

MARRIAGE IN HIGH LIFE.

Ward McAllister Says There Are Society Love-Matches.

The Difference Between European and American Society - Girls Who Have Married for Titles and Girls Who Would Like To.

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HERE IS no doubt that American girls have a great fondness for foreign titles," said Ward McAllister the other day, in speaking of international marriages, "and presumably the fondness for titles extends to the possessors of them.

If it did not it is scarcely necessary to say there wouldn't be much happiness in international marrying. Just as Sir Harcourt Courty in 'London Assurance' makes an arrangement to secure the estate of an heiress through his marriage with her, and takes the estate with all the live stock on it, so the American heiress procures the title of countess, or baroness, or duchess, or whatever it may be which has fascinated her by accepting the foreign nobleman on whom such titles grow and have their being.

"The engagement of the Englishman to the fair American was led up to, I believe, through a great deal of very prettily-colored romance. As a matter of fact, Lord Mandeville fell ill while visiting the house of Mrs. Yznaga in Orange, and his illness was so serious that it was impossible to remove him from the house. During the time of his illness the fair young girl nursed him, and when he finally recovered from his sickness he made her an offer of his hand. She accepted it, and the marriage was celebrated here with a great deal of pomp and splendor. I don't remember exactly when that was, but it was more than twelve years ago. You will remember that Lord and Lady Mandeville returned here to New York on a visit to Willie K. Vanderbilt and his wife in '83, and it was in their honor that the Vanderbilts gave that wonderful fancy-dress ball which long ago became part and parcel of our social history.

"The Mandevilles have not been in New York since that time, but I hear from them constantly in London in an indirect way, and I am told that Lady Mandeville has made a wonderful social success there. Lord Mandeville, of course, is not a wealthy man, and she is not, therefore, able to entertain in the splendid fashion which is common enough in England among swell people; but I am assured that the very best people in the kingdom crowd to her modest house and through her simple entertainments. She is credited with a charm of manner and a magnetism which are much more appreciated in a hostess than any splendid hospitality she may be able to dispense."

"Is the report true that a very handsome young woman, who has figured prominently in New York, Washington and Newport society and who is the



LADY MANDEVILLE.

daughter of a Chicago man reputed to be worth somewhere in the neighborhood of \$10,000,000 has refused a number of offers from eligible young Americans, and has announced her determination to go over to Europe next year and marry a husband of aristocratic connections and ancient lineage?"

"I can only guess who the young lady is to whom you refer, and I can only say that if she has any intention of the kind she has not had the frankness to acknowledge it. If any such raid is contemplated on the supply of foreign titles she has been discreet enough to maintain the utmost silence with respect to it."

"Do you think that the ordinary American girl in society who has money, or whose father has money, which is the same thing, would prefer a young Englishman to a young American, if they were equal in every respect except that the Englishman possessed a title?"

"I don't know what you mean by the ordinary American girl, but there are some American girls undoubtedly who would take the title. There are other

American girls who would allow their personal affections and possibly their patriotism to influence them in favor of native talent."

When this point in the conversation had been reached Mr. McAllister was smiling and good-natured in the extreme, and indulged occasionally in a very low and not at all unmusical laugh. It was not difficult to discover that when he said that American girls were fond of titles he meant that the assertion should have all the significance it could possibly be made to bear, but when he was pressed to make some explicit statement further than the simple one with which he started out he fenced the inquiries with a skill which evidently came from much experience in light wordy warfare and in clever drawing-room badinage. I appreciated all this, but returned again to the attack.

"You say that American girls are fond of foreign titles and intimate that they would rather marry a titled Englishman than an untitled American. Why do you think this is the case? What advantages, social or otherwise, will they enjoy in England or in France which they do not enjoy here?"

"Well, there," said Mr. McAllister, "is a question which I can answer. I'll pass by the fact that there is something in being a Duchess or a Countess which is attractive to the ordinary woman, and will say nothing of the fact that a titled position has a species of superficial glitter and fascination for them, and simply point out this one thing: The social position of a man or woman or a family in America is something that has no permanency whatever. What I mean to say is that there is nothing inherently permanent about it. It depends on outside circumstances altogether. If a family starts in with wealth and the energy and disposition to entertain their friends in society, they can maintain themselves pretty well on certain given lines; but if their fortunes are affected in any way whatever or if they cease to entertain by reason of lack of desire or any combination of circumstances, their social position suffers at once. Men and women in society here are precisely what they make themselves, and if they don't go forward they are bound to go backward. This situation is part and parcel of the condition of the country and the people.

