

CURRENT SOCIAL CHAT AT NATION'S CAPITAL

The Engagement of "Polly" Morton Pleases Washington Folk—A Real Prince Coming Over to Look for an American Bride—The Retirement of Sir Mortimer and Lady Durand.

Washington, Nov. 17.—The announcement of Miss "Polly" Morton's engagement was received with much interest in Washington, where that frankly engaging young woman is happily remembered. "Polly" Morton's debut was made in this city less than three years ago, and from the date of her appearance she has enjoyed the gayest sort of a good time. Bright and unaffected, of a happy and kindly disposition, she enlisted the admiring attention of even the most casual acquaintances. "Polly" Morton's bow and smile would have made her rich had she been the poorest of the poor. As it was, it won her friends by the score and a warm welcome everywhere she went.



MISS PAULINE MORTON, Whose Engagement to J. Hopkins Smith Has Been Announced.

Her smart little trap, with "Polly" at the reins and her pet poodle, a fluffy little bunch of white fur, at her side, was a familiar sight in the streets during her residence in this city. Furthermore, "Polly" Morton knew how to dress. Of a rose-leaf complexion, with twinkling brown eyes and wayward masses of curly golden hair, she was a good sight, gowned in fetching "tailor-made" frocks and smiling from under the brims of large feather-trimmed hats. Altogether, Miss Pauline Morton gave every evidence that she had a fiery godmother of a generosity quite infinite. Withal, the young woman enjoyed the general reputation of being quite unspoiled, a tribute to her character that older and more experienced folk might well look upon with envy. She was presented to Washington society a few months after her graduation from a fashionable school in Chicago, and her father's acceptance of a position in President Roosevelt's cabinet. The presentation took place at her father's residence in Washington, some home of the late Senator Quay, which the Morton family occupied during Paul Morton's short term of service as secretary of the navy. The affair was one of the most brilliant of that season, brags buttons and gold on the uniforms of the officers of both army and navy, but principally the latter making a scene well worth remembering. Miss Morton was the recipient of more attention than one season, frequently falls to the lot of important women in a whole lifetime.

Mrs. Morton and Miss Morton have been abroad the past summer and only returned recently. It was her intention to win this well-endowed bride is Hopkins Smith II. of New York, the son of J. Hopkins Smith, a retired capitalist, who is worth millions. He is himself the treasurer of the United States Yacht Club. He is a Harvard graduate, member of many clubs and an enthusiastic yachtsman. His greatest public work was the winning of the Kaiser's cup at Kiel three years ago when, in his racing yacht, Uncle Sam, he sailed away from all victors of Europe and crossed the line victor by many lengths. The wedding will probably be one of the most brilliant of the coming season in the metropolis. The Mortons are occupying the New York home of Secretary and Mrs. Elihu Root.

Prince Francis of Teck, the brother of the princess of Wales, is to be the distinguished guest of the coming winter in Washington, according to letters from London. Additional interest will be taken in the prince's visit owing to the fact that he has recently had the great good fortune to be selected by Mr. and Mrs. von Andre as their bridegroom. Prince Francis is one of the most eligible bachelors in England. Mrs. von Andre is a sister of Mrs. Chaney M. Depew and is well known in Washington, where she was a frequent guest of the Depew family at the Corcoran house on Lafayette square. Although not stipulated in the generous bequest of the princess, it is understood that they favor an American alliance for the prince, so that his coming will be the signal for every designing mama at the capital to shower him with attentions. It would be interesting to discover whether the settlement of this generous income on Prince Francis had any ulterior motive behind it, and if the address were campaigning for a husband, an American alliance, Paulding, whose matrimonial attempt was the source of much gossip here several years ago at the time of her engagement to young Edie of the aristocratic John R. Edie was the devoted suitor.

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for the hand and fortune of Miss Paulding for the entire winter, Senator Depew even going so far as to purchase a house for Miss Paulding, which, it was understood, was to be a part of her dowry. Just when society was looking for the wedding invitations, the announcement was made that the engagement was broken off, with no reasons being vouchsafed the interested coterie in which Miss Paulding was a conspicuous member. It has always been current gossip, however, that the trouble came over Lieutenant Edie's dissatisfaction with the marriage settlement that Senator Depew was willing to make for this impetuous naval officer. Young Edie, however, bravely got over his disappointment in not securing a portion of the Depew millions, and subsequently married the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Jesse Hilles of Baltimore and is now stationed in Manila.

