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The Duke of Edinburgh.

(From the London Times, July 28.)

Russian papers not being allowed without special permission to dilate upon events in the Imperial family, few and short are the comments upon the auspicious news from Ingenheim. There is, however, no doubt that the announcement of the Royal betrothal has been most sympathetically received at St. Petersburg, both on account of the sincere interest felt in the amiable Princess and also as an earnest of good relations between the two countries to whom the affianced belong. Her Imperial Highness Princess Maria Alexandrovna is Honorary Colonel of the Yamburg Regiment of Ulans, and the photograph in the uniform of this gallant troop, Czapka on head, with the white sultana gracefully hanging down, certainly makes her the most charming officer in the service of All the Russias. It is asserted that the marriage will be celebrated in January, and that Queen Victoria has held out hopes of honouring the ceremony with her presence. Her Majesty's arrival in the Russian capital would certainly be appreciated as one of the most gratifying events in the history of the Court, and, perhaps, even of the country. It is believed in Russia that Count Schuvalof, when he visited England a few months ago in order to arrange the Asiatic difficulty, was at the same time commissioned to settle certain preliminary questions incidental to the matrimonial project recently announced. Unfortunately, Count Schuvalof was prevented from attending the betrothal at Heiligenberg castle, his father having died suddenly at Carlsbad, and the duty devolving upon the son of conveying the remains to the family estate of Artimaya on the Finnish frontier. As the Count has thus become acquainted with the desires of the English Prince, it may not be uninteresting to know that his family, like the Suvaroffs, is supposed to have immigrated some years ago from Sweden, and to belong, in fact, either to the original Varagians—the northern conquerors of Russia—or to the adventurous Sea Kings who followed in the wake of their successful predecessors. The family subsequently settled in the Province of Kostroma, among whose nobles it is mentioned as early as 1540. Two brothers Schuvalof, both of them field marshals, were created counts by the Empress Elizabeth, whose successor on the throne they had actively promoted. Count Andreas Schuvalof, who died the other day at Carlsbad at a green old age, filled for many years at St. Petersburg the influential functions of First Chamberlain and Grand Marechal de la Cour, in which capacities his kindness and unaffected benevolence won him all hearts. Of his two sons, Count Peter, the one who visited England a few months ago, is Chief of the Third Department of the Imperial Chancellerie—in other words, Chef de la Haute Police—an office which could only be mentioned to mark the importance of one of the most eminent personages in the Russian Empire. That he is likewise distinguished as a statesman is doubtless known to all acquainted with the *personnel* of Russian society. The Count is married to the widow of Count Orloff-Denisoff, née Tolstoi. His brother, Count Paul, the Grand Master of Ceremonies, is the Emperor and chief of the staff of the Guards, was left a widower a few weeks ago, his wife having been a Princess Galitzine, Baiosarsky, of the great family of that name. Countess Sophie, the only sister of the brothers Schuvalof, is the wife of Count Alexander Bobrinsky, Grand Equerry to the Emperor.

Of the few articles published in Russia about the betrothal, I select the following from the *Golos* for translation:

"Notwithstanding his youth, the illustrious betrothed of the grand Duchess Maria has his mind by long and profitable travelling. When his life was attempted in Australia, he also on other occasions, showed great courage and uncommon firmness of character. His noble frankness, his brilliant and cultivated intellect, his exceeding amiability and affability, have gained for him the earnest attachment of all those who were fortunate enough to come in contact with him. As the nephew of the reigning Duke of Saxe-Coburg-Gotha, Prince Alfred is the heir that Duchy, and after his uncle's death will one of these days succeed his father on the throne. The news of Prince Alfred's betrothal to the most august daughter of his Majesty our Emperor has been received in England with the utmost joy and satisfaction. The organs of all political Parties like admit that a marriage with the only daughter of the Russian Emperor is the most brilliant match any European prince could have aspired to. Although not attaching much political importance to this alliance in an age in which national interests are more powerful than dynastic connections, the English papers are of opinion that it may well strengthen the good relations existing between the two largest and most powerful states of Europe. Russia, in fact, they look upon the marriage as another pledge of the preservation of peace in Europe. There is no doubt that in all Russia the joyful event excites the same sympathetic feelings and wishes as in England.

"I hear that the Imperial family of Russia will shortly return to St. Petersburg, to be joined there in about two months by Prince Alfred.

The Future in India

No thoughtful student of Indian history can have overlooked the fact that in many of the important passages of English rule in the East, that rule, imperilled by headstrong and injudicious, or weak and timid counsels, or counsels, was saved by a far-sighted, just, and forbearing policy which, somehow, came in, as it were, at the last time, when only the help of Heaven seemed likely to be of any avail. Often, indeed, as the empire been saved from disaster by the capacity in war, it has oftener been saved by the strength of high statesmanship. We still need—nay, we need more than ever—that clear-seeing, just, and generous statesmanship, before which self-seeking and oppression vanish, in whatever strength they may be arrayed, and whatever may be their confidence in their power and right to do what if permitted to be done could only be imperfect good, even, we may suppose, but there could not well be a greater mistake, that the natives of India, somehow, came in as a body to think at time, when only the help of Heaven seemed likely to be of any avail. Often, indeed, as the empire