

NOBILITY WEDS A FOOTMAN.

Countess Marie Wyanoff Marries the Man Who Worshipped Her Picture.

All the world loves a lover, and the old, old story is ever new. It is then, no wonder that there is a general interest concerning the romantic history of the Russian Countess, Marie Wyanoff, who has married her footman because of his true love and devotion.

The story has attracted even more attention because of the fact that the rich and beautiful Countess served as the model in Carolus Duran's famous painting, "Le Baiser" (The Kiss). The Countess was born in Poland, a land saddened in its political history, but one which has sought to please its unhappy children by making its daughters the most beautiful of Europe. Polish girls are also famous for their romantic and ardent natures. At the age of 18 this fair daughter of the conquered land married Count Wyanoff, a Russian nobleman of great wealth. His riches and her beauty made them a famous pair at St. Petersburg and Paris, in both of which centers of society the nobleman owned a princely palace.

All the wealth of the Count was laid at the feet of his young wife, whom he adored. She wore the most splendid jewels at the Russian court, where fair women are accustomed to be resplendent with costly gems as they are nowhere else in Europe. She had a priceless collection of furs, among which there was a set of Russian sables that a Princess of the royal blood might well envy. Her stables were filled with two hundred horses, and sleighs and other vehicles of every description and ornamentation.

As an example of reckless generosity and impulse, the story is told that at the opera one night she threw a necklace of three strands of great pearls to a singer who had excited her fancy. Her beauty, wealth, luxuriant surroundings and generosity won for her admiration and fame in all the social centers of Europe. Wherever she went she was sought by the most aristocratic and exclusive sets.

When her husband died he left her the whole of his vast fortune in her own right, including gold, silver, copper, iron and gold mines, the income of which is each year a large fortune in itself. The beautiful widow, possessed of a fortune which could satisfy her every wish in worldly goods, found herself the center of a most devoted and attentive group of suitors of every title, nationality and description.

The present Czar, then the Czarewitch, was fascinated by the charming Countess—so much so that a warning to her, doubtless inspired by the Czar, pater, caused her to leave St. Petersburg for a time and cease the perilous flirtation.

But the fair widow of Wyanoff began to tire of the life of a woman in the exclusive aristocracy, and had, before the death of her husband, developed

a fondness for the society of artists. Carolus Duran prayed the Countess to pose as a model for him. At first she protested, and made her objections even more emphatic when he revealed the subject which he considered best suited for her personality. But with such examples before her as the late Empress of Austria, who was the model of Diana in Hans Makart's picture, "The Hunt of Diana," now in the Metropolitan Museum of Art in New York, and with examples of other women of title who had served as artists' models in one subject or another, she finally consented.

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THE PICTURE THAT WAS PAINTED BEFORE ITS MAKER BECAME FAMOUS.

ess a fit subject for inspiration in art. She is a perfect example of the blonde type, with hair of pure gold, of that rare shade which is neither flaxen nor light brown, but of the shade seldom seen and never perfectly described by the pen. Her features are perfectly regular, and express vivacity and intellect. All in all, she is indeed "a daughter of the gods, divinely tall and most divinely fair."

Kiss." The picture is full of the strongest of passion, but is purity itself in every detail. It is the innocent lovers' soul-embracing kiss.

"And our spirits rushed together at the meeting of the lips."

But the prettiest story of the Countess's life is yet to be told. It is not to be doubted that a woman who could be the inspiration of such a picture would consider true love the most holy and sacred requisite to the marriage vows. Ardent wooers were plentiful, but in their courting the Countess saw, with

EDWIN OBED STANARD

TALKED OF AS M'KINLEY'S POSSIBLE RUNNING MATE.

St. Louis Has a Candidate for That Office in Edwin Obed Stanard—His Only Political Office Was That of Lieutenant-Governor.

St. Louis has a candidate for the vice-presidency on the republican ticket in the person of Edwin Obed Stanard, ex-lieutenant-governor of Missouri and ex-congressman. He is one of the leading citizens of St. Louis, and has been identified with its public enterprise for many years. He has been president of the Merchants' Exchange, the St. Louis exposition and a leader in the Autumnal Festivities association, out of which grew the Business Men's league, besides serving on committees or at the head of countless public enterprises, whether of commercial, social, political or religious character.

Gov. Stanard's political career is comprised, practically, between the years 1868 and 1872, during which he served as lieutenant-governor of the state and representative of one of the St. Louis districts in congress. While serving in congress, he was instrumental in securing the adoption of the Eads jetty system.

Gov. Stanard comes of good New England stock. Both of his great-grandfathers served with distinction in the revolutionary war. His mother



EDWIN OBED STANARD.

came of the famous Webster family, being a cousin of Daniel Webster. Gov. Stanard was born at Newport, N. H., in 1832, and four years later his father, Obed Stanard, moved to Iowa. The west has since been his home. In politics Gov. Stanard is an uncompromising republican, and in religion a Methodist.

Where We Get Caviare.

