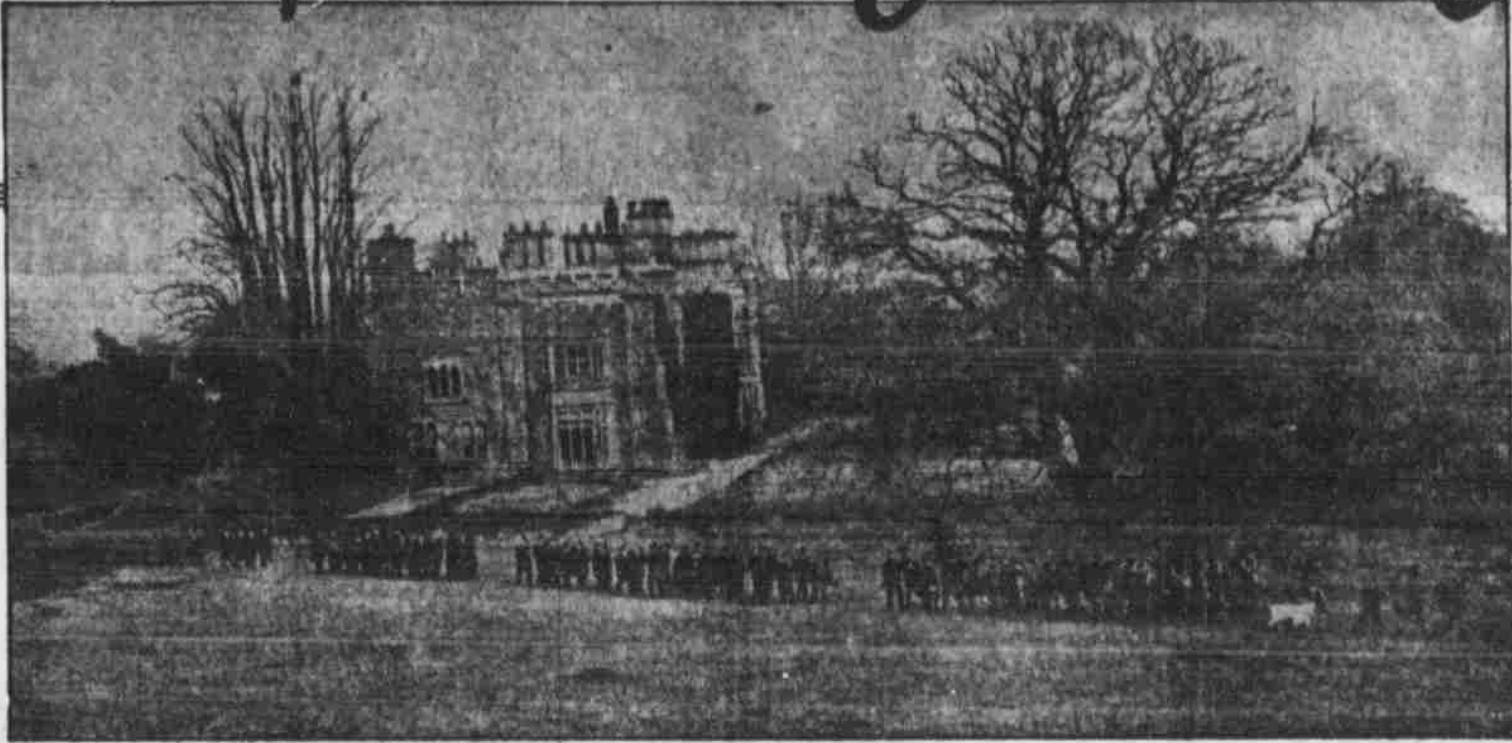


To Perpetuate English Peerages the War Has Wiped Out



Funeral of Captain W. C. G. Gladstone, at Hawarden Castle, Once the Home of His Grandfather, England's Most Famous Statesman, Which Will Now Pass to One of Another Name, Because the Young Heir Was Killed at the Dardanelles.

Interesting Plan to Make Daughters Heiresses to Distinguished Titles Like That of Baron Ribblesdale, Whose Sons Have All Been Killed in War

THE British House of Lords has suffered to such an enormous extent in the war that it is seriously in danger of extinction.

The deaths have already been reported of 560 peers, heirs to peerages and members of titled families. Of the 616 members of the House there is said to be not one who has not lost a son or other near relative. The Marquis of Lansdowne, the Conservative leader of the House, described the situation correctly when he said: "The House of Lords has become a House of Mourning."

One remarkable consequence of this wholesale slaughter is that many titles will become extinct and many famous English castles and stately homes will cease to be associated with the families to which they have belonged for generations. In most cases they will pass to daughters or more distant relatives of the last owner through the female line.

It is impossible to catalogue all the noblemen and members of titled families who have fallen. Besides, the list is being increased by new names daily. A few conspicuous instances will prove to what an extent the ownership of historic estates has been changed by the war.

