

A Bitter Lesson for Our Unpatriotic Millionaires

William Waldorf Astor, America's Most Notorious Expatriate, Ambitions Thwarted, Millions Wasted, Harassed by the Too Sharp Tongue of His Beautiful Daughter-in-Law, Drops Out of the Fight for a Dukedom to Wage Which He Gave Up His Own Country



William Waldorf Astor.

WILLIAM WALDORF ASTOR, owner of the biggest slice of New York real estate, has abandoned his long campaign to win a British title and become a social power in England.

He has decided to sell his London Tory newspapers, which he ran simply to advance his claims to a title from the Tory party, and to withdraw from English public life and society. He will spend the rest of his days at an obscure place on the Continent. He will not go to America, for he became disgusted with his native country before England rejected him.

This is the miserable end of the most costly attempt ever made by an American to win social honors and titles in a foreign country. To gain these things William Waldorf Astor abandoned the country of his birth that gave him his vast wealth, and neglected all the patriotic and civic obligations which that wealth entailed. And now he finds that the foreign aristocrats whose boots he has licked and whose debts he has paid for twenty-five years have nothing but contempt and ridicule for him.

Mr. Astor's experience should be a bitter lesson for the considerable number of American millionaires who are seeking a social career abroad and for others who may be tempted toward a similar course. Foreigners can have no real respect for a rich American who has abandoned his native country without reason or necessity, and no country will confer honors worth having on such a man.

An amusing and picturesque touch has been given to the collapse of Mr. Astor's English career by the lively tongue of his American daughter-in-law, Mrs. Waldorf Astor. She was Miss Nannie Langhorne, one of the five noted Langhorne sisters of Virginia, the most famous group of beauties in society to-day.

Young Mrs. Astor's American sense of humor was constantly stirred by the pathetic struggles of her father-in-law for a title, and she simply could not help making funny little remarks about it. These remarks irritated Mr. Astor very much, for he aimed to be an autocrat in his own family. According to the society gossip, somebody asked Mrs. Astor what office her father-in-law would take under the next Conservative government in England, and she replied:

"He will be Lord High Opener of the Barrel."

Still more recently, it is said, another friend asked her what title Mr. Astor would assume when he obtained his long-coveted peerage, to which she answered:

"I think he will be Earl of Tightburst."

This is supposed to have been a delicate reference to Mr. Astor's disinclination to refresh Cliveden, the Astor palace on the Thames, at enormous expense.

These more or less humorous remarks

and her frequent references to his "money bags" are said to have finally aggravated Mr. Astor beyond endurance and proved the final thrust that decided him to withdraw from English social and public life. He had already failed in every object on which he had set his heart and to make his daughter-in-law's jeering remarks an excuse for getting out of a hopeless situation was not a surprising action in a broken-spirited man.

It is even suggested that Mr. Astor's pique against his daughter-in-law has led to serious estrangement from his son and the distressful word "disinheritance" has been mentioned, but upon this point there is no reliable information.

On several occasions Mr. Astor's American dollars have placed him in a ridiculous light in England, although he has spent them so freely there. During the last general election, for instance, the English Tories made a great fuss about the American dollars they said were being sent over by Irish-Americans to win Home Rule for Ireland. At this election young Waldorf Astor was a Tory candidate for Parliament for the town of Plymouth. An English speaker gifted with traditional English slowness of comprehension, who went down to speak in support of Astor, laid great stress on the "dirty American dollars" cry.

"Fellow countrymen, will you allow yourselves to be ruled by dirty American dollars sent over here to bribe our honest British electors into selling their coun-

try?" thundered the British orator. "Then if you wish to avert that tragedy vote for my upright, patriotic friend, Mr. Waldorf Astor."

Young Waldorf Astor, realizing fully that he had nothing but "dirty American dollars," felt greatly embarrassed, but thought that he ought to back up his friend's remarks as strongly as possible.

"I boil with indignation at the picture my noble friend has drawn of the base American dollars."

"I say, old top," called out a vulgar Briton in the audience, "won't yer please tell us wot you're a living orf?"

Young Mrs. Astor related this amusing episode and many other details of the campaign in a very entertaining manner at London social gatherings. Everything she said added to the irritability of the elder Astor, and helped on the final explosion.