Altho always among the most impetuous of royalties, the children of the duke of Teck have, with the exception of Prince Francis, made excellent marriages. Prince May is the future queen of England. Prince Adolphus, duke of Teck, the eldest brother, married Lady Margaret Evelyn Grosvenor, the daughter of the late duke of Westminster, the wealthiest peer in England, and the youngest brother, Prince Alexander, became the husband, last year, of Princess Alice, of Albany, the niece of King Edward.

Prince Francis has been in the army and in business, and has tried various enterprises without success, but it is said, without blame to himself. He is goodlooking, and his relationship to royalty should certainly commend him to an American heiress, if that product of this land be not a bit chary, after recent developments in some foreign-American households. The prince came to America in the company of the Depew family, and it would no doubt be a great relief to his relatives if he made a wealthy match. An American girl would be much more acceptable to them than a middle-class English heiress or a wealthy girl from the colonies.

The White House is again dull and deserted with the president and Mrs. Roosevelt in Panama. They left their two younger sons in charge of their household, and attendants in the White House, and Miss Ethel in school at the National Cathedral School for Girls. Society will continue a lover's retirement, but will return to Washington and be established in their winter home before the return of the president and Mrs. Roosevelt, and that they will all dine together in the White House on Thanksgiving.

The retirement of the British ambassador from the diplomatic service of his country will remove from Washington one of the most interesting families in the world. His three years' residence served to bring about many warm attachments, for the keynote of life at the embassy is a certain sincerity and a willingness of purpose which makes for true friendship. Of undemonstrative mien and disposition, Sir Mortimer is a thinker and a student, yet once his attention is enlisted, he gives heartily of his wide experience and his large culture to the matter at hand. In consequence, the passing of days served but to cement his friendships, and few have a more loyal following than King Edward's representative at Washington. That Sir Mortimer could play "like a boy," with all a boy's enthusiasm and earnestness, was evidenced by his acknowledged leadership at Lenox, at which resort he passed the playtime of his year.

Not less will Lady Durand be missed. Of a retiring disposition, a lover of books and the quiet joys of a private home life, Lady Durand was none the less a delightful companion, and the her circle of acquaintance was not so large, nor so varied as Sir Mortimer's, nevertheless her departure will be sincerely regretted by those who enjoyed close association with her. With her young daughter, Miss Josephine, who from the first day of her appearance in society entered with hearty good will into the life of the city, Lady Durand made the embassy a center for all that is best in the social life of Washington. Entertainments, which were frequent, were always marked by a certain distinctness and a certain dignity, accepted, not only for the dinner, but for the gay little dances which were an especial feature of the Durands' first season in Washington. The costume dance was a favorite mode of entertainment, but even such a simple little affair as the daily pouring of tea brought to the embassy the most interesting men and women, young and old, in resident, diplomatic and official circles. Following a long service in India and in Persia, and later in Madrid, one of the most conventional and austere courts in the world, life in Washington would have been very trying to persons of less balance or to those who lacked a wide and varied experience, and the fact that the ambassador's family, from the eldest to the youngest member, retires from the hurly-burly

KING COURTS ASTOR; CURIOSITY IS PIQUED

Edward Wants to See Hever Castle—Other Exclusive Gossip from London.

London, Nov. 8.—In the earlier years of his residence in England, William Waldorf Astor was often accused of toadying to royalty in the hope that it might help him to obtain a peerage some day. Whatever grounds there may have been for that opinion, it is certain that in recent years he has done nothing to justify it. Since that memorable occasion in 1900 when he affronted Sir Berkeley Milne by ordering him to withdraw from one of his entertainments, and thereafter offended the king, then prince of Wales, who was a warm friend of Sir Berkeley's, he has been at no pains to cultivate royalty. Rather, he has minor royalties shown a decided disposition to cultivate him. Now it would appear that the king himself is seeking a rapprochement with the expatriated American multimillionaire.

When the duke and duchess of Connaught and their daughter, Princess Patricia—the duke is the king's brother—visited young Astor and his wife at Clivedon, the other day, they brought with them a message from the king to the effect that his majesty wished to assume his duties as president of the senate. Lieutenant Timmons and his wife, who was Miss Fairbanks, are at present paying their parents a visit, and will not spend the winter in Washington, having given up their house on Le Roy place, as the lieutenant has been ordered to duty on the Pacific coast. Mrs. Fairbanks is one of the few women who, as the wife of a vice-president, are not so much distinguished by their own and do not seem to be affected by the official dictums emanating from the White House.

