

NELSON'S PAPERS SAFE

Preserved from Destruction by the Earthquake in Sicily.

Every student of history, even those who are not interested in the career of England's most famous admiral, Lord Nelson, will be gratified to learn that the great chest, crammed full of his private and confidential correspondence, with his Egeria, Emma, Lady Hamilton, with King Ferdinand and Queen Caroline, of Naples, with the famous British Premier Pitt, and most of the leading statesmen, commanders, diplomat, and men of letters of the century ago, have escaped destruction in the recent earthquake in the northern portion of Sicily and southern provinces of the Italian peninsula. All these documents, as well as a quantity of interesting relics of Nelson, are preserved at the castle of Maniace, on the slope of Mount Etna, in charge of his grandnephew, Alexander Hood, second son of the Duke of Brontë, and a telegram from Alex Hood, dated from Palermo, has relieved the anxiety of his friends and relatives in England as to his own safety, and also as to the safety of the historic treasures at the castle of Maniace, which, though severely shaken by the earthquake, seems to have sustained no great injury.

Alexander Hood, first secretary of the Princess of Wales, and formerly Gentleman in Waiting to Queen Victoria, and Comptroller of the Household to the Princess of Wales's mother, the late Duchess of Teck, is one of the younger brothers of the present Viscount Bridport, and has a life tenancy of the extensive estates which were inherited by his grandnephew, Alexander Hood, second son of the Duke of Brontë, in the early part of the last century. Alexander Hood had charge of the management and administration of the Brontë estates throughout the lifetime of his father, and did so well with them in the way of development and improvement, that the late Duke of Brontë, before his death, bequeathed the property to his younger son for life, conditional upon his paying a certain amount therefrom to his eldest brother, the heir to the title. For although Alexander Hood is known throughout Sicily as the Duke of Brontë, yet the title in reality belongs to his elder brother, the present Lord Bridport.

Lord Bridport is a widower, and has two daughters. The son, Maurice Hood, is heir to the English Viscountcy and to the Irish Barony of Bridport, and likewise to the Dukedom of Brontë. Quite recently he has started his family by marrying Miss Dorothy Orme, an actress, cousin of Mrs. Denyse Orme, one of the stage, who became the wife of Lord Chandos, and heir of the Duke of Buccleugh, not long ago. Failing Maurice Hood, the British honors would go to Lord Bridport's next surviving brother, the Hon. William Hood, of the Royal Navy, while the Italian Dukedom of Brontë would pass to the eldest of Lord Bridport's two daughters, the Hon. Mrs. Herbert Cook, married to the son of the late Patrick Cook, Bart. The first wife of the present Duke of Brontë is a remarkable female as well as in the male line.

GREAT ADMIRAL'S HEIRS AT LAW

At the death of Admiral Lord Nelson his English and Irish titles and honors descended to his elder parson brother, Canon Nelson, of Canterbury, whose only son predeceased him. On the canon's death his daughter, Lady Charlotte Nelson, married to the second Lord Bridport, succeeded to the Italian Dukedom of Brontë and to the Brontë estates of the great admiral, but the Earl and Baron of Nelson and the Countess of Widdowson, who were the next heirs, went to Thomas Bolton, son of the admiral's sister, Mrs. Thomas Bolton. He took the name and arms of his uncle, the admiral, and the present aged Earl Nelson is his son.

This division of honors and property was not accomplished without a lawsuit, which attracted a great deal of public attention. The late Lord Nelson, by his will, left everything that he could to her son, the late Lord Bridport, including all the admiral's relics and papers, the late Lord Nelson inheriting only what he was strictly entitled to by law. That is how it comes that the Brontë Dukedom of Nelson, his extensive English and Irish titles and honors, his papers and treasures, are in the possession of the Hood family, of which Lord Bridport is the chief, instead of in the hands of the present Earl Nelson. It is Alexander Hood who by the terms of his father's will has charge of the great admiral's papers, with his correspondence with all the British and foreign sovereigns of the British Empire, the Minister Pitt, and likewise all his correspondence with Emma, Lady Hamilton.

During the London season Alexander Hood will generally be found in attendance on the Princess of Wales at Marlborough House, but at other times he makes his home at the Castle of Maniace. It is a grand old place, but some thousands of years ago it passed into the possession of the Hood family, and was the residence of Lord Nelson in 1781. At that time no member of the family had visited the place in forty years, and it is of interest to add that Admiral Nelson never once took the trouble to inspect the property, or to set foot on his Sicilian lands. The late Lord Bridport, however, took the place in hand, spent a considerable sum of money in repairing the castle and buildings, and in developing the property, turning over the entire management thereof in 1876 to his son, Alexander Nelson Hood. To-day the estate, which is traversed by nearly twenty miles of fine roads, produces a large quantity of excellent wine, of the Malvasia order, which yields a very handsome return, while the castle has been converted into a sumptuous and commodious residence, and is now a summer almost from cellar to roof with Nelson relics. The entire estate, which is of vast extent, is known as Brontë, taking its name from the rumbling of the volcano, on the northern slopes of which it is situated, for "Brontë" means "thunder." Alexander Hood is a bachelor and likely to remain so. He is a novelist, an engineer and a sportsman, and is decorated by the King of Italy with the Order of the Star for his services to Italian agriculture, while in addition to his remarkable business attainments and his accomplishments he possesses a considerable degree of pluck, which he manifested on one memorable occasion when, having resisted a demand for tribute by the Mafia, he was subjected to a night attack by a force of bandits on the castle of Maniace, following the castle and buildings, and in the confusion he killed some and wounded others. The latter he did not turn over to the police, but had his wounds cared for at the castle, where they were treated by him with utmost kindness and hospitality until their recovery, since which time all Sicilian brigands have given him a wide berth, regarding him with good will and respect.