"In countries like England and France where society is very much older, this is all different. Certain families have certain positions and they hold them not only from year to year but from generation to generation and the titles in the family are simply indications of their claims to this recognition. They may stop entertaining for years if they please and go and live in China for any length of time they choose. When they come back they start in precisely where they left off. There is not the constant struggle and emulation which is characteristic of society in every great American city. A woman who has a social position knows



MISS MACKAY.

that she has got to be doing something continually to maintain that position. And women here who are fretted and worried continually with this constant necessity for being constantly on the alert, welcome such a condition as this with the utmost satisfaction. A woman knows that if she married a title, this title means a position in England; that nothing can ever take that away from her. If she starts in by being somebody, she is somebody to the end of time. In New York she may be somebody to-day and nobody whatever in a few years from now. I don't say this in the way of criticism at all. Perhaps the condition of things in this country is much sounder and much healthier than it is in the older countries of Europe. Perhaps it is part and parcel of our Republican form of Government. I am simply stating the facts in the case."

"You don't think there is much marrying for love in society nowadays, do you?"

"Oh, yes, they do it. As Pook Bah remarks, 'I have known it done.' There was the case of Miss Fricko, who married Frank Foster the other day. That certainly was a marriage of affection. Miss Fricko was unquestionably one of the most beautiful women in the country, and Mr. Foster, although he is every thing that a woman would care to have in a man, I believe, by no means wealthy."

"But was that not an exception to the rule?"

"Oh, I am not prepared to say that."

"As a matter of fact you don't think that marriages in New York are as much a matter of adjustment between parents as they are in France, and is not one party expected to supply money, perhaps, and the other party social position? Is not there an absolute exchange of advantages in some way or other?"

"I don't think," said Mr. McAllister, "that we have got matters to the point they have long ago reached in France, but it would be idle to deny that there are a great many marriages which are known in France as marriage de convenance."

Mrs. CHARLOTTE SMITH, of the Women's Industrial League, has organized a crusade against the admittance of improper women into the ladies' reception-room at the east side of the House wing, and the suppression of the visits of like persons to the corridor and waiting-rooms about the Capitol at Washington.

APRIL DRESS PARADE.

In City Streets It Makes Perpetual Festival.

The Noticeable Thing About the Spring Gowns is Their Sleeves - The Newest Developments in the Remarkable and Picturesque Summer Styles.

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Our curiosity has been satisfied measurably about our spring gowns. The Easter parade is over and the transition from the heavy furs and rich draperies of winter to the freshness and delicacy of spring clothing has been accomplished to the general satisfaction. The change in the aspect of the streets, the theaters, the opera houses and all places of amusement is nothing short of startling. The sudden blossoming of heliotrope and Spanish yellow, of flower-sprigged chailies and broad rose-colored sashes, of great lace hats covered with wreaths of bright plaided ribbons, of flowing veils and parasols plaited of crepe de chine with handles of inlaid wood and Dresden china balls, the flowering of the tailor jacket and the gay and spirituelle bonnets is as exhilarating in its way as to turn from a gray and sodden landscape and come face to face with a great glowing bed of pansies. Luxurious as is the winter wardrobe it is only the summer dress that a woman really likes to wear.

To begin with the bonnet, I saw in the Easter fashion ebullition and in the church parade nothing much prettier than this, which was shown in one of the city's great bon marches. A ficulike scrap of silver lace finished in a pattern of Vandyke points and edged with silver cord was folded in plaits like a fan. This fan was the bonnet save that under its folds in front were one or two dull red nasturtium flowers. Or this: A gold bullion toque made to imitate the braid of a rough-and-ready straw with folds of black tulle to the face and a wreath of black velvet flower petals. Or this: An evening bonnet of white crepe shirred in radiating lines like a shell, each rib twisted with fine gold braids. Bands of Spanish yellow velvet came next the face and were covered with gold passementerie.

As to dimensions, the spring hat runs to mad extremes. One day last week I deliberately watched a woman buy seven hats in succession. The first one



THREE TOILETS FOR SPRING.

chosen was a morsel of a black lace handkerchief dropped on the hair and holding two or three buttercups. The second was a Neapolitan straw with a brim nearly a foot wide and bent and folded and twisted until you might have supposed its final shape the result of the manipulations of an artistically-minded cyclone. It was trimmed with green velvet and an avalanche of yellow ostrich tips, and though handsome was huge and smacked of the last century.

The especially noticeable thing about the spring gown is its sleeves. During the long months of winter the dress-makers decided to add another half yard or so of material to their already ample dimensions, and this increase is concentrated at the top, where pads are beginning to be required to support the high shoulder, while hardly enough is spared to make a skin tight fit about the forearm. The natural effect of these eccentric wings on the shoulders is the neck's decline and fall in importance as an item of woman's beauty or even as a feature of her anatomy. The bits of lingerie most in vogue are the Henri Deux, Catherine de Medici and Joan d'Arc ruffs, which are very wide and laid in huge plaits of lace about the throat, often touching the ears and resting with their outer edges on the sleeve wings, thus reducing women to a neckless animal whose head rises most ungracefully, almost as if beauty were humped, between her shoulders. These styles are what we have agreed to call "picturesque," but when carried to the fashionable extreme they are far from beautiful.