Usually the chateleine of the vice-presidential mansion finds herself in the inevitable lull of the winter season, but because she is outshone by the pomp and circumstance which nowadays surrounds the White House coteries. During Mr. Fairbanks' term in the senate, however, his wife took an important part in all social affairs at the capital, and made a host of friends through her graciousness and savoir faire. Mrs. Fairbanks returned to Washington as the wife of the vice-president, she should surround herself with that same delightful circle of which she was the official, particular star, and go on her way untrammelled by the new rules of official etiquette laid down at the beginning of the Roosevelt regime.

The announcement of the marriage of Mrs. Alice Judson of this city, formerly Mrs. Cyrus, to Cambridge Livingston, also of New York, on Friday, at the home of the bride's sister, Mrs. Albert Key, came as a great surprise to Washington, where Mrs. Judson returned to make her residence a year ago. The bride, who was formerly popular in Washington, is the eldest of the four daughters of the late John Condit Smith, having an exciting escape from death during the Boxer insurrection in China, where she was the guest of the then secretary of the American legation and Mrs. Herbert Squires.

Mrs. John Hay has returned from her summer home on Lake Sunapee, and has reopened the Hay mansion on Lafayette square. It has been the custom of the family for years to have a reunion on Thanksgiving day, much after the old New England habit, and this year will be no exception to the rule. Mrs. Payne Whitney is expected to arrive in town early next week, but of course, owing to the deep mourning of the family, they will take no part in the festivities of the winter season.

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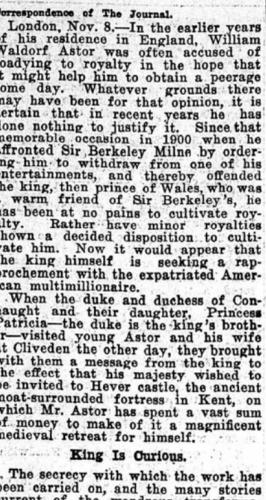
"The Reincarnation of Mozart."



PEPITO ARRIOLA, THE NINE-YEAR-OLD WONDER CHILD PIANIST. Pepito Arriola is hailed as a genius. He is not yet 10 years old, but his touch is said to be ideal, clear, yet light, and a sensation the other day. He was "discovered" by Professor Arthur Nikisch, and is still studying in Berlin. During the years of his tutelage he will only be allowed to come before the public at rare intervals, to encourage him and to enable him to show the progress he has made. The piano on which he plays was especially constructed for him, with keys that are narrower than usual. The sweetness of his hands made this necessary. Pepito Arriola has been called "the reincarnation of Mozart," a happy augury for his artistic future.—London Sketch.

EXPEDITION STARTS TO SAVE HUGE SHIP STRANDED ON MAGELLAN STRAIT

One of the most remarkable undertakings in marine history to save a wrecked steamship is now under way. The \$300,000 steamboat Olympian, built in 1884 by John Roach, at Chester on the Delaware, is now high and dry on a sandy shore in the Straits of Magellan near the extreme southern point of South America, more than 8,000 miles away. The steamship Amethyst, after being fitted out with the latest wrecking appliances, has recently started on the long journey to help float the Olympian and tow her to New York. After necessary repairs have been made the boat will be placed in commission under command of Captain Jacob Wise.



BOW AND STERN VIEWS OF THE OLYMPIAN ON BEACH IN STRAITS OF MAGELLAN.

Several storms had been encountered, but both vessels were unharmed. While resting quietly at anchor on the night of March 18 a furious wind from the antarctic regions arose. The Olympian parted her anchor chains and was blown ashore. It was just at the height of the monthly tide, which at that point rises forty-two feet. It was decided to wait until the next high rise. For forty-three days the Zealandia remained by her charge, but was finally obliged to abandon the task. The limited wrecking facilities in that section, too, were of no avail, and the Zealandia resumed her trip to New York alone, leaving Captain Wise, Crocker and two sailors in charge of the stranded vessel. The steamship Amethyst has been fitted out for several months, and carries a full outfit of wrecking paraphernalia, including 1,400 feet of track and a dozen dump cars. The Olympian lies with her port side toward the water and the winds and tides have combined to pile up about 2,000 tons of sand and gravel between the vessel's side and the water.

