

The American Girl Who May be a Queen



THE DUKE OF THE ABRUZZI

Washington.—If the king of Italy should die, and his son, the prince of Piedmont, and his cousins, the duke of Aosta and the count of Turin, and the duke's two sons, the Prince Amadeo and the Prince Aimone, then the duke of the Abruzzi would be king.

It is a remote possibility, of course, but the chance has given great international significance to the impetuous suit of the popular duke of the Abruzzi for the hand of that athletic and charming American beauty, Miss Katherine Elkins, daughter of the senator from West Virginia.

But should it all go right; should the king of Italy give his consent—to say nothing of Mr. Elkins—then the senator's daughter will come nearer being a queen than any American girl has ever been before.

There is nothing in the Italian law to prevent it. If the marriage is legally consented to by the king, the duchess of the Abruzzi takes her place among Italian royalty. And should chance make her husband king, she would be queen. Think of it—an American girl queen of Italy!

Everybody in Washington knows Miss Katherine Elkins. She made her debut in 1903—she is 25 years old now. Her father is a multi-millionaire, owning railroads, mines and lumber enterprises enough to capitalize the kingdom of Italy. Her grandfather, Henry Gassaway Davis, once a senator, too, is also a vastly rich man—so rich that he ran for vice-president once. Much of this wealth will eventually go to Miss Elkins. Just now Miss Elkins has \$2,000,000 which she can call her own.

Insisted on Her Own Way.

When Miss Elkins was ready to enter society she showed of what stuff she was made. She ruled against anything that savored of just a debutante tea.

"If I can't come out without this nonsense," she declared, "I won't come out at all."

So it went on, season after season, until the duke of the Abruzzi came here. He had met American girls before, but here was a different kind.

This particular pair met at the Italian embassy. The duke had come to America in command of the Italian warships sent to take part in the festivities at Jamestown.

It was very apparent that Miss Elkins made a deep impression upon the duke. He not only lost no opportunity to be near her, but he developed a ready wit in making other opportunities.

The Italian warships sailed back to sunny Italy. The duke was in command and perforce had to go along. Washington forgot he had ever been there.

But not the duke!
Nor Miss Elkins.

In the summer she went abroad with her mother, as usual. It chanced that the duke of the Abruzzi ran across the Elkins party in Paris. They met again in Vienna.

Drawn Back to America.

Though there was no Italian fleet to come here in the autumn, the duke of

the Abruzzi found it necessary to come to America. He also chanced to be wherever the Elkins family were. When Miss Elkins came to New York, a few weeks ago, the duke was there. When it was announced that she and her mother were going to Florida for a brief outing, the duke of the Abruzzi decided to run down there, too.

They went to Palm Beach. Nobody there knew the fascinating Italian who was so devoted to Miss Elkins, and somehow it happened that no one got a chance to meet him. Had Palm Beach only known it—Miss Elkins' "new man" was none other than a possible successor to the Italian throne!

The little party journeyed on to St. Augustine. There the secret came out. People began to ask questions. Could a prince of the blood royal make honest love to an American girl? Would not such an alliance be morganatic of itself?

Italian law was looked up—no, if the king consented, it wouldn't matter who the wife was at all. Queens in Italy enjoy but courtesy titles, anyway; should the duke of the Abruzzi become king his wife would surely be queen in name.

Then came the gossip.

Was there an engagement? Had the Italian duke proposed to the American girl? What would the king of Italy say? What would Senator Elkins say? Did they love each other? What would the dot be?

Elkins Family Say Nothing.

The Elkins family became quite mute. No announcement could be had from either the young woman in question or her distinguished father. Meanwhile the cables to Rome were kept hot. Would his majesty give his consent? His majesty didn't want to. He felt that a royal prince should marry into a noble family.

"But I love her," was the gist of the duke's cable in reply.

And what could the poor king do?

Meanwhile Senator Elkins had to endure all kinds of chaffing in the senate.

On March 17 Mrs. Elkins, Miss Elkins and the duke arrived in Washington from Florida. The party breakfasted together at the Elkins home, and afterward the duke went to the Italian embassy. Then he disappeared. Bland smiles were the only answers to inquiries for the duke. At the Elkins home no information was forthcoming.