Another reported remark of Mrs. Astor made fun of the Astor ancestry. The Duchess of Marlborough was explaining to some English people that the Vanderbilt family was not, as new as the English think an American family must be.

"But the Astors had stopped skinning skunks years before the Vanderbilts stopped collecting tolls on their ferry," interrupted Mrs. Waldorf Astor.

This remark was quite annoying to old Mr. Astor, because he had with great trouble and expense published a genealogical report, showing that he was descended from an ancient Spanish noble family named Astorga. This was accompanied by copious illustrations and herald-



PHOTO BY LALLIE CHARLES LONDON.

Pretty Mrs. Waldorf Astor, Whose Nimble Tongue Has Made Her Father-in-Law Furious and Put the Finishing Touch on His Social Collapse in England.

attempts to seduce our dear old country with foreign gold," cried Mr. Astor, when his turn to speak came. "We will jolly well show them that they can't buy up dear old England with their dirty

American dollars."

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ry devices, and made very little mention of the German peasants from whom the Astors were undoubtedly descended.

One of Mr. Astor's peculiarities since he settled in England has been to have everything about him very feudal, so that he might be properly qualified for a place in the House of Lords. He bought Hever Castle in Kent, one of the most perfect Tudor castles in England. It had belonged to Queen Anne Boleyn, to marry whom King Henry VIII. divorced Katharine of Aragon. Within a few years, as every schoolboy knows, he beheaded poor Anne Boleyn.

After that the ghost of this beautiful, graceful, unhappy young queen used to haunt her ancient home. It was this reputation of possessing a first-class historic ghost that induced Mr. Astor to buy Hever Castle. But after he moved in the ghost absolutely refused to walk. A sarcastic Englishman remarked that a queen's ghost would naturally refuse to walk for an American parvenu. This remark, like so many others, annoyed Mr. Astor very much.

Mr. Astor has spent his money freely buying Tory newspapers and contributing to Tory campaign funds in England, with the object of getting a dukedom. In the last two hundred years dukedoms have only been given to men already having a high rank in the peerage, and even that way only four have been created since

A Curious Cartoon from the "Winning Post," London, Ridiculing Mr. Astor's Course in Shutting the British Public Out of the Grounds of His Country Place, Cliveden, and Showing Young Mr. Astor as One of the "Guards" Patrolling the Battle Strwn Wall.

1814. When the Tory party was last in power it is said they offered Astor a baronetcy, an honor given to various makers of pills and soap. He spurned it. It is explained that Astor is so unpopular that the Tory party did not have the audacity to give him a peerage no matter how large his contributions might be.

Since he left New York in 1892 and settled in London, his life has consisted of making large expenditures to gain the coveted title and getting into difficulties that made it impossible to give it to him. In 1890 occurred the memorable Sir Berkeley Milne affair, which astounded English society as nothing before or since has done. This consisted in ordering out of his house Captain Milne because that gentleman, the captain of the Queen's yacht, happened to be present as a caller without an invitation at a musicale. Astor caused an insulting item about Milne to be printed in his newspaper. King Edward VII, then Prince of Wales, was greatly enraged by this brutal treatment of a friend of his.

Astor, by this act, became the most disliked man in English society, as he had become in America a year before by renouncing allegiance to his native land.

Before he incurred royal displeasure by the Milne affair, he invited the then Prince of Wales to Cliveden, ignoring the court etiquette of asking the royal visitor what diversion would suit his pleasure. Astor bluntly said they would take a ride in the launch, which was exactly what the Prince did not want to do. This gained him the name of being the worst authority on court etiquette in England.

He made himself ridiculous by bringing a libel suit against a London newspaper for printing a story that he had made a bet that he could seat twenty-seven persons around a table made from a section of redwood tree brought from California. He really had such a table, but the dinner story was a hoax, perhaps designed to poke fun at Astor. The court laughed at him and dismissed the case, after having more or less fun with the senseless litigation.

