

Prince Aribert's Divorce and Others.

Royalty Runs a Divorce Mill of Its Own—King Divorce Lawyer and Divorce Judge in One.

How Royal Divorces Are Conducted—Women Always Get the Worst of It—They Alone Can Do Wrong, the Men Never. Almost Every Royal Family Has One or More Divorcees.



HER MAJESTY'S EYES A PERSON WITHOUT BRASS BUTTONS IS ONLY HALF A MAN



HAD TO CARRY HIM UPSTAIRS MORE OFTEN THAN NOT



...of himself so that his wife, out of sheer self-love, is compelled to leave him, then the ancient law that the "King can do no wrong" is applied and the woman is promptly made out to be the guilty party.

These Princess Aribert figures as defendant in the divorce suit that was before the Prussian Supreme Court of Jurisdiction in Potsdam these last few weeks, giving the newly divorced official a unique occasion to announce in the most official fashion that his Highness, not her Highness, had asked for a dissolution of marriage.

Princess Aribert is the first and only one of Queen Victoria's granddaughters, cousins and nieces, to become a divorcee, but she had to need a Brougham and Denman to defend her, even though her husband was her ancestor in a petty, respectable way as George IV was Queen Victoria's Nemesis in a huge, respectable way.

The proceedings took place before the open court, "open" in so far as a few professors of statecraft and jurists of high standing were admitted. Lawyers in general and the public were excluded and the newspapers were asked not to comment on the case. It was easy for them to comply, as none could get near enough to have even a whiff of the courtroom's air.

But before the evidence against his son was half in, the Duke of Anhalt stopped proceedings and took the law in his own hands, claiming that as a royal Prince, Aribert was the ordinary courts of the land. At the same time he pronounced Aribert's marriage with Princess Louise of Saxe-Coburg dissolved and, adjudging the Princess to have been at fault, debarred her from contracting a new marriage on Anhalt soil. This gives Princess Louise virtual freedom, for after the experience she had with one member of the Anhalt family, she certainly doesn't yearn for another.

At the interrupted trial in Potsdam, and before the Ducal House Court in Dessau, her Highness was represented by two counsellors of the Berlin British Legation, while Ambassador Sir Laocoe represented the English royal family. The Kaiser, who assumes some sort of parental authority from

the fact that both parties are near relatives of his, appointed his House Minister, Count Wedell, moderator, and his Excellency asked the court to go into camera, when- ever the sovereign dignity seems to be threatened by the evidence forthcoming.

Princess Aribert was represented by Minister of State Doctor von Koseritz, and a host of legal talent from his ancestral duchy, a territory that rivals Staten Island in area, population and importance.

Princess Aribert now lives under the protection of her father, Prince Christian, at the British Embassy. While the trial lasted both drove to the Potsdam depot every morning early in Sir Laocoe's coach. Another coach, belonging to the embassy, awaited them at the Potsdam side. On his part Prince Aribert still retains the Kaiser's livery, in accordance with an offer made by his Majesty on the occasion of the couple's marriage. At that time Queen Victoria saw financial disaster ahead because the scantily endowed household would be obliged to keep up a stable of from eighteen to twenty horses, when William came nobly forward proffering the use of his own equipage. Since the Ariberts ceased to live together, the head of the house alone is served according to stipulations.

Court in Full Dress.

The court in Potsdam presented an unusual spectacle. The Judges wore new silk cassocks and ermine, some even were decorated with long gold breast chains and crosses and stars. The Ministers of State had on court gait, gold embroidered coats, satin breeches and white stockings, while the attorneys looked gorgeous in voluminous gowns and black "berrettes." At both sides of the judges' desks and along the walls of the courtroom soldiers in full panoply were drawn up; they presented arms every time the Court spoke. The troopers as well as the gards outside were fully warranted to understand nothing but their native tongue.

Princess Aribert was invariably dressed in the swartest uniform of the Queen's Guard Dragoons, his narrow chest covered with decorations. Near him sat his court marshal, a Lieutenant Colonel of Infantry. This gentleman, Chamberlain von Knobloch, is supposed to know more about Aribert's hidden virtues, particularly sobriety, faithfulness and kindness, than anybody else in the world. All gentlemen but one not entitled to wear uniforms, went to court in full evening dress, including white tie and patent leather pumps. Such is the etiquette of the Fatherland.