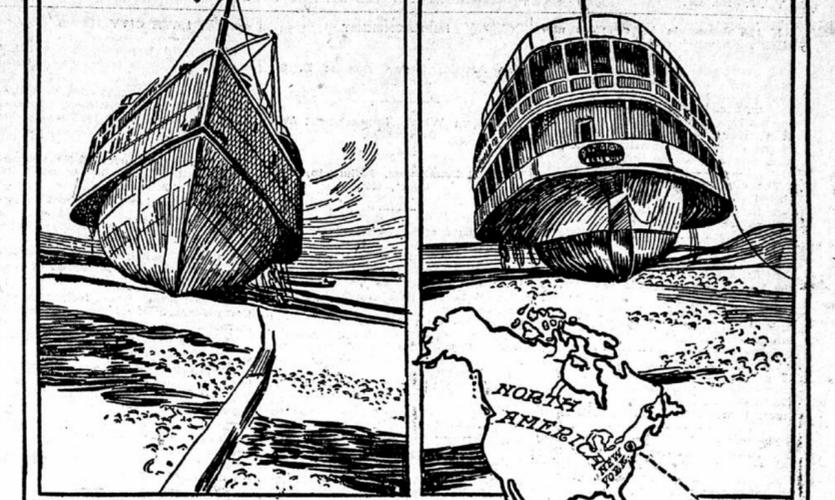
This trip to rescue the Olympian is the most remarkable ever undertaken by a wrecking crew. Mr. Dimon has no doubt of its complete success. The place where the steamboat is stranded is one of the most desolate on earth. It will take the Amethyst nearly two months to get to the Strait of Magellan, and if the Olympian is saved the report of the expedition will be received with the deepest interest by marine engineers.

General Miles is carrying all before him here. He has been feted and fussed over and is an out-and-out conqueror here. King Edward summoned him to Buckingham palace privately, and they lunched together when they had a long and interesting talk about military affairs. The king was considerably impressed with the general's conversational and descriptive powers. What a handsome man he is! I hear the marchioness of Townshend has written a sonnet to his eyes which will be inserted in the next edition of her poems. The mer has all been trying to find out where his tailor resides, for it is admitted far and near that never a tea fight, the other afternoon, every woman was gushing about his manners. They said they were "too perfect for anything," and that he was "Chesterfield resurrected." Is it an American idea to send sheaves of flowers to your hostess if she is organizing a party for you? It is a picturesque notion and a kindly one, too. Men don't bother their heads to do it here. The general must have spent a small fortune on the masses of blooms he ordered for ladies who were giving parties for him. The king had to do what he considered a very ill-mannered thing the other day. But there was no help for it. At the Houghton meeting at Newmarket, Countess Cadogan, who has always been a persons grata at court, begged his majesty to speak for a little while with her daughter, Lady Sophie Scott, who has been "cut dead" since she eloped with a married man a few years ago. The king, had, of course, to refuse. Lady Sophie now regrets bitterly her action. Her husband, Sir Samuel Scott, who is an enormously rich banker, had given her immense provocation for her unwise action; the best proof being that altho her conduct had resulted in her being "cut dead," Sir Samuel, whom she eloped obtaining a divorce, Sir Samuel took his own wife back. But no one would be seen speaking to Lady Sophie and her mother has taken the situation greatly to heart. Hence her stupid request to the king. —Lady Mary.

Marlboroughs to Make Peace? Notwithstanding all rumors to the contrary, I venture to predict that there will be no permanent separation agreement between the Marlboroughs. The latest development is the appearance of the king as a mediator. He has written the duke to come and talk the matter over with him. His majesty has settled plenty of matrimonial differences before now. He is an adept at it. They will, of course, live apart for a while, but I am convinced that they will come together again. The headstrong and self-willed, the American duchess is not so far from her husband in England has no position. Everyone fights shy of her, without regard to the justice or injustice of their attitude. Some of the duke's friends, including his brilliant cousin, Winston Churchill, consider that she has shown a lamentable lack of that wifely submissiveness which English husbands expect from the partners of their joy and sorrows. For instance, when her mother came over here to marry her present husband, Marlborough forbade her to go to the ceremony on the ground that he did not approve of the marriage of divorced persons. But she defied him and went. This resulted in their first serious quarrel. Ever since they have been, off and on, bitter bickerings. On the other hand, her friends will tell you the quarrel is all his fault. He

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