

# Unhappy Princess Patricia Who Married a "Commoner"

## The Popular Daughter of the Duke of Connaught

### Separates from Mr. Ramsay, the Man for Whom She Threw Away Her Royal Rank and Title



"Lady Patricia" (As She Was Known After She Threw Away Her Royal Title as Princess), and Her Baby.

LONDON, March 18. PRINCESS MARY'S wedding is over. It was an impressive and imposing spectacle, which the unthinking masses of Greater London enjoyed with wide-eyed, open-mouthed enthusiasm.

But slowly things are beginning to leak out which were only known to those behind the scenes. Some of these things are almost comic, some are absolutely funny to anybody but a Britisher—and some are really tragic.

The readers of this page have already read of the endless conflicting things which arose from week to week and day to day to perplex and strain the resourcefulness of the committee of arrangements who had so many delicate questions to solve. Besides the problems of precedence, social prestige, what clothes to be worn and even the memorable row between the Duke of Atholl, the Lord Chamberlain, and the fat peereesses as to squeezing them into sixteen-inch chairs, there were several unexpected surprises and complications which developed only on the day of the wedding.

Of course, there has been much whispered comment as to why the Prince of Wales was not present at his royal sister's marriage. Was the Prince purposely sent away because his popular face and figure would have utterly eclipsed the rather plain face and not very distinguished figure of sister Mary?

Or did the King and his daughter take advantage of the absence of the Prince of Wales, who is touring India, to spring the announcement of Mary's engagement and pull off the marriage quickly before the popular young Prince got back to England to overshadow the newly married couple?

But head and shoulders above everything else is the shadow cast on the great event in Westminster Abbey by the absence of Commander the Honorable Alexander Ramsay, the "commoner" husband of the very popular "Princess Pat," daughter of the Duke of Connaught and cousin of Princess Mary.

The two most popular people in all Great Britain are the Prince of Wales and "Princess Pat." While the absence of the Prince of Wales is explained away by his important tour in India, there is no satisfactory explanation of why the Hon. Mr. Ramsay, husband of "Princess Pat," was not there the last day of February with his wife at the great ceremonial in famous Westminster Abbey.

Nobody dreamed that "Princess Pat's" husband would not be there. Not until the newspapers began to tabulate the guests did they make the astonishing discovery that Commander Ramsay was missing. They looked at each other in blank amazement and ran around to find out what had happened to Ramsay. Then the official statement was given out that Commander Ramsay's "official duties prevent him from attending Princess Mary's wedding."

Of course, this is nonsense. Everybody knows perfectly well that all the wheels of machinery of the British Government, social and official life were brought to a standstill whenever it interfered to the slightest degree with anybody's attendance at that great event.

Suppose Lloyd George, the Premier, had been absent, and the excuse was offered that England's Prime Minister was busy at home in his study reading public documents and just couldn't get around to the wedding. Everybody would laugh.

The significant absence of the husband of popular "Princess Pat" has spread among the general public what has long been known among those who are on the inside of things in high society circles.

"Princess Pat," who gave up the rank of royalty to marry a "commoner" just three years ago, is not happy with her "commoner" husband. The curious thing about it is that it appears that Mr. Ramsay is the one who tired of his royal bride. They have been only married three years, and yet for many months he and "Lady Patricia Ramsay" have practically been separated and living apart.

So thick and fast flew the rumors after the British public discovered the absence of Mr. Ramsay that King George and the Queen sent imperative orders to "Lady Patricia" and her husband that they absolutely must get together—at least, long enough to stop the rumors.

So the announcement the other day was handed to the papers, with a request that they give it great prominence, that Lady Patricia had left the Duke of Connaught's home and had gone to Paris to rejoin her husband, Commander Ramsay.

There are many circumstances about the unusual and rather romantic wedding of Princess Patricia and Commander Ramsay that would tend to make it unhappy unless the couple were very extraordinary persons. Of course, they were only human, and it seems that the natural consequences have happened.

The Princess gave up too much when she married Mr. Ramsay, and it transpires that he did not appreciate her sacrifices sufficiently. She reminded him of them perhaps rather often, and he grew weary of the reminders.

"Her Royal Highness Princess Patricia of Connaught" drove in royal state to Westminster Abbey on February 26, 1919, in nearly the same state as her cousin, Princess Mary, did the other day, and was there united to Commander the Hon. Alexander Ramsay, an active officer of the navy, brother of a Scotch earl, but not in immediate succession to the title.