Of course, Princess Aribert very properly

declined to masquerade. Throughout the proceedings she wore black or dark brown silk and small, becoming hats and her lady-in-waiting, Fraulein von Capriv, was gowned in the same quiet fashion. Much to the Kaiser's annoyance, it is said, Prince Christian appeared in court in his customary long black frock coat, though William asked him to wear English or Prussian General's uniform, or at least that of "his" guard lanciers. In his Majesty's eyes a person without brass buttons is only half a man.

The Charge Against the Princess.

Of the half dozen causes for divorce recognized by German law and, at the same time, by the Protestant Church, to which both parties belong, willful desertion was that which was charged against the Princess.

Princess Louise left her husband on three different occasions, once to go to the Mediterranean, again to come to America, and again by seeking the protection of the English Embassy for the avowed purpose of committing the legal offense that would enable her to shake her disreputable husband. The countercharges were merely advanced to secure Princess Louise's dower rights and to prevent her husband, or ex-husband, from claiming anything that's her own now or that she may possess in future.

Queen Loves Princess Aribert.

It is understood that Queen Victoria has remembered Princess Louise in her last will and testament with a substantial amount, which Prince Aribert would be glad to collect, if he were given the chance. For even though he is very much opposed to divorce and has often boasted that some of her children or grandchildren, cousins or nieces, shall be allowed to throw off the marriage yoke after once shouldering it. It is also well known that her Majesty's doors have been barred against divorcees as long as she is on the throne. Whether the injunction will prevail in future is not known at this writing.

The Princess's countercharges furthermore tended to burden her husband with the cost of the proceedings, which otherwise would have been charged up against her Highness; they are very considerable, as the litigious gentlemen enumerated are entitled to their fees for their services, besides mileage and other expenses. As a divorcee ordinary folks cost from five thousand to six thousand marks in Germany. It's easy to figure out that that of a Princess requires at least five or ten times the amount.

Princess Not Spared.

That the Princess personally had to testify against her husband, was one of the worst features of the proceedings. Tired, an innocent, high-minded woman of Princess Louise's station in life testifying about the orgies and debaucheries that sent the late hereditary Prince of Saxe-Coburg to an early grave, for Prince Aribert was one of the chief figures in that class of degenerates, as he is to-day a member of all secret

gambling and profligate clubs in Berlin and Potsdam.

That he is utterly devoid of character and cannot withstand temptation in any shape or form, be it wine, women, faro or wagers' offerings, is the only excuse even his friends make for him. If he weren't a Prince nearly related to the Kaiser, every clubber would be closed against him. If he came to buy a box of cigars in any other but the Emperor's equipage, no dealer would give him credit unless he had an offer of the title of Ducal Purveyor black on white. Yet this dark-complexioned sloop can keep his place in one of the proudest regiments, and his wife must submit to the indignity of being divorced by him, "that royalty must save his face," such as it is.

Queen Louise used to say: "There is no poverty greater and harder to bear than that on the steps of the throne," and Princess Aribert has had her full share of it. Though the Anhalts are rich by sharp practice they enriched their subjects out of the greater part of the public domain, converting it to their own use, several centuries ago the Duke gave Aribert but little outside of a home when he got married. The Princess had to pay the greater part of the household expenses out of her own meager income, while his Highness obtained pocket-money by borrowing from Peter and Paul, by running into debt and by pawing about not actually nailed to the wall or floor.

The Anhalt palace in Berlin is an ugly two-story building on Schiffbauergasse, which latter, as a residence street, corresponds to Fourth Avenue in New York. The Ariberts occupied the second story with their titled servants, two footmen, a cook and several maids.

Royal equippers were frequently seen arriving at and leaving the palace in daytime, when the Princess was making out or went out shopping attended by her lady-in-waiting, but except at the great court festivities the young couple was never seen together, and even on such rare occasions the Princess paid little attention to his hand- some wife. He openly boasted that his sympathies were with the anti-English party at court, that is, a set of men and women who make it their business to deride everything not pronounced and officially Prussian. This is the same party that hounded poor Emperor Frederick to death and kept alive the enmity between the Kaiser and his imperial mother. From this you may imagine the position young Princess Aribert found herself in when she exchanged her lovely home in Windsor Park for the second-story flat on Schiffbauergasse, Berlin.

As Princess Aribert and the Empress didn't pull well together, her Highness seldom invited at court. Indeed, the greater part of the year she sat in her lonely apartment, far removed from Berlin society square, a victim of most tantalizing ennuis. Princess Louise likes the theater, she is fond of music, but her husband didn't see fit to take her to the playhouse or to some of the season's great concerts. Only once or twice in a twelvemonth she went to the opera with the imperial party—that was all the amusement provided for her.

