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THE GOSSIP OF EUROPE

American to Shine at the Czar's Court---Niece of Dukes a Chambermaid---Queen Alexandra Blue

PARIS, March 23.--No news has more interested Paris society this season than the announcement that Countess Nostitz, an American, will soon leave the French capital to make her permanent home in St. Petersburg.

Count Nostitz has been promoted to the important post of Chief of Staff of the Russian Imperial Guard, which necessitates his presence near his sovereign. For several years the Count has been military attaché to the Russian Embassy here. Those years have been active ones socially for Count Nostitz and his wife. Society has been divided into two camps over the Countess. Innumerable stories have been told of her "eccentricities," her "American frankness." That frankness has made many enemies, and they have been predicting for a long time that she and her husband would finally quit Paris.

Countess Nostitz has a romantic history. She was a singer, touring Europe, when she met in Berlin a titled German, who fell in love with her. They soon married, but the union proved unhappy and divorce followed. Afterward she married Nostitz, who is immensely wealthy. When they came to live in Paris he took for his home a magnificent house on fashionable Avenue d'Iena, where they started entertaining on a large scale. At first Paris turned a cold shoulder to the American Countess, but she proved superior to such opposition and continued giving dances which, for their novelty, were the talk of the city. She surrounded herself with the cleverest men and women of the capital. Whoever went to the Nostitz home was sure of being entertained. She was a discourager of dullness.

It was for that reason perhaps as much as any other that society, separated into earnest factions. Many of the old aristocracy frankly disapproved of the modern methods of the American hostess. Others no less fervently applauded her originality.

She is extremely outspoken and fearless. Because of this it has been often predicted that Nostitz would be recalled. His present promotion shows how powerless have been the enemies of the Countess.

Amazed the Dowager Duchesses. Besides possessing a good voice, she is an excellent dancer. Often she has entertained her guests with dances, to the amazement of the Dowager Duchesses of the old French school.

A titled woman who is influential at the Czar's court relates a characteristic anecdote of the Countess. Although invited several times to the Nostitz home, this lady had always been obliged to decline. One day the Countess met her at a reception, and walking up to her, said: "You never accept any of my invitations."

"No," responded the lady. "I am sorry, but have always had other engagements." "It that your real reason?" The Countess asked. "I want to know whether you are my friend or my enemy."

She was assured of the lady's friendship, which really was sincere, and the next invitation was not refused. Countess Nostitz has done much good here, being unfailingly kind to those she could help, and in numerous charity affairs she has been an earnest worker.

She is fond of the society of Americans, but has given small encouragement to the "climbers" in the American colony.

The opposition to her has come mainly from snobs, from envious persons or from ultra-conservative old women, who could not forgive her American abruptness and sincerity. Socially, she has fought a hard battle and has come out with flying colors. Her salon last season was one of the most brilliant in Paris.

Ill health prevented her from doing much entertaining during the winter, and now, just when she has triumphed over her enemies, winning friends in the most elusive Paris society, her husband's promotion forces them to leave France.

The Count and the Countess are devoted to each other. There is an ideal international match, in so far as domestic happiness is concerned.

Although the Countess could maintain her home here and her husband could come on frequent visits, she is unwilling to be separated from him.

In St. Petersburg Count Nostitz's high position will give him a commanding place in society and his American Countess undoubtedly will become a notable figure at the Russian Court.

STORK DISAPPOINTED IMPERIAL PRETENDER. BRUSSELS, Belgium, March 23.--Prince Napoleon, the French Imperialist pretender, is sorely disappointed. He had been impatiently awaiting the visit of the stork to his "palace" on Avenue Louise, which he had had

surrounded with earth imported from France so that the heir, which he hoped would be a son, might be "born on French soil." If the child had been a boy the Prince would have acquired an importance in the French dynastic rivalries which he does not now possess. But the fabled bird brought a daughter on Wednesday.

Princess Napoleon, who was Princess Clementine of Belgium, also was anxious for a son. Her sister, Princess Stephanie, came here to be with Princess Napoleon at the momentous time but was called to Paris for a flying visit to have a guardian appointed for her other sister, Princess Louise.

QUEEN ALEXANDRA SO BLUE

HER SISTER IS SENT FOR. LONDON, March 23.--Queen Alexandra is suffering from nervous depression, a common sequel this year to the influenza, and she refuses to go away for a change, saying that she cannot afford it. So her sister, the Dowager Czarina of Russia, has been sent for as the only person able to influence her. Queen Alexandra was very ill last week and the physicians are still anxious about her nervous state.

King George, who is devoted to his mother, has been visiting her every evening at Marlborough House, trying to cheer her up.

