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ROYAL MISTRESS FOR CHESTERFIELD HOUSE!

By FRANK MACK.

CHESTERFIELD HOUSE is to have a royal mistress. It is in this historic old Mayfair mansion that the Princess Mary will make her London home after her marriage to the Viscount Lascelles.

Thus, after almost a century and three-quarters as the home of the great and the near-great, this famous "town residence" of fashionable London will resume a place in the social life of the capital worthy of its fine traditions.

Though it may soon boast of a royal mistress for the first time in its long and varied career, this will not be the first time that Chesterfield House has known royalty within its hospitable walls. In the time of its earlier and most glorious days, it was indeed the seat of the mighty. Within its rooms political czars were made and unmade, decisions which involved the fate of nations were argued and adopted, dictators of society met and issued decrees that none dared to disobey, and famous men of letters, including the immortal Dr. Johnson, discussed and debated the merits and demerits of literary and political lights, both past and present.

Yes, Chesterfield House has a host of traditions and memories that are not unworthy of a daughter of the Royal House of Windsor and its associations include those of many British princes and even a king or two. If at one time Chesterfield House was hated as the abode of an accomplished statesman, whose policy and actions were distasteful in the extreme to his king, later it became a well-loved spot by the same monarch; and in the fullness of the change of heart he had undergone, dukedom was offered to Chesterfield House's powerful owner; but it was declined. There are families of old England whose name and lineage are so illustrious that the highest honors within the gift of the King can bring no greater luster to their name. A scion of such a family was the builder of Chesterfield House. A dukedom appealed neither to his pride nor his honor. His heart was set upon bringing up his son and heir as an accomplished and ambitious English gentleman; he gave his whole soul to this mission and in the end he suffered disillusionment and disappointment.

A HOUSE OF TRADITIONS.

From the foregoing it can be gleaned that Chesterfield House was built by the great Earl of Chesterfield, a figure prominent in politics, society and literature in the far-off days of the Second George; and if the Princess Mary, as the royal mistress of Chesterfield House, could but tear aside the veil of the past and glance but for a brief space upon some of the glorious traditions of her home, what a sight would she see! For magnificent as may become the house under her regime, its magnificence can do no more than vie with the glories of its early history; not even the most stately balls that she may give will outvie the stately scenes which Chesterfield House has known in the hey-day of its fashion and power.

The traditions of Chesterfield House were made in the days of the aristocratic sedan and the link-boys; in the times of courtly maidens and bewigged gallants; in the generations when state and show counted for everything and life was a gamble and fate a fortune wheel.

CHIPPENDALE AND WARE.

Among the many prominent names of the mid-eighteenth century which are associated with Chesterfield House, by no means the least important is that of its architect, the once-popular Isaac Ware. Apart from his magnificent architectural creations, there is his noteworthy feud with Thomas Chippendale, that famous maker of art furniture, a piece of which now sells for almost its weight in gold.



H.R.H. Princess Mary.

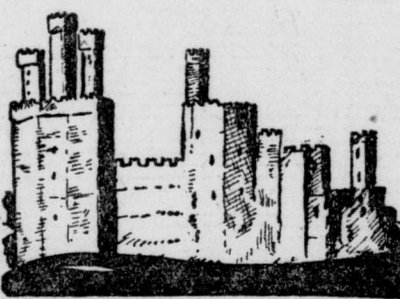
As Bride of Lord Lascelles, the Future London Home of the Princess Mary Is One Rich In Traditions and Historic Associations---A Mansion That Cost a Large Fortune To Buy.



Chesterfield House. The future London residence of Princess Mary and Viscount Lascelles.



Viscount Lascelles.



of Viscount Lascelles when he returned to social life from the war was to purchase it from the Dowager Lady Burton. While it is not known how much he paid, the price must have been tremendous. The last time Chesterfield House was on the market, more than 50 years ago, the mansion changed hands at a figure approximating \$800,000. Since then West End house values have been on a very different scale, and it is stated that Lord Lascelles recently refused to sell Chesterfield House at a figure which would have netted him a cold million dollars in profits.

It is not alone to the past that Chesterfield House must look for its romantic and regal associations. Neither can its value as a historic place be computed in pounds sterling nor dollars and cents. The associations of Chesterfield House are

priceless gems from out the history of the nation, and apart from such national figures as those prominent to the Empire alone, many distinguished visitors from foreign lands have been guests beneath its venerable roof. The last of these to date was His Imperial Highness the Crown Prince of Japan.

A ROYAL BRIDE.

Of the royal mistress-to-be of Chesterfield House, little need be written here. She is known and loved the Empire over, and many are the stories and anecdotes which illustrate her modesty and

kindliness. We know that cookery is one of her specialties, that she is deeply interested in the welfare of the poor and that she is as fine a type of English gentlewoman as could be found within any of the Empire's domains. Not the least interesting characteristic is her inherent dislike of the pomp which is so associated with her high station in life. Her delight is to tour through London shops, virtually unattended, and in her early days it was a commonplace sight to see Her Royal Highness and her governess walking to the post office to deposit a set sum of her weekly allowance in the savings bank.