The Prince, on the other hand, cut a large dash in the gilded circle. As proceed-

ings before the court proved, he seldom arrived at home before 2 or 3 o'clock in the morning, when his condition was such that his chamber and footmen had to carry him upstairs more often than not. As she objected to having male servants in her bedroom, the Princess after a few weeks of married life, refused to occupy the same chamber with her husband, which was certainly a very natural and legitimate stand to take for a lady, but Prince Aribert's attorney, nevertheless, fashioned a club out of it, accusing her Highness of willfully neglecting her marital duties.

Did the Princess Visit a Music Hall?

Another article of the bill of complaint said that her Highness had at one time visited the Winter Garden Music Hall with- out her husband or a gentleman-in-waiting. This is a place of amusement like Koster & Blum's in New York. The Princess admitted that she occupied a box there on one occasion with Fraulein von Capriv. They went in a plain carriage, though, and were so veiled as not to be recognizable. Besides, her Highness's English groom stood guard at the door to prevent intrusion. Such, said the Princess, was sought by anybody, though she saw a number of army men, among them her husband, go into other boxes occupied by demi-mondaines.

At that point the Ducal Minister of the house, Doctor von Koseritz, rose and, in the name of his sovereign, declared that he couldn't permit the taking of further evidence. So the court adjourned, and a few days afterwards Prince and Princess Aribert, their relatives and legal representatives, were summoned to Dessau, where the Duke in person reviewed the case as far as it went and then pronounced the decision already set forth.

Duke's Generosity.

Princess Aribert is graciously permitted to remove her own goods and chattels and the remnants of the dowry she brought her husband. She will make her home in Italy for some time and then return to her parents' roof. Meanwhile, the Kaiser is exercising his authority to keep her Highness's brother, Albert of Saxe-Weimar-Eisenach, from making good his promise to teach the Prince a lesson, sword or pistol in hand. He is a lusty young fellow and expects to make short work of his ex-brother-in-law if he gets a chance. Whether the two of them shall be permitted to fight will be decided by a military court of honor, which, of course, will respect the Empress's wishes. William is a decided advocate of the duel for ordinary mortals, but with his own flesh and blood is concerned, he likes to temporize. Probably the court of honor will find against Prince Albert, but that won't keep him from slapping Aribert's face the very next time they meet, then fight he must or quit the army.

Other Royal Divorcees.

This is the second divorce in royal circles within a few weeks—the other freed Miss Alice Heloe of New Orleans, from the marriage of Prince of Monaco. Princess Alice was the widow of the Duc de Rohellen before she succeeded Lady Mary Douglas-Hamilton on the throne of Monte Carlo, but, unlike the first Princess, her marriage has no issue. Lady Mary, now Countess Tassilo Festetics, is the mother of the hereditary

Prince of Monaco, Louis by name. She left her husband a week after their nuptials, and the Papal Court pronounced the dissolution of their marriage ten years later. Then, as now, no reason for the divorce was given, but it's quite well understood that women's chief objection to the Prince are his smooth habits. He was never known to wear a clean shirt, or a handkerchief, and his clothes are usually in a disgraceful state.

A royal candidate for divorce now clamoring for freedom is Princess Marie of Mecklenburg-Strelitz, a cousin of the Duke Henry, whom Queen Wilhelmina selected for consort. About two years ago Princess Marie married Monsieur George Jametel, a rich Frenchman who, for a consolation, acquired the privilege of calling himself an Italian Count. Just before her engagement her Highness scandalized Europe by her liaison with one of her father's grooms of chamber, a man named Hecht. Now she is the bride of Jametel and wants to resume her former rank. In this case affairs are complicated on account of the fact that Jametel is a Catholic, while the Mecklenburgers are Lutherans. Also because the pair was married in England according to both Lutheran and Catholic rites. Doubtless the Grand Duke of Mecklenburg will dissolve the marriage, now that Jametel is no longer needed or wanted, but it's a question whether the decree will hold good anywhere outside of the Princess's country.

Historic Divorces Among Royalty.