The Marquis of Lincolnshire has lost his only son, Viscount Wenderford, and has no other male heir. He is the owner of historic Gwydr House, in North Wales, which his family acquired through marriage with the last heiress of the very ancient Welsh family of Wynn. This place is famous in early Welsh legend and the name "Gwydr," strange to say, means in Welsh "House of the Bloody Hand." The Marquise will now become extinct and the estates will pass to daughters.

Lord Ribblesdale, now an old man, has lost his two sons and has no brothers or other male heirs to his title, which will therefore become extinct. He is the owner of Gilsburne Park, Yorkshire, a beautiful old estate, which has been in the possession of the Listers—the family name of Lord Ribblesdale—for centuries. Now it will cease to be associated with the name.

Lord Waleran has had his only son sent back from the war, dying. He is the owner of Bradfield Park, in Devonshire, a house and estate which have been in his family for over 300 years.

Lord Stamfordham, private secretary to King George, has lost his only son, Captain J. N. Biggs. His title will probably become extinct unless his present wife dies and he remarries again, and his seat, Dunham Massey Hall, at Altrincham, will cease to be connected with his name.

Lord Knareborough has lost his only son, Captain Claude Meysey-Thompson. He has been a great social light and was a particular friend of the late King Edward. He has a magnificent country estate, Kirby Hall, near York, noted for its stables. There is no one of his name to which this place can pass.

These are only four conspicuous cases out of a list that apparently will count scores of names before the war is over.

There is one case of a particularly interesting character, similar to those mentioned, although no title has become extinct as a result of it. Hawarden Castle, the famous residence of the great statesman, William Ewart Gladstone, will as a result of this war tragedy cease to be occupied by one of that name in the next generation.

Captain William Glynn Charles Gladstone, only son of the oldest son of the great statesman, has been killed at the Dardanelles. He was the heir to Hawarden Castle. He has cousins of the same name, but it is understood that the picturesque

family castle and estate will pass to his sisters.

So great has been the death list among the sole heirs to peerages that it is proposed to make daughters and other female heirs eligible to succeed to the titles. This would save them from extinction in the majority of cases.

A peerage in modern times has been granted to a man, by a royal patent which provides that it shall descend to his heirs by male descent only.

If he has only a daughter it cannot descend to her nor to her son. There are some ancient peerages known as "baronies by writ of summons," which descend through women. They were created in the Middle Ages, when the King would summon a member of a certain family by writ, generation after generation, to sit in the House of Lords. This process has been held to create a form of property similar to real estate. Lord Camoy, who married Miss Mildred Sherman, of New York, possesses one of these ancient baronies, created in 1383, but no more of them have originated for centuries.

In some modern instances where a peerage has been given to a famous general or statesman without sons, a "special remainder" has been added to the patent, making the title descend to a daughter or collateral relation. This was done in the case of Lord Roberts and Lord Kitchener, neither of whom had sons when their titles were created. In the case of Lord Roberts the special remainder was to his daughter

years ago, fighting in Somaliland, and now he has lost his only remaining son, the Hon. Charles Lister, in the Dardanelles campaign. Lord Ribblesdale, who belongs to a very ancient Yorkshire family, combines aristocracy of manners and appearance with democratic ideas. He is a liberal in politics and has been associated with many public spirited movements. He is known among his friends as "the Ancestor," because he looks the ideal aristocrat, a peculiarity not to be noticed in all noblemen.

He was at one time considered the best amateur boxer in England and some surprise is felt that his aristocratic, very aquiline nose, was never marred in this sport.

Much sympathy is felt for this picturesque sporting peer on account of the great tragedies that have befallen him in his old age. He has a beautiful daughter, very popular in society, formerly the Hon. Diana Lister, who was married about a year ago to Percy Wyndham, a young officer of great promise. He was killed early in the present war, leaving his widow with a little son born after the war began.

Poor Mrs. Wyndham, who is only twenty-two years old, has therefore

lost her young husband and two brothers within a short time. It is suggested that she be made the successor to her father's title, with the idea that it will pass to her little son.

The Marquis of Lincolnshire's sad experience bears some extraordinary points of resemblance to the last. He is a great landowner, who has always been noted for his liberal ideas, having sold small allotments of land to hundreds of his tenants for almost nothing. He is Hereditary Lord Great Chamberlain of England and was a trusted personal adviser of Queen Victoria.

Five successive daughters were born to him and his wife and they despaired of having a son to inherit the title, when after nearly twenty years of married life, the long-awaited heir was born. Now this young fellow, known as Viscount Wenderford, the heir to many broad estates, the hope of an ancient family, has been killed in his teens.

Strange to say, the Marquis of Lincolnshire has, just like Lord Ribblesdale, a young daughter, with a baby whose father has been killed in the war. Lady Victoria Carrington was the fifth daughter of the Marquis of Lincolnshire and was

married about a year ago to Captain Maurice Legge-Bourke, who has just been killed in the war. In her case also it is proposed that she should be made heiress to her father's title and that it should eventually pass to her little son, whose father died for his country.

