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Near Oliver Theatre. 121 so 13th

Mr. Knerve (whose proposal has been declined)—And am I not to have any assurance whatever?

Miss Haughty—No.

Mr. K.—May I ask why not?

Miss H.—Because you have more assurance now than you know what to do with.

"I am glad of that," said the wife of the Jerseyite, after reading the paper for some time.

"Glad of what?" asked her husband.

"Glad that the mosquito fleet is in service. Maybe we will not be bothered so much by them this summer."

London Letter.

George Curzon's appointment as Viceroy of India was not a surprise to those behind the scenes, for it had been discussed for some weeks, although the general belief was that the Government would not really do anything so unconventional. The object was to get this too-clever and outspoken young man out of the way and out of the Lower House at any cost. This feeling is easily comprehended by anyone who has watched the faces of the men on the Government benches during a trying question time or a nasty debate. The calm, self-assurance with which G. N. C., without once losing his temper or getting flurried, kept the upper hand of friends and foes alike, and told as much as he liked—despite wrath of superiors— or just as little as he liked—not withstanding Radical grumbles—was a treat to witness; but it made his colleagues jealous and his chiefs restless. Such a man had the making of a leader of the House, and even a Premier. It was not to be endured. Therefore—as his father, the Rev. Lord Scarsdale, is only fifty-nine, and cannot be expected to vacate a seat in the Upper House for many years to come—Curzon had to be got rid of by other means. Moreover, his admirers in the country are so many and so influential that nothing short of a handsome post would do. Therefore the Government—much pushed by a certain Liberal Unionist, celebrated as a schemer—resolved to "break the record." Mr Curzon's appointment does this in several ways. First of all, he is the youngest ruler of India ever sent out, being only thirty-nine. Secondly, he is a member of the House of Commons. (He will probably receive a peerage

before leaving England.) Again, he is married to an American, and I believe a daughter of the stars and Stripes, has never before represented the Queen in India. Beautiful Mary Leiter has always been ambitious; and it is an open secret that she has been surprised by the magnitude of the plum which has dropped at her feet. I am told that the news will be welcomed with avidity by Calcutta society, which will expect a pleasing revolution in the cut-and-dried method of entertaining hither too prevalent at Government House.

You will know all about George Curzon's career, so I need not dwell upon his college successes, his extensive travels or his charming books. You will unite with his friends here in wishing him a speedy recovery from the painful illness which overwork—especially night work—has brought on. A spinal complaint is no light matter; but he was always so well when in the East that it is hoped he may soon be restored to health. His three brothers and six sisters will regret his absence. One of the sisters is pretty and smart, Lady Miller, wife of Sir James Miller, the popular soldier and racing man.

Now, there will be a private squabble over the appointment of a successor as Under-Secretary for Foreign Affairs. One powerful party wishes George Wyndham (Countess Grosvenor's husband), to be put in; another, less strong but more obstinate, is canvassing for Austin Chamberlain.

I hear that the Queen of Holland is much disappointed because the Prince and Princess of Wales cannot come to her coronation. She met the Prince in Paris last year, and—like most young girls—took a great fancy to him. He used to tease her unmercifully and chaff her about her various suitors; so the royal maiden, whose surroundings are usually of the serious order, thought him charming and, forgetting her dignity, giggled like any school-girl. The Duke of Connaught, who is to go to the coronation as the Queen's representative, is rather a grave person, not at all inclined to joke with girls, so Her Little Majesty will miss the fun she expected.

The Wales family has decided to build a country house at Overstrand, near Cromer, for the express benefit of Princess Victoria, who has taken such a love for "poppy-land" that she will not be denied. This does not look as if her rumored engagement were a fact.

The Duchess of York is terribly depressed about her father. He has returned from abroad worse than he went. Doctors and nurses have to be constantly with him, and he looks a mere wreck. It is even said that his mind is affected; but I cannot vouch for the truth of this, though his appearance seems to confirm it. It is a pity that the poor Duchess has this fresh worry, for she was much better herself and brighter after her twelve days stay with young Earl Beauchamp, at Madresfield Court, Malvern. This was a very long visit for a royal person to pay; and it has excited much remark. The favored peer is the brother of the Duchess's lady-in-waiting, Lady Mary Sygon; and his mother is also a persona grata, as is his only sister, Lady Amptill. I wonder you American girls have not had an eye to Earl Beauchamp. He is six-and-twenty, well set up and tall, handsome of face, clean of record and possessed of a sufficiency of wealth in addition to charming manners; and Madresfield is an ideal place.

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