Of course, everybody knows that Napoleon divorced Josephine and his good luck, but few people, aside from students of history, are aware that a divorced woman once sat upon the throne of Catholic Austria. She was Empress Caroline Augusta, consort of Francis I, by birth a Princess of Bavaria. Her first husband was King William I of Wurttemberg, who divorced her for the love she bore to his Austrian colleague on the throne. The two courts got about as far as they could after the marriage, particularly as William made haste to marry again. His second bride was Catherine, a daughter of Czar Paul of Russia, whose brother Constantine resolved the right to succeed in order to marry Countess Grudnitsk after the Holy Roman Emperor Peterburg had consented to divorce him from Princess Julia of Saxe-Coburg. The latter was robbed of her superior rank and station in life for no legal reason whatever—there were absolutely no grounds for divorce save her husband's passion for the other woman, yet Julia was packed off to her mother and a rather shabby pension was all the satisfaction she ever got. Furthermore, she was forbidden to marry again.

The Kaiser has had several divorcees in his family. Frederick William III divorced his first wife, Elizabeth of Brunswick, for

reasons that would procure a decree in New York to-day, and just fifty years ago Prince Albert of Prussia found himself in the same predicament. His spouse was Marianne of the Netherlands, who had brought him several millions. Afterwards her royal Highness married her groom—the same who had cost her her position. This brute turned out to be a drunkard and wifebeater, and the couple led a most unhappy existence for many years to come.

Princess Louise of Prussia, who resides in the royal castle of Wiesbaden, is also a divorced woman. In 1854 she married Landgrave Alexis of Hesse, but, five years later, his Highness appealed to the courts, praying that the marriage yoke be taken from his shoulders. Old King William thereupon constituted her Highness a divorcee and dissolved the marriage of the ill-matched couple.

As a matter of fact, there isn't a royal family in all Europe that hasn't one or more divorcees on its records. That the late Crown Prince Rudolf of Austria moved heaven and earth to secure a divorce from Stephanie, just before his life was ended at Meyling, is a circumstance as well known as that the King of Roumania threatened to divorce Carmen Sylva in consequence of the Vucareanu scandal, some ten years ago.

If divorces for Catholics weren't so difficult to procure, Princess Josephine of Coburg would not be incarcerated in an insane asylum. As it is, she may have to stay there many years unless her husband has the good taste to die.

On the whole, Princess Aribert's relatives would look upon her divorce as an unmitigated blessing if it wasn't for the fact that young relatives of her Highness may want to emulate Louise's example, namely, the Grand Duchess of Hesse, born Princess Victoria-Melita of Edinburgh. She can't get along with her husband at all and it is even asserted that the royal couple sometimes come to blows in the course of a heated argument. It happened once at the Darmstadt open-house, within full view of a thousand or more loyal subjects. Failure to produce an heir to the crown is said to be the cause of all this trouble, but, very naturally, Victoria-Melita, who is the mother of a lusty little girl, refuses to be held responsible.

BY HONORABLE FOOTINGEN,
Lady of the Berlin Court.
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The Weather Man Says Weather Resembles Women.

WRITTEN FOR THE SUNDAY REPUBLIC.

"Yes, I know that I look healthy and that I do not lose any weight, and consequently the public has no sympathy for me when the weather refuses to follow my predictions."

R. J. Hyatt, the local forecast official, who keeps tab on the winds, rains and snows, delivered himself of this small self-consolation with a Gejected air.

"It is not my fault that I don't appear to have a hard time of it," he continued, "but I do, just the same."

"Some people have the misfortune to live a daily life of contact with worry, and get to all appearances they have a map. Why, take me for a shining instance. Here I spend my days in this garret trying to figure out just how much confidence I can place in the observations that are

taken twice each day. Of course, aside from joking, a great percentage of the predictions made turn out correct in their entirety, but if they happen to fall a little short the public wonders what good there is in the Weather Bureau.

"It cannot be denied that a greater portion of the daily prediction proves correct, even if it does not all come as I say it will. Now, there was the snow that I predicted for several weeks ago. I said that there would be rain, probably turning to snow, with colder weather. Well, the rain came all right, and there was a drop in the temperature, but because the snow failed to materialize the public overlooked the rain and change to colder weather and mentally put me down as a false alarm.

"I will explain how that snow happened to go astray. You see, we have to contend with what we call Highs and Lows.

They are different conditions of the atmosphere. As a general thing they travel from west to east, following the motion of the earth, and a High will almost invariably follow a Low. That is to say, it is attracted by it. You have an example in the likelihood of a high if you compare it to a man and a Low to some beautiful but uncertain woman. The most attractive Low will certainly catch the High or greater number of them, just as a society belle will attract men. They cause all of my trouble. I look at my observations and read my daily reports and see that there are several Lows bowing and dancing round this country, and then I begin to wonder which of them are going to catch the Highs. The latter seem to stand round in an uncertain way, as men do at a ball or reception, as if trying to make up their mind which woman they want to talk to.

