wife, Harriet the play-actress, he showed rare wisdom. They were both good women.

Rhine and North Sea Canal Plans Approved.

Berlin, Nov. 10.—While satisfactory progress is being made with the work, which when completed will allow the passage of fair-sized vessels to steam as far as Berlin, it is now likely that the plans for a new canal from the Rhine to the North Sea will soon be passed by the government.

Two schemes are under consideration, the intention being to give the river a mouth in German territory, and thus divert German traffic from Holland. The proposed waterway will interest the Rhine, probably at Fiesdorf near Cologne, whilst the terminal will be at Emden, upon the development of which over twenty million dollars have been expended by the Prussian authorities.

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AT

By G

Author of "Athens, the business city," best known to investors looking for profitable returns well to look to Athens had, 1807, but the defective and burbs. The according to city directories, as receipts, is now Athens is success, being in farming and and having three aens, steamer England and

1805 its tonnage

greater than the and New Orleans already has two running regular Scutari and point new lines have Commercial Club tive and cnts maintaining han and employing advance the busi town.

Athens offers factoring sites and its low freight attract large ind has eight cotton nac distilleries, ing mills, eight thirteen shipyard steam laundry, tory and an auto

Athens as capital for its handsome buildings. The polytechnic insti royal palace are visitors. A syndi formed to erect a five-building on twelve story hotel room and rathsk the near future.

Athens must not the original city still lies scattered of the modern town over the hills in to make good str possible. The old ed about 2,500 years been a dead one. Many ruins of the and create much peculiar class kno archeologists who city, past the bot other sights of inte their time taking p thenon, a raking zine which is asse

Effects of Feeding the Quality

Experiments were the French Academi order to test the of the quality and size out how to produce Three lots of ducks nutritious, placavon dict. Those fed on the greatest number were of the poorest heaviest eggs were on the flesh diet, w pure grain diet also orous-fed birds, both weight of egg.

This was very fore some years ago by under certain circ laid black yolked egg for this puzzled the time, until it was dis ducks were consumi acorns daily. The h contain tannin or tui acts upon the iron form yolk of an egg, formi nect, which imparts a nce to the usually green American poultry rats experimented in this they are agreed that and heaviest eggs are fed on grain with a s of flesh food. Strange hold that the foraging such like life has a e fect on the quality of they are also unanimi ing that too much g similar effect on the weight of an egg. It count that they agree brown-tinted eggs are flavor, as these breed foragers, and depend feeding more than the more active breeds.

On this theory spring better quality than the summer months of when insect and plant ant. If good eggs, and ous chickens, are war must have the best foods at all seasons of eference in weight nced, but the difference only be ascertained aft cooked.—North British

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