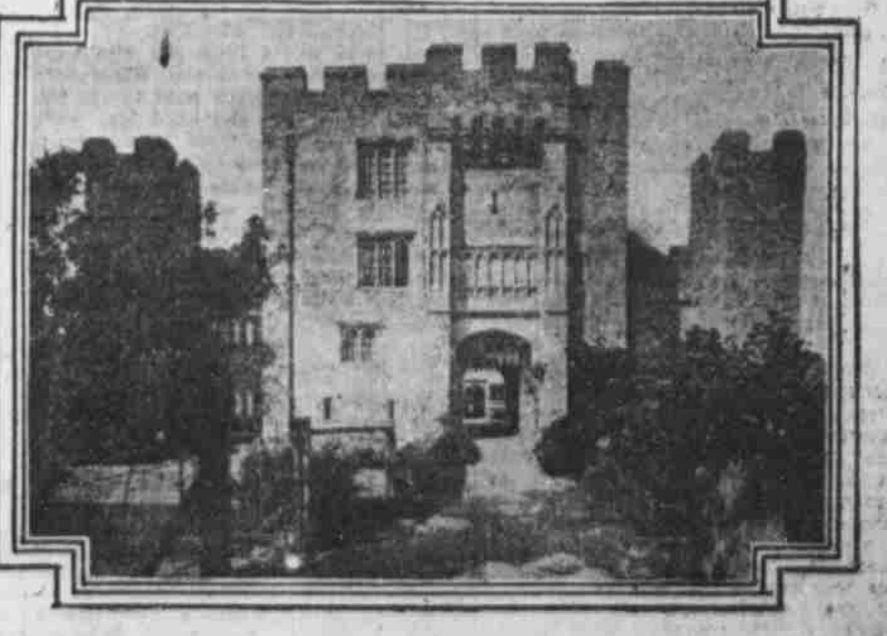
After buying Cliveden, from the Duke of Westminster, the latter remembers a visitor's book, or autograph album, which he asked Mr. Astor to kindly return to him on account of his family associations. Mr. Astor courteously refused to do this—and became a bitter enemy of the Duke of Westminster ever after—even refusing to print a notice of the Duke's death in his newspaper, although he was one of the richest peers of England.

Astor's act of shutting out the people from the grounds of Cliveden, which had always been a semi-public park, fomented feeling against him.

At every step of Mr. Astor's career, in fact, he seems to have done just the things to defeat his own ends and ambition.



Mr. Astor's Second Son, John Jacob, in His Uniform as an Officer of the King's Life-Guards.



Hever Castle, Bought by Mr. Astor Because Queen Anne Boleyn Once Lived in It, and Her Ghost Is Said to Haunt It.

Why the Milky Way Is Really the Nursing Place for Baby Stars

WHAT is known as the Milky Way, the peculiar girde of stars which completely encircles the heavens, has from time immemorial been so designated merely because of its resemblance to a milky streak.

The combined light of the myriads of tiny and distant stars which go to make up this cluster comes to us in so subdued a form that instead of shining brightly like that of other stars it sheds but a milky glow on the heavens, which is visible to the naked eye only on the clearest nights.

It has now been suggested, however, that the Milky Way is entitled to that designation for a much better reason than is afforded by its appearance. It is pointed out that, in all probability, the heavenly region occupied by the Milky Way is the birthplace of all stars, and that they remain there in their infancy. When they are old enough and large enough to be weaned, so to speak, they leave the region of the Milky Way and become visible to us as individual new stars.

Just how many millions of years it may take before the immature worlds

composing the Milky Way grow big enough to branch out for themselves is more or less problematical, but, of course, in considering the birth of new stars one must bear in mind that millions of years are usually required for such phenomena.

It is believed that the younger stars have not yet had sufficient time, to stray far from the plane of the Milky Way. As they grow older, however, they increase in velocity and soon they leave the Milky Way altogether and assume an individuality of their own. As they come within closer proximity to the earth, their presence sooner or later

becomes known to our astronomers. Not more than a dozen new stars have been identified by astronomers within the past three hundred years, but it is quite probable, of course, that many more have escaped observation.

That the velocity of stars grows with their age is explained by the fact that the mutual attraction which stars have for each other grows, and this mutual attraction accounts for the increased velocity.

The theory is an interesting one and has claimed the attention of a number of well known astronomers here and abroad.