NIECE OF DUKES

A CHAMBERMAID. MADRID, Spain, March 23.--The great new Prado Hotel opposite the famous Museum here has on its staff the niece of a duchess, Therese Acosta Osorio de Moscoso, who has been compelled by poverty to seek employment as a chambermaid. It is more likely, however, that the management of the hotel, which was opened the other day by the King in person, engaged the young noblewoman as an advertisement. To be waited on by a titled maid is quite a novelty.

The Herald, which made the discovery, states that Senora Therese is the daughter of the late Gen. Acosta, who gambled away all his fortune. His sister is the Duchess de Sanlucan in Major. Acosta's marriage to a shop-girl led to his being cast out by his family.

The Prado Hotel has been built specially to suit the grandees of Spain and Therese Acosta in her duties may be called upon to minister to the wants of some of her uncles--the Dukes of Sanlucan, Andria, Soma, Sassa, Atriarco and Maqueda. She is young, dark, of prepossessing appearance and enjoys no special privileges.

United States Minister Ide and his charming daughter, Miss Ide, who is noted in Madrid society for her beauty and distinction, were guests at a recent dinner followed by a ball given by Marchioness de Svalache, Lady-in-Waiting to Queen Maria Cristina, in her palatial residence on the Prado.

Americans visiting Spain this spring, especially those going to Seville, will be interested to know that a daily express service has been established between this capital and that city. The train is composed of dining and sleeping cars and makes the journey in a little over eleven hours. It is the fastest train in Spain and the most comfortable.

The carnival festivities were hampered by bad weather and the absence of King Alfonso and Queen Victoria. Their Majesties kept to the royal domain of the Casa di Campo, to which the public is never admitted except by ticket after exhaustive inquiries and in carnival time not at all. None of the royal family was seen in the streets. It is said that the King was urgently advised not to show himself in public, as the Government had reason to believe that another attempt might be made to end his reign by means of a bomb or otherwise.

The winter has been unusually severe and prolonged, with months of incessant rain; while lack of employment has caused much distress among the working classes; the most ordinary necessities of life are exorbitantly high. The republican newspapers take advantage of all this to foment agitation against the royal family, which at the present time is regarded with indifference by the great majority of the people. The only really and always exceedingly popular member of the royal family is Infanta Isabel, one of the King's aunts. She never fears to show herself without escort. She is very charitable, very democratic, enjoys going among the people, taking an interest in all their concerns, and they talk with her in the most familiar way, which delights her.

The World's correspondent learns on court authority that the improvement in the hearing and speech of Don Jaime, the three-year-old son of King Alfonso, has not been maintained and that the Swiss specialist who has been treating him at Freiburk has said that he cannot cure nor even permanently

ameliorate the defects--which means that in the doctor's opinion Don Jaime will be stone deaf and virtually speechless for life. But the King and Queen have not given up hope. They probably will send the child to a French woman who conducts near Paris an institution for such cases and has performed some remarkable cures. Profound sympathy is felt for the Prince, who is the most popular of the four royal children--dark-eyed, vivacious, pretty and more Spanish looking than the others.

AN EXPERIMENT

IN MIND READING. In one of a series of lectures on "The Borderland Between Spirit and Matter," which Dr. James J. Walsh, dean of the Fordham University Medical College, has just been delivering in the ballroom of the Plaza Hotel, the learned lecturer gave some striking illustrations of the utter failure of telepathy or mind-reading when put to simple, practical tests.

"Mind-reading," said Dr. Walsh, "is being practically tested every day in every court in the world. Every criminal trial is a test of mind-reading. A man is accused of a crime and is brought into the presence of a Judge, several lawyers, some of whom are friendly, some hostile, and twelve presumably fair-minded jurors. All of these, Judge, lawyers, and jurors are trying earnestly to read the mind of the accused. The latter, if he be innocent, is exciting every power of his brain to convey to the Judge, the lawyers and the jurors the thoughts that are in his mind.

"And yet I have never heard of a single case in which the Judge, counsel or jurors have been able to read the mind of an accused person.

"Surely, if there really were any substantial basis for the claims of those who believe in thought transference, there must have been at some time in all the ages since trials began, somewhere in all the lands where trials have taken and are taking place, some record or some report of some occasion on which mind-reading had influenced the conviction or the acquittal of an accused person."

What would not a police magistrate give for the power to read the mind of the man arraigned before him accused of a crime of which he declares himself innocent! Had Solomon, wisest of men, been able to read the minds of those two women, each of whom claimed the baby as her own, he would not have needed to order the famous test of cutting the child in two and giving each woman half.

Dr. Walsh did not deny that mind-reading may sometimes be possible, but he pointed out that any man who can really read the minds of others can go down into Wall street and get at once a million dollars a year salary, for any big firm of financiers would make its fortune if it had on its staff a mind-reader upon whom it could rely.

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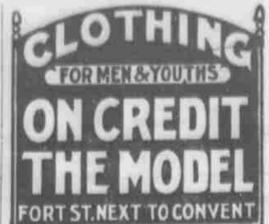


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