BOXING ONCE THE SPORT OF KINGS

Although English people are generally supposed to entertain infinitely less prejudice against the pug race than Americans, yet notwithstanding the recent fatal defeat of the Canadian "Tommy" Burns by the negro "Jack" Johnson, at Sydney, Australia, aroused a greater degree of indignation and denunciation in the United Kingdom. It is made the theme everywhere of expressions of regret at the decline of the decency and of the respectability of the pug race, and comparisons are made to modern day prize fighting, which made between the contestants of the present day and those of sixty and a hundred years ago. When the allied sovereigns, that is to say, Emperor Alexander I of Russia and King Frederick William III of Prussia, and their generals visited England in 1814 Lord Lutwiler, drawing them to a series of boxing matches in his drawing room, Jackson being the official present pugilist, and Alexander I. Warren, near London, and is reported as having shaken hands with the winner, George IV, when Prince of Wales, was

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J. Q. A. WARD WINS A POINT.

Oral Testimony in Suit Against Society of the Army of the Cumberland.

John A. Dutton, of Harry & Dutton, No. 76 William street, was called by J. Q. A. Ward, the plaintiff in his suit in the Supreme Court against members of the Society of the Army of the Cumberland, to recover \$25,000 for breach of contract in rejecting his models of an equestrian statue of General Philip H. Sheridan, recently made a motion in the Supreme Court for a commission to examine orally certain of the defendants who are not residents of this state, instead of by means of written interrogatories.

BIBLIOPHILE SOCIETY DINNER.

At the annual dinner of the Bibliophile Society, held in the Hotel Astor on Monday evening, Senator Henry Cabot Lodge will speak, and short addresses are expected from J. Pierpont Morgan, George W. Vanderbilt, John D. Crimmins, Justice Victor J. Dowling, Justice Charles H. Truax, William M. Schmitzer, Henry Harper, Adrian H. Joline and Francis L. Stetson, who are members of the society. The Bibliophile Society was formed for the study and promotion of the arts pertaining to fine book-making and illustrating and the occasional publication of specially designed and illustrated books for distribution among its members.

GERMAN CHARITY BALL.

The entire first floor of the Waldorf-Astoria Hotel was given over last night to the annual German Charity Ball, held for the benefit of deserving German charitable institutions. The attendance exceeded three thousand, and the receipts from all sources were estimated at about \$120,000. The ball was opened at 10:30 o'clock by Harry T. Echwege, with Mrs. Francis Drax the committee of arrangements included representatives from the auxiliary committees, the Bachelor Circle, Mrs. Anna Voorhies, Mrs. L. S. Poggenburg, Henry Boettger, John E. Heintz, Jacob Siegel, William H. Fischer, Herman Ridder, George Ehret, Edward M. Burghard, William Wicke, J. Christopher G. Hüpfel, R. J. Schaefer, Sulman Sons, Emil L. Boes, Herman Frasch, Ad. De Bary, George A. Keseler, H. T. Echwege, George C. Gold, Herman Steicker, Charles A. Stadler, Jacob Ruppert, Mrs. Albert Weber, George F. Sauer, Charles F. Bauerdorf, August Lichow, Martin Schrenkelsen, Leopold Schmid and George S. Nicholas.

A WEDDING.

Miss Helen Howard, daughter of Robert Howard, of Riverdale Drive and Mrs. Ernest and William C. Porter, of No. 60 West 101st street, were married Wednesday in the Church of the Transfiguration.

NEXT CANADIAN GOVERNOR GENERAL.

London, Jan. 28.—It is reported that the Right Hon. John Sinclair, Secretary for Scotland, who has just been raised to the peerage, will be the next Governor General of Canada. In 1904 he married Lady Marjorie Gordon, daughter of the late Lord Aberdeen, who was Governor General of Canada from 1886 to 1890, during which time Mr. Sinclair was secretary to the earl.

NATHANIEL P. WARDWELL.

Waterbury, N. Y., Jan. 28.—Nathaniel P. Wardwell, president of the Waterbury National Bank, died suddenly from heart disease to-day at his home in this city.

OBITUARY.