As a war-worker Princess Mary made a most enviable reputation and her interest in the League of Mercy and in the Girl Guides' movement are deep-rooted and enthusiastic. Most of her recent public appearances have been made in

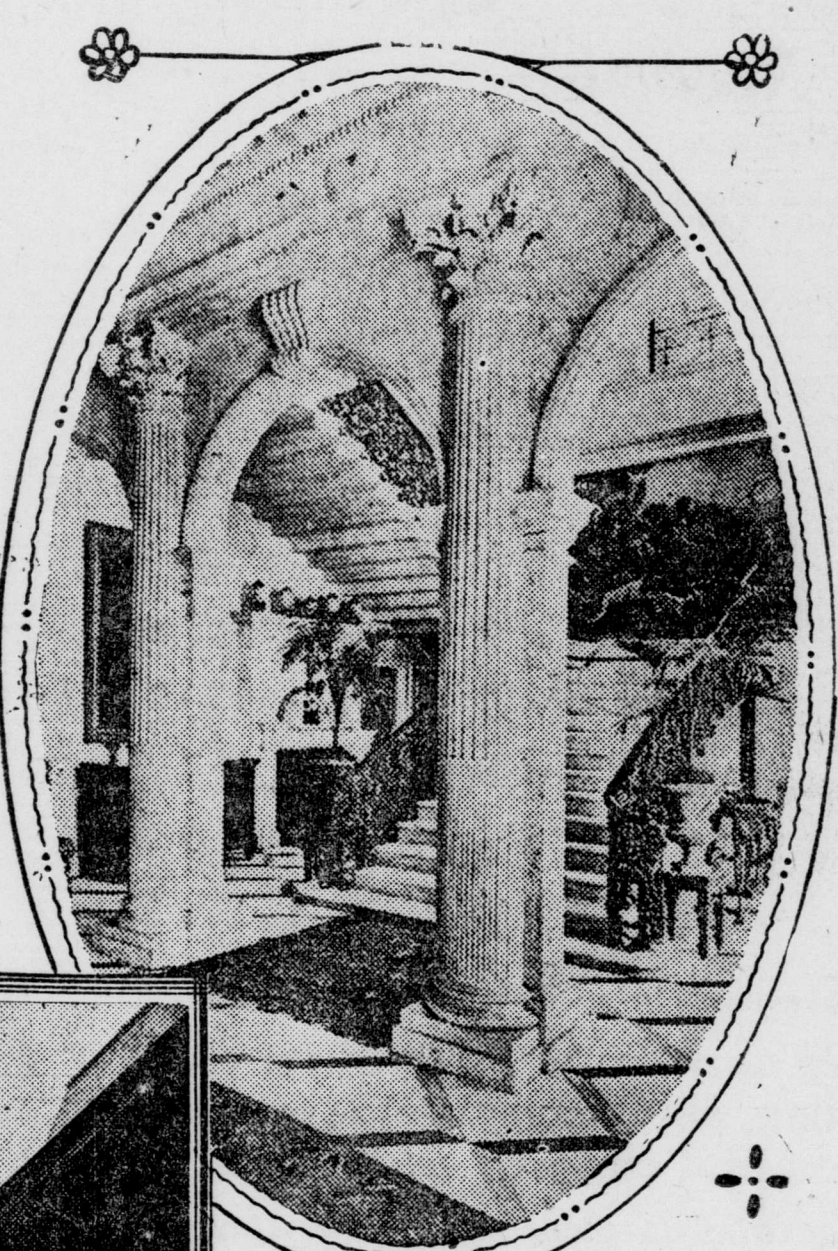
proved himself to be of the true Lascelles stock, for his family is one of ancient fighting traditions. There was a Lascelles living back in the days of Edward III., and he went to the wars in France; and since those remote times the Lascelles have fought for the empire in many campaigns.

It is true that the title to which he is heir—that of the Earldom of Harewood—is not an ancient one in its present form, but like the Chesterfield family, the Lascelles need neither titles nor honors to bring glory to their name. The traditions of their family are among the brightest of the old gentry of England. Harewood House, near Leeds, from which the family title is taken, is one of the most stately homes of England, and when the time comes that Princess Mary will become the royal mistress of this noble mansion, she will yet have another place in which kings and queens have been entertained lavishly in the past. Among many of the Princess Mary's ancestors who stayed at Harewood House may be mentioned Queen Victoria and her mother, the Duchess of Kent, who visited there before the Great Queen's accession to the throne in 1837, King Edward and Queen Alexandra, and her father and mother, King George and Queen Mary. The Czar of Russia also was a guest there in the year following the Battle of Waterloo.

HAREWOOD HOUSE.

Much of the Harewood wealth which Viscount Lascelles will inherit when, at some distant day he will succeed his father as the Earl of Harewood, came from the sugar plantations of the West Indies, and among the curiosities in Harewood House, denoting the family's lucrative associations with their Barbados estates, are 76 massive mahogany double-doors, which were specially made when Henry Lascelles built the mansion in 1760. Two of its chief glories are the furniture,

made by both Adams and Chippendale, and the wonderful collection of china, the latter being valued at considerably more than \$1,000,000 and considered to be surpassed only by the royal collection at Windsor. Many of the ceilings of the house are painted by Rebecchi, Rose and Zucchi, and there are some good pictures in the private gallery, principally portraits by Reynolds, Hoppner and Lawrence. The house stands in a well-wooded park of 2,000 acres and one of its sights is the famous "Tokay" vine, 70 feet long and 24 feet wide, which was planted in 1783. The ruins of Harewood Castle, an ancient Norman stronghold, also stands in the park.



The Hall, Chesterfield House.

