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How Do You Address Them?

Points About Precedence.

Some interesting points dealing with the legal positions of the sons and daughters of peers were given in a society paper some time ago. According to the writer, the eldest sons of dukes, marquesses, and earls are called by one of their father's second titles, but in the eyes of the law they are only esquires, and possess rank and coronet as a mere matter of courtesy.

It may be noted that the eldest son of a duke holds the same precedence whether he bears the title of marquis, earl, or viscount; while the younger sons of dukes and marquesses are called by courtesy "Lords," and their daughters are styled "Ladies," but legally they have no handles to their names, and are, in fact, commoners. Thus "Lord John West" is by law plain "John West," and "Lady Alice West" is simply "Alice West." However, custom accords them honourable mention, and their letters must be addressed "The Lord John West," "The Lady Alice West." In the case of all these titles, from that of a duke downwards, the "The" must never be omitted.

Rights and Wrongs.

It must be remembered, however, that this is not the case with regard to foreign titles of nobility. A foreign baron or baroness, comte or comtesse, marquis or marquise, should be addressed as "Baron Fergus," "Comtesse Delorme," and "Marchesa Viria," and letters to them would begin "Dear Baron," "Dear Marchesa," and so on. The magic "The" must be omitted.

To return to the British peerage.

The younger sons of earls and all the sons and daughters of viscounts and barons are styled "Honourable," and, of course, the sons' wives also. To write "The Hon. Miss South" is incorrect; the Christian name should be used, and the letter be addressed "The Hon. Sylvia South." An earl's eldest son who takes one of his father's second titles is styled "Viscount South" or "Lord South," but if he happens to marry the daughter of a duke or marquess the lady retains her own rank, which is higher than his, and thus becomes "Lady Grace South" and not "Lady South," as she would do if she were a commoner.

No Christian Name.

Peers sign the name of their title only, and never their Christian name. Thus the Duke of Somerset would sign a letter "Somerset." If the title

happens to be a double one, the name is written in full. "Brougham and Vaux," "Mowbray and Stourton." And peeresses practically have no Christian name.

They sign a letter with the initial of their first name as a prefix to their husband's title. Thus Lady Derby would sign a letter "C. Derby."

Jacob's Pillow

WHEREVER THE STONE OF DESTINY IS CARRIED THERE, ACCORDING TO LEGEND, WILL GO THE SOVEREIGN POWER.

The stone which we call the Coronation Stone, to most visitors probably the most interesting thing in Westminster Abbey, has another and much more ancient name.

Its true name is Gaelic—Lith Phathail, which means in English the "Grey Stone Pillow."

Now, it is certain that Queen Victoria firmly believed that the British Royal House descended from King David, and, therefore, from Jacob himself; and that the stone upon which she received her crown was the identical one upon which he rested his head at Bethel when he dreamed of ascending and descending angels and heard of the future greatness of the nation he should found.

The stone is also called the Stone of Destiny. Doubtless this name, or the tradition it enshrined, was the reason that prompted the astute Edward I. to carry it from its ancient site at Scone to his own capital of London and deposit it in St. Edward the Confessor's Chapel. It has remained there ever since, except for one brief ceremony—the installation of Oliver Cromwell as Lord Protector in Westminster Hall.

But why the Stone of Destiny? Well, not only had all the ancient Kings of Scotland, from the remotest dawn of Scottish history, been crowned on this stone, but it was firmly believed that whosoever this stone went, there would go the sovereignty.

That was exactly what Edward sought, so he carried off the Stone of Destiny. Doubtless, he also believed that this "disaster," as the Scots regarded it, would break the spirit of the northern kingdom. In this, of course, he was greatly mistaken, as Bannockburn abundantly proved.

From Jordan Valley or Scotland?

There was another reading of the legend, however. It was this—that whosoever the stone went there a Scot should rule. And, with the death of Elizabeth, the Crown of England devolved upon a pure Scot, James VI. of Scotland becoming James I. of

Great Britain and Ireland. It is, too, by virtue of his Stuart blood that King George sits to-day on the Throne of Britain.

Since the day that Edward I. carried the Stone of Destiny from Scone and deposited it in the Abbey, every English sovereign, with one exception, has been crowned upon it. That one exception was Mary, the unhappy daughter of Henry VIII. and Katharine of Aragon.

But what ground is there for believing that this stone is the identical one which Jacob set up at Bethel? It is not improbable that it was the original stone on which the ancient Irish Kings were crowned on the hill of Tara, and that it was removed by Fergus to Argyll, and thence by King Kenneth in the ninth century—or about the time of Alfred the Great—to Scone.

But this piece of "possible history" does not carry us much nearer to the Stone of Destiny, which is a piece of Scottish granite, its place of origin may, after all, have been Scotland.

Keep the flies from your food by using Wire Dish Covers, selling at lowest prices. See our window. BOWRING BROS., LTD., Hardware Department.—July 4, 1922

The Lame Colonel

Colonel Ferguson, who lived in Shewalton House, was a great admirer of William Robertson's preaching, says Dr. Jordan:—

"Although lame of one leg, he was a very stately and precise old gentleman. Entering the Cotton Row Kirk one Sabbath morning, he was making his way down one of the passages, evidently intending to take a seat in the front, not far from the pulpit. Andrew, however, overtook the Colonel before he entered any pew and, speaking in a stage whisper, said to him 'are ye deaf?' The dignified old soldier turned round in amazement, and demanded to the bridle what he meant. 'I'm askin', are ye deaf, sir?' 'No, thank God, I have all my senses; I'm not deaf,' was the Colonel's answer. 'Weel, weel,' rejoined Andrew, with imperturbable coolness, 'if ye're no deaf, I'll gie ye a back seat.'"

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