Caviare is consumed in vast quantities all over the Russian empire. It is also sent to Italy, Germany, France and England and is largely eaten in this country. Caviare is a shining brown substance in little globules, looking exactly like little brambleberries. It is obtained from sturgeon in March by millions on their spawning beds in the mouth of the Danube, the Dnieper, the Don and the Volga rivers, where both nets and hooks are used to capture the fish. After the membrane of the roe has been removed the grains are washed with vinegar of the cheap white wines of the country. Then they are

dried in the air, salted, put into bags and pressed and packed in casks. It is one of the most important articles of Russian trade, the sales reaching annually over \$10,000,000. The importation of caviare to America is increasing yearly. In 1899 it was double that of the previous year.

FANCIES OF THE CZARINA.

One Is for Wonderful Russian Lace and Another for Black Roses.

The czarina has aroused the wrath of all her court ladies and, rumor says, of the czar himself, by her studied simplicity in dress. She heartily dislikes gorgeous clothes, and if she consulted her own wishes would seldom wear jewels; but she has one enthusiasm, and that is for the Russian lace which is made only for the Russian imperial family. Years ago a tribe of lace makers lived near Archangel and made by hand a deep yellow lace of marvelous design and texture. The Empress Marie, wife of Alexander II, developed a passion for this lace, and, being a woman of whims, sent for the lace workers, about 200 in all, and forced them to leave their homes and settle in St. Petersburg. The story of their captivity and homesickness is a pathetic one. The older women of the tribe died, one after another, of homesickness and age, but the younger, less submissive, were in perpetual rebellion. Many of them escaped and rejoined their husbands and lovers, and the emperor threatened to send the couples to Siberia, but the empress, feeling a slight responsibility in the matter, intervened. The girls who stayed in the palace married and were well provided for, but only a few of them are still living, and they are kept busy making lace for the czarina. Another fad of the czarina is the black rose, which has made a sensation in St. Petersburg. A florist named Fetisoff has produced in his garden a rose jet black in color, and the finest specimens are owned by the czarina.

TANNED HUMAN SKIN.

Used as the Grewsome Binding for Some Famous Books.

The skin of William Corder, the murderer of Maria Martin, was used for the binding of a book containing a biographical sketch of the murderer, and this book with its grewsome binding is to be found in the library of Trinity college, Cambridge. M. Flammarion had in his possession a book bound in the skin of the woman he loved in vain. The lovely countess, whose white and gleaming shoulders had stirred his admiration before her death, bequeathed him the skin that covered her form, upon which he had gazed with such pleasure. She also left a letter desiring the astronomer to use her skin to bind the wonderful work in which he speaks so eloquently of the glimmering world of stars, and Flammarion did not hesitate to fulfill the last wish of this most eccentric of women. Andre Le Roy had at one time in his possession a volume bound in the skin of Delille, the poet. A book entitled "Principles of Practical Anatomy," written by Prof. Lely of Jefferson Medical college, Philadelphia, was bound in human skin, and is now in the Rusk library.

Vast Possibilities of Russia.

Should Russia ultimately succeed in her scheme for dominating Asia, she will become mistress of some 800,000,000 people.

ENTERPRISING YANKEE WIDOW

She Knows the Value of a Life Pass and Made Use of It.

One of the islands in Panama bay used to belong to an enterprising old woman from Connecticut, the widow of a sea captain, and she lived all alone there in a little cabin for several years after her husband died. In the course of time—that is, about ten years ago—the Pacific Steam Navigation company desired that particular island for warehouses and repair shops, and when it came to make the purchase the ancient Yankee dame drove a very hard bargain. She made it a condition of the sale that the company should give her a life pass upon its steamers between Panama and Valparaiso for herself and a maid, to be used at her pleasure. This was done without misgivings. The manager of the company thought it was only right to give the old woman a sea voyage now and then, but experience caused him to think differently, for as soon as she had conveyed the title to the property, and had received a card signed by the president and general manager granting her passage at all times on their line, she calmly moved aboard their best steamer, selected a stateroom and cruised up and down the coast for several months. At Guayaquil, Callao, Valparaiso and other of the large ports she would go ashore while the ship was loading and unloading, but she always left most of her traps in the stateroom and came aboard again before the sailing date. When she got tired of one steamer she would try another, and was not contented with getting her living free of cost, but actually attempted to make a profit out of the arrangement. The old woman had never enjoyed the luxury of a maid in her life before she entered into this contract with the steamship company, but on several occasions brought a woman aboard whom she introduced as such, and she demanded that she be allowed free passage. The company's officers discovered that she was collecting fare from these women—that is, scolding her pass—and declined to carry any more of them. The old woman made a terrible fuss about it, and threatened to sue the company for violating its agreement, but a lawyer she consulted advised her not to prosecute the case, and she reluctantly abandoned it. She continued to live aboard the Pacific steamers until her death a few years ago.—Chicago Record.

FEASTED UPON FOE'S CARCASS

Merrymaking of a Friesen Neighborhood Over Death of a Ghost.