"Here is where my trouble comes in. I know to a certainty that the Lows are going to have the Highs dancing attendance upon them, but which one is the problem for me.

"Take my snow that I spoke of. I knew that there was a High up over Montana and a Low off the northern coast of California. We also had a Low over Missouri, and I predicted that the latter would attract that High. Well, it did, and then again

it did not. The California Low wanted some attention, so it began to exercise its wiles, and the result was that the High did not know which one to go to, so it compromised by following a Low. That is to say, a man might not rather had to do exactly this at the same time, but he can manage two girls if he knows how. The consequence was we only got enough of that Montana High to make it colder and bring a little rain. The greater portion went to the Western Belle, and the result was that there was a heavy snow on the Pacific Coast, with a great drop in the temperature. The storm was so severe that the next day many wires were down and we did not get our usual reports from that section of the country.

"There is no one who can deny the usefulness or correctness of the forecasts of the Weather Bureau. We have over 200 stations in this country where observations are taken twice in every twenty-four hours at exactly the same time. Our instruments are so reduced that we are able to make correct comparisons. We keep a very close watch on the weather and manage to tell what it is up to, but then, you know, the elements, like a woman, are very uncertain, and just as you are sure that you have them it changes its mind and then—well, that's another story."

JUBILEE JUGGINS, SPENDTHRIFT.

Undoubtedly one of the greatest spendthrifts London has ever seen was Ernest Benzon, better known as "Jubilee Juggins."

In less than two years this reckless young man ran through a sum of more than \$1,250,000. At first the ordinary individual can hardly conceive how it is possible for a man to spend \$25,000 a week, unless he is either establishing a large business or undertaking some great commercial enterprise. But "Jubilee Juggins" did nothing of the kind; he spent, says Tit-Bits, his quarter of a million on enjoying himself on the turf and elsewhere.

Benzon's life story—or, at least, a brief portion of it—is, indeed, a romantic one. His father, it appears, was a famous metal merchant, but died when Ernest was quite a boy, leaving an immense fortune, to be divided equally between an adopted daughter and his only son, Young Benzon was brought up by an aunt, who held decidedly peculiar views.

She never informed the boy of the riches that awaited him, and during his infancy every penny he had was doled out with the utmost penuriousness. His clothing was poor

and mean, his education was anything but what it should have been, and such acquaintances as he was allowed to have were of the wrong sort. When he was 18 years of age he discovered, quite by accident, that his father had died a millionaire, and that when he became of age he would inherit a sum of more than \$1,250,000.

Naturally, the boy lost his head on discovering the truth, which had been kept from him so that the fortune might grow. Within a week the youngster spread the news rapidly. Not only did his result become limitless, but the money lenders fairly sought him out to press loans upon him. His guardian and relatives lost all control over him, and before he was 21 Benzon had succeeded in running into debt to the tune of \$175,000.

His share of \$1,250,000, \$25,000 was ready cash. Most young fellows, even of extravagant ideas, would have made that sum do for a time, but within twenty-four hours Ernest drew out \$25,000 to pay the debts of his minority, and to meet the expenses of a trip to Australia. He then left in negotiable securities almost \$1,000,000, but in two weeks he was "dead broke."

Most of his vast fortune was lost by gambling. During the first four days of his stay in Australia Benzon lost \$20,000 on the race courses. In a few months he had dropped \$25,000 under the Southern sun by placing his money, on the

wrong horses. Then he returned to England, and his remarkably heavy bets at the famous race courses throughout the country caused considerable comment at the time, both in racing circles and in the press.

At the Kempton races, in Jubilee year, he bet \$5,000 on one race and lost it! It was this wild wager that gave him the sobriquet of "Jubilee Juggins." For a week at a stretch after that he lost by gambling \$75,000 a day. Occasionally luck was in his favor, and on one occasion he netted \$25,000, but such days were rare.

ASPHODEL.

As some pale shade in glorious battle slain, On beds of reed, beside the silent streams, Beethel outwards lights in happy dreams; The play of stars upon the flames may want to emulate Louise's example, namely, the Grand Duchess of Hesse, born Princess Victoria-Melita of Edinburgh. She can't get along with her husband at all and it is even asserted that the royal couple sometimes come to blows in the course of a heated argument. It happened once at the Darmstadt open-house, within full view of a thousand or more loyal subjects. Failure to produce an heir to the crown is said to be the cause of all this trouble, but, very naturally, Victoria-Melita, who is the mother of a lusty little girl, refuses to be held responsible.

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