It was very plain that the duke must do the talking first. But he wouldn't. He stayed in Washington for a few days, constantly calling at the Elkins home. Society got out its blue books. Soon it was discovered that he wouldn't have to give up his chances to the Italian throne should he make an American girl his wife. Further, it was explained that the marriage need not be a morganatic one, provided the king of Italy gave his consent.

However, there was all kinds of delightful mystery in Washington and Rome. Not a word that was authoritative was formally spoken. The Elkins family were mum; so was the Italian court.

"It's All Right," Says the Duke.

Then the gallant duke decided it was time to take a hand himself. It wouldn't do to leave Washington by train in the regular way—that would attract too much attention. So he had Miss Elkins take him to Baltimore in her automobile, and there he took the train to New York, where the Lusitania was waiting to sail.

"It's all right," was all he would say before the ship sailed with "Signor Sarto," as he chose to call himself.

Promptly the cables began to buzz. Rome declared that the duke of the Abruzzi was coming home in order to get the king's full consent to his marriage with the American girl; that she would become a Roman Catholic; that her father would be ennobled, and that the marriage would take place here next autumn.

Once the dispensation is obtained from the Vatican, the marriage may be solemnized anywhere in the world. The rule of the church, however, is that the bride's parish is the proper place for the ceremony. Because of this the marriage—if there is to be one—will be celebrated in the United States and not in Italy. Italian law requires that the minister of the interior and the president of the senate be

present at the wedding and certify to it. That is, if it takes place in Italy; but if it takes place in America, the presence and certification of an Italian consul or ambassador is all that is necessary.

The duke earnestly objected to any talk about a dot. He is rich in his own name; he declared that if Miss Elkins was to have any money it was none of his affair.

Duke Born in Madrid.

Luigi Amadeo, now duke of the Abruzzi, was born in Madrid in 1873, just 13 days before his father abdicated. He has two older brothers, the prince of Aosta and the count of Turin. Before them, however, comes the king of Italy's son, Crown Prince Umberto, four years old. The prince of Aosta has two sons, six and four years old, all of whom, beside the count of Turin, stand between the duke of the Abruzzi and the throne.

Though he stands high in the Italian navy, the duke of the Abruzzi gets his chief claim to fame as an explorer and mountain climber.

Nine years ago he ascended Mount St. Elias, in Alaska, one of the tallest American peaks. Two years later he sought the north pole. One of his party reached 86 degrees 33 minutes north, beating Nansen and holding the world's record until Peary beat it.

His Name Free from Scandal.

Clean-lived and with his name untouched by any kind of scandal, he entertains the most romantic affection for his aunt, Queen Marguerite, who played the part of a mother to him after the death of Queen Victoria, while he was yet in infancy. He has shown his devotion in many touching ways. When he scaled and explored Ruwenzori, he gave her name to its loftiest peak. He is the third of three brothers, the two elder being the duke of Aosta and the count of Turin. He has also a half-brother, Count Salemi, the issue of his father's marriage to Princess Letitia Bonaparte.

The fortune of the duke of the Abruzzi is estimated at \$2,000,000. He has less than his brothers, owing to the fact that he has met personally the expenses of his various expeditions, but there is still more property yet to be divided among the brothers. He has a private income from his moth-

er's estate of about \$10,000 a year. As an admiral of the royal navy, he receives an annual salary of about \$6,000 and from the royal treasury he receives close to \$100,000 a year.

As the duke spends nearly all his time exploring the wilds and the most dangerous corners of the world, it is reasonable to suppose that his wife will be his companion in his future expeditions. As Miss Elkins is a thorough sportswoman, she is doubtless as capable as any man of scaling mountain peaks. She has even intimated to some of her very intimate girl friends that she and the duke will spend their honeymoon in an expedition to some out of the way corner of the globe.

Met at Washington Ball.

The duke met Miss Elkins at a ball in Washington given by Mr. and Mrs. Larz Anderson. Col. Bromwell, aide to President Roosevelt, introduced the handsome young Italian prince to the senator's daughter.

Everybody in Washington exerted themselves to entertain the duke when he was here officially, but it was left to Miss Elkins to make the ten-strike.

"Let me do something for you," she said, chatting one day with the duke. "I'll give you a dinner, a dance or a theater party."

"I'll take them all," answered the duke promptly.