At the conclusion of the ceremony it was announced that she had renounced her royal rank and title and her possible right of succession to the throne, and that she would henceforth take rank as a non-royal duke's daughter and be known as "Lady Patricia Ramsay." Even then she ranked higher than her husband, according to the Lord Chamberlain's rules, but the sacrifice of rank was a great one. One of the objects of her renunciation, if not only the one, was to save her husband from the embarrassment of living with a royal princess, who would receive honors in which he could not share.

It meant that she would no longer have a lady-in-waiting of high rank to attend her and an army officer of high rank, called an equerry, to accompany her when



Mr. Ramsay Teeing His Wife's Ball as They Played Golf on Their Honeymoon.

she went in public. She would no longer be saluted by the forces of the British army and navy in all parts of the world, or receive similar honors from foreign powers, as she had always done. If she went to Canada, where she lived when she was at the height of her popularity, she could no longer receive the same kind of public honors to which she had been accustomed.

At the great court receptions at Buckingham Palace the princesses of the royal family form an exclusive group about the Queen, while even duchesses of historic lineage are kept at a respectful distance. The former Princess Patricia would not, strictly speaking, belong in this supreme group of princesses, although it must be said that up to the present she has refrained from raising this delicate question.

At the wedding of Princess Mary in the Abbey the other day it was remarked by those who study such matters that the "Lady Patricia Ramsay" occupied a spacious seat with her father, the Duke of Connaught, in the section reserved for the royal family with the King and Queen. Her position was far superior to that of the non-royal dukes and duchesses and their daughters. She was, in fact, treated as a royal princess, and the fact that she had renounced that rank was blandly overlooked.

Even Lord Lascelle, the bridegroom, was not invited to wait with the royal family before the ceremony. He is really a commoner with a courtesy title as the oldest son of an earl. He is just a few degrees higher in rank than Commander Ramsay, who preferred to stay away.

If Commander Ramsay had been present with the untitled guests and his wife had occupied her royal position, then his relative obscurity would have been quite pitiful. Paris has many attractions, and it is perhaps not surprising that Commander Ramsay found it more comfortable to stay there.

After the marriage of Princess Patricia and the honeymoon Commander Ramsay was appointed naval attaché in Paris, a position which he still holds. One baby, named Alexander, was born in 1920. After that Lady Patricia Ramsay began to make more and more frequent visits to her father in England and to friends elsewhere. For the past two years, it is said, she has scarcely been with her husband at all.

She has been seen at the Goodwood races, the Henley regatta, the gay meetings of cosmopolitan society at Cannes, and almost always without her husband. She has received and enjoyed in private social life most of the honors formerly paid to her as a royal princess, and her wealthy ac-

quaintances in society find that they are sure to win her friendship by giving her the royal honors.

The gossips point out that there are a good many peculiar circumstances in connection with the relations between Lady Patricia Ramsay and her husband. For instance, at the time of her marriage the Princess was decidedly past her first youth, having reached the age of thirty-three. On a close inspection she scarcely looked as attractive as her photographs, prepared with great art and sometimes of early vintage, would lead one to expect. This fact might produce a certain effect on a husband of ordinary character.

Commander the Hon. Alexander Ramsay must have reflected at times that he had married a lady verging on middle age, who made an enormous amount of fuss about herself and the sacrifices she had made for him.

"I might have married a king" is the bitter remark which has been attributed by some of the gossips to the former Princess. It is a fact that the Princess Patricia was for several years sought in marriage by most of the eligible monarchs and heirs to thrones in Europe. King Alfonso of Spain was one of her most ardent suitors and made a very notable visit to the British royal family in order to urge his suit.

His offer was declined because the Princess did not care for him and because King Edward did not wish a princess so near to the throne to make the change of religion which would have been necessary. King Alfonso then married Princess Patricia's cousin, Princess Victoria Eugenia of Battenberg, and bestowed upon her revenues, which have enabled her to be the most magnificently dressed woman in Eu-

rope. Patricia's sister, Princess Margaret, married the Crown Prince of Sweden.

The German Crown Prince was generally credited with wishing to make Princess Patricia his bride, but was declined for various reasons.

If the Princess Patricia reminded Commander Ramsay that she might have been Queen of Spain, he could have retorted that then she would be looking after five or more children, while her husband roamed about studying the attractions of new dancers and concert hall artists.

Then again, if she had married the German Crown Prince her present position would be about the most unfortunate imaginable.

Nobody, of course, can know all the distressing conversations that have occurred between the oddly mated couple, but there is the undisputed fact that they have been drifting apart, and there are the obvious conditions that might have caused discord between them.

Commander Ramsay is not a specially heroic or distinguished character. He is a competent naval officer, but all the other officers in the British Navy are supposed to be that. He served in the Dardanelles

Honorable Alexander Ramsay Who Wooed, Won, Married and Is Said to Have Quickly Tired of His Royal Princess Wife.