The few who enjoy the entree to the private rooms of the Fifth avenue modists are observing the beauties of a great number of swell summer gowns. Mrs. McKee, the mother of the younger who is alleged to be the ruling spirit of the administration, has three suits in process of construction which are at once very simple and very becoming. One of these is a light summer gown for Deer Park. The skirt is of chaille, the waist of figured wash silk. The shirred bodice is belted with a ribbon and has jacket fronts, which are quite novel. The sleeves are finished with jockeys of simulated triple capes, which are not pretty because they are meaningless, but the broad flower-decked but which goes with the costume is very pretty indeed.

The second of Mrs. McKee's dresses is a striped silk in pinkish heliotrope and straw yellow, made with apron drapery buttoned on with small gold buttons, with Eton jacket, pique skirt and cuffs and narrow yellow sash tied on one side. A small capote bonnet with high aigrettes for trimmings is made to accompany this toilet and matches it in colors.

The third dress is made with a poisonous yellowish gray grenadine with jacket fronts and revers turned back

with blue silk. This is worn with a shirt of cream-colored linen with gold buttons and with a belt with a gold buckle.

A New York firm has completed a trossieu for an Easter bride which is worthy of notice, every item being in excellent taste and the latest fashion.

The bridal traveling dress of gray cloth is characterized by extreme simplicity and neatness, combined with a faultless accuracy of cut which lifts it above the commonplace and into the realm of the artistic. It has a simply-draped skirt with front of a plaited material and bodice with a postillion back and ornamentations of small silver



A PRETTY HOUSE DRESS.

buttons and one of those long silver buckles which no fashionable woman's wardrobe should be without this season. The sleeves are gathered into deep cuffs buttoned.

An afternoon dress is of white India silk flowered with long sprays of yellow honeysuckle blooms. It is a princess gown with petticoat of white lace, and girle and dainty shoulder knots of yellow velvet. A pretty bodice feature is the knotting of lace scarfs across the bosom from the armholes on either side, the scarf ends hanging below the waist line. The sleeves are high on the shoulders, but not high enough to necessitate padding the sheer material.

A ball dress is of Spanish yellow crepe, embroidered about the bottom in a way ribbon effect with green silk threads. The bodice is cut with a square neck, edged about completely with knots of green velvet ribbon. There is a green velvet sash and short puffed sleeves.

A trained dinner dress of silver gray ottoman silk is richly and exquisitely embroidered with shaded Parma violets, a mass of the flowers dropping upon the lap and down the front of the gown. One side of the skirt is draped with heliotrope crepe and the violet embroidery is continued about the train. There are short sleeves, a velvet sash and a low cut bodice whose crossing folds are edged with crepe.

A negligee of Spanish yellow China silk has a heavy black silk cord girle. Another in gray silk has a Henri Deux ruff or black lace in Vandyke points. A tea gown in pinkish heliotrope crepe is gathered at the waist with watered heliotrope ribbons. The drooping sleeves are lined with white silk and the Joan d'Arc neck ruff of white point lace is very full and wide, overlapping similar ruches which are gathered into the armholes above the arms making huge epaulettes which fall down over the sleeves.

A pretty little house dress is of pale tan-colored nun's cloth with a deep Persian border. The skirt is round and full, and the gathered bodice has a pointed girle; below the collar is a deep rill.

Several pretty wraps go with this trossieu. A handsome long wrap is of tan-colored cloth with collar, sleeves and girle of green velvet. A jacket of blue cloth is very pretty with simulated zouave of silver passementerie and high rolling collar. It does not button, but is closed with silver ornaments and tasseled cords. A magnificent evening wrap is of white sicilienne completely covered with elaborate gold-wrought embroidery and lined with moss-green silk. With this wrap goes a scarf of gold-dotted tulle to cover the head and be clasped at the throat with a gold ribbon, and a white feather fan with sticks and guards of mother-of-pearl inlaid with gold.



AN OPERA TOILET.

"This seems quite like old times," said one young woman the night Patti sang "Lakme," and indeed the Italian opera has drawn such houses as the Wagnerian music never dreamed of getting. Opera dress has been very pretty during the Italian season. Mrs. Henry E. Abbey has worn several superb toilets, one being canary-colored mousseline de soie, trimmed with lace. Mrs. Lloyd Byco was out on the "Lakme" evening in white silk trimmed with silver, and Mme. de Harrios wore canary satin with all her diamonds. ELEAN OSBORN.

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Advertisement for Physicians, listing Dr. B. Stockdale and Dr. J. S. Ryburn.

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Advertisement for Money to Loan, featuring the text 'MONEY TO LOAN' and 'On Farm Property. B. F. LINCOLN.'