Two of the other peers mentioned as having lost their only sons, Lord Waleran and Lord Knareborough, also have daughters.

Hundreds of members of titled families, as already stated, have lost their lives in the war. While they have not all left their families without a male heir, as in the cases specified, their deaths make the extinction of the title at some time in the future more probable than it would otherwise have been. The length of life of a peerage must be more or less related to the number of persons eligible to inherit it.

Many of the ducal families have lost heavily in the war. The Duke of Devonshire, who in point of wealth, ancestry and influence is one of the first of British noblemen, has lost his youngest and favorite brother, Major Lord John Cavendish. The Devonshire estates are enormous and the family possesses five

great country seats, Chatsworth House, Hardwick Hall, Bolton Abbey, Compton Place and Lismore Castle. This family has been continuously at the forefront of English public life for over three hundred years, since they were enriched by a very large share of the monastic lands in the reign of King Henry VIII.

The late Lord John Cavendish left no children and beside the Duke he had only one brother, who is also childless. The Duke has two young sons, but neither of them is married and the older, who is already in the army, is liable to lose his life before he marries. It will be seen that this famous ducal family is seriously weakened by the loss it has sustained.

The Duke of Wellington, the fourth in succession from the victor of Waterloo, has lost his second son, Lord Richard Wellesley, and may yet suffer other losses, as his oldest son and other members of his family are in the war. The present Duke's direct male descendants are not numerous, as only one of his sons has at present a son of his own. It is therefore not a remote possibility that this war may cause the extinc-

tion of the title given for the most famous British victory of earlier generations.

It is certain that British peers and members of British noble families have shed their blood in this terrible war with the most unflinching courage and whole-souled patriotism. The fact has impressed itself on the British nation and there is less talk than before the war about abolishing the House of Lords. To perpetuate the titles distinguished by the death of the last holders in battle would seem a simple form of national gratitude.

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Viscount Powerscourt, an English Peer, with Great Estates, Who is Now Risking His Life in the Desperate Conflict at the Dardanelles.



Lord Ribblesdale's Daughter, the Hon. Mrs. Percy Wyndham, Whom It is Proposed to Make Heiress to Her Father's Peerage, Which Would Otherwise Become Extinct.

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Why a Cheap Home May Make You a Cheap Man

DURING one of his campaigns for the Presidency the late Benjamin Harrison uttered an epigram which made him the target of much criticism. He said, "A cheap coat makes a cheap man," and this statement, which was intended to epitomize his views on the protective tariff, was twisted into meaning that people whose clothes were cheap were purchasable.

This was not true, says John J. Murphy, New York City's Tenement House Commissioner, and it would be no more true that bad housing made bad citizens under all circumstances. But, next to an inadequate and unwholesome food supply, poor housing does stand as the most deleterious element in our civic life. Sanitary research shows how important is the relation of adequate light and ventilation on the health, stamina and moral character of individuals. Bad housing furnishes the fruitful nurseries of disease germs of all kinds, while at the same time creating conditions which prevent the building up of resistance to their inroads.

There can be no question that the three great scourges of mankind—disease, poverty and crime—are in a large measure due to bad housing in its broadest sense. Intemperance in many of its most repugnant forms may be traced to the fact that so many citizens are obliged to live in homes in which they can take neither pride nor comfort and which makes the saloon seem desirable by contrast.

Bad housing is especially detrimental in its consequences to the children reared under its influence. In many cases the evil influences of environment can never be eradicated.

The need for the erection of a-

stitutions for the blind and hospitals for the child victims of tuberculosis, spinal meningitis and other diseases of like character is greatly intensified by bad home conditions. The employes living in a house inadequately lighted and ventilated is unable to perform his task with proper energy and intelligence. Women compelled to live in such houses develop tendencies to irritability, which frequently lead to family disruption.

Bad housing tends to increase the tax burdens of a community by requiring larger expenditures for remedial service, which might otherwise be eliminated. The lack of proper cleanliness and decency in the exterior and interior of houses tends to reduce the self-respect of the occupants.

Notes how eagerly the family which has even slightly improved its financial standing seeks buildings with more attractive exteriors and better decorated rooms. It will also be found that as families descend in the social scale, one of the pangs most keenly felt is the necessity for the occupancy of quarters in buildings whose general appearance indicates that they are occupied by the miserably poor.

It may be said, therefore, that there is no plane of human existence in society which the housing question does not touch. There is no form of vice, crime, delinquency or shiftlessness which bad housing does not tend to nurture. "Keeping up appearances" is often derided, and deserves much of the reproach cast upon it when it simply means unwarranted extravagance to maintain a position which one's income does not justify, but among the poor it is an ever-present aid to the maintenance of self-respect, and is to be encouraged rather than despised.

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