Two hundred residents and property owners of the Sunset district participated in a novel entertainment the other evening. For some time past a voracious goat belonging to Philip Diez has been a constant source of annoyance to its owner's neighbors on account of its depredations in their yards and its belligerency when disturbed on these occasions. All sorts of schemes were devised and executed for the purpose of circumventing this unwelcome visitor, but with persistence worthy of a better cause the goat overcame all obstacles, overruled all objections and continued to show an extremely bold front to all who sought to discourage his raids. Finally, in desperation, a committee of his victims called upon the goat's owner and demanded satisfaction. Recognizing that his goat was incorrigible and anxious to conciliate his angry neighbors, Diez consented to sacrifice the animal to the public good and suggested that his visitors help him to eat the carcass of the brute. This idea was accepted with avidity and the committeemen left, highly elated over the success of their mission. On talking the matter over with their friends, however, other victims of the goat's idiosyncrasies expressed a desire to attend the obsequies and the idea suggested by Diez was finally adopted as the keynote for a public demonstration. A committee of arrangements was accordingly appointed, a formal program drawn up and some 200 invitations were issued. The affair took the form of a banquet at Park View hotel, followed by an entertainment. The goat's meat had the distinction of being served on a separate table. P. J. Diez was given the place of honor as toastmaster in recognition of his generosity in sacrificing his pet.—San Francisco Chronicle.

Type as Ammunition.

At the time of the Maori war in New Zealand a newspaper correspondent had a strange experience. The publishing office of a newspaper was close to the scene of some of the hottest fighting. During the struggle the Maoris ran out of ammunition for their guns, and, raiding the newspaper offices, charged their guns with type and stereo blocks. This novel ammunition proved very effective. One of the white invaders was severely wounded with a patent medicine advertisement, and another was crippled for life by a church bazaar announcement, and the editor, who had taken refuge with the British troops, had a narrow escape from being hit with one of his own poems.

A Funeral Syndicate.

All the funerals in Paris are conducted by a single syndicate, which has a licensed monopoly of the business. There is a regular tariff of rates, a first class funeral costing \$2,000 and a cheap or ninth class \$5.

Who He Was.

Visitor—"And who are you, my little man?"
Cutbert (with conscious pride—"I'm the lady's brother."—Pittsburg Bulletin.



COUNTESS MARIE WYANOFF.

ed a fondness for the society of artists. Although her friends of high life expressed their annoyance, nevertheless, painters, musicians and actors were always hospitably received by her wherever she might happen to be.

Entering the life with enthusiasm, she became a shining figure in the upper Bohemia of Paris. Her house on the Parc Monceau, near that of Melssonier, was thronged by all the famous in art.

Among her artist friends was Carolus Duran, known as "the splendid Carolus," who was winning fortune as well as fame as the painter of beautiful and fashionable women. His pur-

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clever insight, their motive, which was her fair face and fabulous wealth. Each day upon the Countess's table appeared a lovely bouquet. Who the giver was no one knew.

At last the fair lady discovered her footman in the act of kissing her portrait. On demanding an explanation she learned that her handsome servant, with a temperament as ardent as her own, had long loved her in secret. Hopeless of ever having his love reciprocated, he had been pouring out his soul to her for years.

Here was devotion not found in any of her high-born suitors, and, by the laws of love, he stood before her equal. An elopement and wedding soon followed, and the Countess raised her husband in the eyes of the world, although not in her own, by buying for him a Bulgarian estate, with which goes the title of Count.

And now, in a picturesque spot of old Bulgaria, we may well imagine this Countess by marriage and Count by purchase, forgetful of what the world calls titles, living a life which is truly "one grand, sweet song," because they are daily realizing the full significance of those beautiful lines:

"Two souls with but a single thought,
Two hearts that beat as one."

Why People Become Deaf.

It has taken the medical world a great many years to discover that a loss of hearing is almost invariably caused by some disease of the throat, or nose, or both. But very recent researches in these fields have demonstrated this fact beyond question, and it is now admitted by the more advanced medical men that, aside from rupture of the ear-drum, there is scarcely a symptom of defective hearing which is not traceable directly to the condition of the nose and throat. In view of the new discoveries, ear specialists are finding their occupations gone, save as they make their particular branch an assistant in further investigation. It is said, as we have already pointed out, that the use of smelling salts is one of the most prolific causes of deafness, operating by weakening the olfactory nerves, and through them the auditory system. All strong and pungent odors should be avoided as far as possible, especially those which act upon the secretory processes, and, as the popular expression goes, "make the nose run."

Hear Both Sides.

Never condemn your neighbor unheard however many the accusations which may be preferred against him. Every story has two ways of being told, and justice requires that you should hear the defense as well as the accusation; and remember that the malignity of enemies may place you in a similar predicament.

A Business Principle.

Mr. Gotrox—So you want my daughter, eh? Do you drink? Bob Bluffer—Not while I'm doing business! Let that go till later.—Puck.

Prince Christian Victor of Schleswig-Holstein, the queen's grandson, who is fighting the Boers in South Africa, has been a familiar figure in recent British wars. He is an officer in the King's Royal rifles, and is 32 years old. In the Ashantee war of 1895-6 and in the Nile expedition of last year he

greatly distinguished himself. At Oxford Prince Christian was known as an athlete. He has been employed in active military service almost continuously since he left college. He is the eldest son of the queen's daughter Helena, and was born at Windsor.