So, one day, many of the friends of Miss Elkins received cards to a dinner in honor of the duke of the Abruzzi. After the dinner Miss Elkins announced that they would attend the theater, and off they were whirled in autos. After the theater the entire party was whizzed up to Rauscher's, the Sherry's of Washington, where Miss Elkins had invited a party for dancing.

To his amazement the duke had enjoyed a dinner, the theater and a dance all in one evening.

But that is nothing new for Miss Elkins. She has always had her own way. She is the only daughter of the senator by his second marriage. She is a girl of brilliant mind, much originality and pronounced will power.

If, by a rare chance, she should be called on to grace a throne, Washington knows she would do it well.

DRAPERY IN HOUSE

HOW BEST RESULTS MAY BE OBTAINED.

Too Many or Too Heavy Hangings Apt to Spoil the Good Effects— Good Arrangement for the Dark Room.

Too much drapery is apt to make the rooms close and stuffy, and particularly when there is not a large space and the room is not very well lighted, and one must be careful not to produce a cramped effect by shutting out the light. For a moderate-sized room with a folding door which leads into another apartment and is of course permanently closed, a good arrangement can be made without using too heavy drapery. Instead of a pair of portieres hung on a rod and falling in heavy folds, take the material and stretch it across the doors, fastening it even with the door, without the rod, more like a panel effect.

When the Material is Plain.

If the material be plain and not brocade or tapestry it can be draped slightly or laid in folds like box platts and fastened in the center of the platt with a stud or brass tack. This will give the material a sufficient amount of fullness and do away with the stiffness of stretching plain material tightly over doors. If one happens to possess a mirror in a gold frame or an old colonial bedroom in wood, the effect is particularly good if the mirror is hung against this background and a divan placed beneath it with the cushions of the soft shade which corresponds with the colorings of your room, and the divan cover either matching the drapery of the door or of a shade which is in harmony with it.

Arrangement for Dark Room.

An effect of this kind seen recently in a rather dark room was excellent, but the background in this case was rather more elaborate and consisted, besides the flat piece of velvet over the door, of a top piece. This piece, which was separate, was made of a thin board of about six inches in depth, which was fastened at the top of the door and also covered with velvet, with the edge trimmed with a dull gold braid like a lambrequin, while the folds of the curtain with the brass studs in the center of the folds fell from just below this piece. The edge of the divan cover was of the same material and was trimmed with the same gold braid, and the mirror was a gilt one of a rococo design.

As the room was rather dark, the cushions selected were of the lighter shades of brocade in soft greens, yellows and old rose, and the result with the mirror reflecting the other side of the room and the dark receding background of the curtain was to make it appear much larger and more spacious, and do away entirely with the effect of a curtained doorway.

Oriental Draperies Excellent.

Where one is the happy possessor of some fine tapestry or a bit of Oriental embroidery they can be used instead of the arrangement we have mentioned, and, of course, are much more beautiful. But even with tapestry, if it is not of the finest weave and design, a good effect may be obtained in this same way by putting the tapestry flat against the door and hanging a mirror on it. A divan under the mirror or a deep sofa heaped with cushions is always attractive, and very good effects may be obtained in the matter of soft pillows and couch coverings with the expenditure of comparatively little money in the way of materials, upon the covering of either sofa pillows or couch draperies, if the proper combinations of color are selected and nothing glaring or obtrusive is used.

Chicken Dumplings.

Stew chicken until tender, make gravy, before taking up, then pour all in baking pan. Make dumplings with two cupfuls flour, heaping teaspoonful baking powder, two tablespoonfuls of butter, rub in thoroughly and make soft with sweet milk. Roll thin, cut in squares, put over chicken and bake in hot oven. They can be eaten cold and are always light and puffy.

Seeks No Welcome.

Irish proverb: He that comes unbidden will sit down unasked.

Cleaning Windows.

A good chamolis can be bought for 25 cents, and if well taken care of will last for several years. First wash windows with a damp sponge, then take the chamolis skin, wring as dry as possible, wipe off window and finish with an old cloth. This is the best as well as the easiest method.

Savory Hash.

Boil potatoes with the skins on the day before using. When the meat is boiled save some of the stock and put in when meat and potatoes are mixed.



MISS KATHERINE ELKINS