

ALWAYS THE WOMAN!

Recent Tragedies in Real Life in Which the Frail, but Beautiful, Have Had Part-Peculiar Case Is That of Countess Maria Tarnowska, for Love of Whom Six Men Have Ruined Themselves.



In the last few weeks the press of the entire world has reverberated with the news of several sensations in each of which a woman was the central figure. This sentence, just as it stands, might have been written at any time in history. Given a sensational piece of news—apart from the cataclysms of nature—and a woman's name is sure to be mixed up in it.

The cynical observer is ever ready to say, "There is always a woman in the case." Of the most recent explosions in the great old world, explosions of which the report has been loud enough to be echoed even on this side of the Atlantic, most of the feminine causes are of doubtful beauty. That is to say, there may be at least two opinions about their beauty. Doubtless the generals and statesmen who fought duels over the Baroness von Siemens find her beautiful; unquestionably the man who was slain and the man who slew for love of her believed the Countess Tarnowska a dream of loveliness; probably the late Lord Sackville saw wondrous pulchritude in the face of Pepita Duran; King Leopold admired the Baroness Vaughan, and Mme. Steinheil had a group of intellectual men who wor-

hibited in the Paris Salon last year. Her first husband was one of the Siemens brothers of Berlin, who are famous as inventors and manufacturers of electrical machinery. Her second husband was Prince Malcolm Khan, ex-attaché of the Persian Legation in Rome, from whom she is divorced.

It was not pleasant to a woman in such an exalted social position to be called a spy, but that five distinguished men should rush like d'Aragnans to risk their lives in defense of her good name must have been balm to her wounded feelings.

Another woman to furnish copious material for the tongues of Europe in the last few weeks is the Countess Maria Tarnowska, whose trial for murder has been taking place in Venice. She is a daughter of the aged Count Nicholas O'Rourke, a Pole of Irish descent, and she is the mother of two pretty children, a boy and a girl. The man who was murdered was Count Paul Karmarowsky, who was fascinated by her. He was killed by a young Russian student named Naumow, who had also fallen under the spell of her fascination, and the charge against her was that she and a lawyer named Prilukow—also infatuated with her—had woven a diabolical plot and used Naumow as a tool to get rid of Karmarowsky.

Whatever doubt there may be as to

would have just the effect that it did have. This confession she has repudiated at her trial. The Venetian women wanted to lynch her when she was being led to court.

Lord Sackville's Romance.

An utterly different type was Pepita Duran, and the tragedy that followed in her wake was moral rather than physical. She was a Spanish dancer in 1852 when she met Lord Sackville, an English diplomat of note. They lived together till 1871, when she died, leaving two sons and three daughters. He sent the children to boarding school and retired to Knoles, the magnificent old mansion that was his ancestral home. When Henry, the oldest son, was nineteen years old, his father told him that he could not inherit either the title or the estates, and that he would have to get out and earn his living away from England. He became a farmer in South Africa, but he was not satisfied, and returned to England, where he tried to prove that Lord Sackville had married his mother. This so offended the noble lord that he would have nothing more to do with his son.

Husband in the Way.

The reason Lord Sackville had not married Pepita Duran was that she already had a husband in the person of Juan Antonio Gabriel de Oliva, a dancer, who refused to get a divorce and did not die until 1888, thus disappointing Sackville, who would gladly have married Pepita and legitimized her children if only the Spaniard would have got out of the way.

On Lord Sackville's death a few years ago the title and estates went to a cousin of the noble lord's children, Henry, the South African farmer, went to England and claimed the title. The case has just been tried before the House of Lords and was decided last month, the House ruling that Lord Sackville had never married Pepita Duran and that therefore the claim of the plaintiff had no grounds. This for the young man was a tragedy, moral but none the less real.

The recent death of King Leopold of the Belgians brought into the limelight another woman—the Baroness Vaughan—whom the aged king had wedded not long before he passed away. She was a girl of humble extraction—her brother is a waiter, her sister a seller of vegetables—with whom he had lived for many years and who had borne him several children. For her this king made his daughters' lives miserable, virtually putting the young women out of his house; to her he left a vast fortune that ought, in the natural course of events, to have gone to his daughters. He ennobled her, he made one of her sons a duke, the other a baron, and he built palaces for them. Thus his infatuation for this woman cast a cloud upon the memory of a king who in many respects was really great.

Mystery of Faure's Death.

The recent trial of Mme. Steinheil in Paris for the murder of her mother, though it resulted in an acquittal, opened the door of a cupboard in which a skeleton had long lain hidden. It revealed that among the host of admirers of this wife of a complacent artist had been President Faure of France; it did not, however, unveil the mystery that surrounded the sudden death of that statesman, but rather drew it more tightly, for it was more than hinted that Mme. Steinheil had been present in the president's death chamber.

One of the great tragedies of modern history has never yet been explained authoritatively. It is known that the Crown Prince Rudolph of Austria and the beautiful young Baroness Marie Vetsera were killed together in a hunting lodge at Meyerling twenty years ago. The one man still living who saw what happened that night is the Prince of Coburg, who is ending his days in such a disordered state of mind that nothing in the way of a revelation can be expected of him.

Archduke Rudolph married Princess Stephanie, daughter of Leopold of the Belgians, but they soon tired of each other, as they had little in common. Rudolph tried to have the marriage annulled, but the Emperor Francis Joseph forbade it. Rudolph was then passionately devoted to Marie Vetsera, a lovely girl not much more than sixteen years old. How their romance culminated in tragedy will never be known, but a certain doctor, a friend of the Belgian Princess Stephanie, Rudolph's wife, and Louise, wife of the Prince of Coburg, has just given the following version:

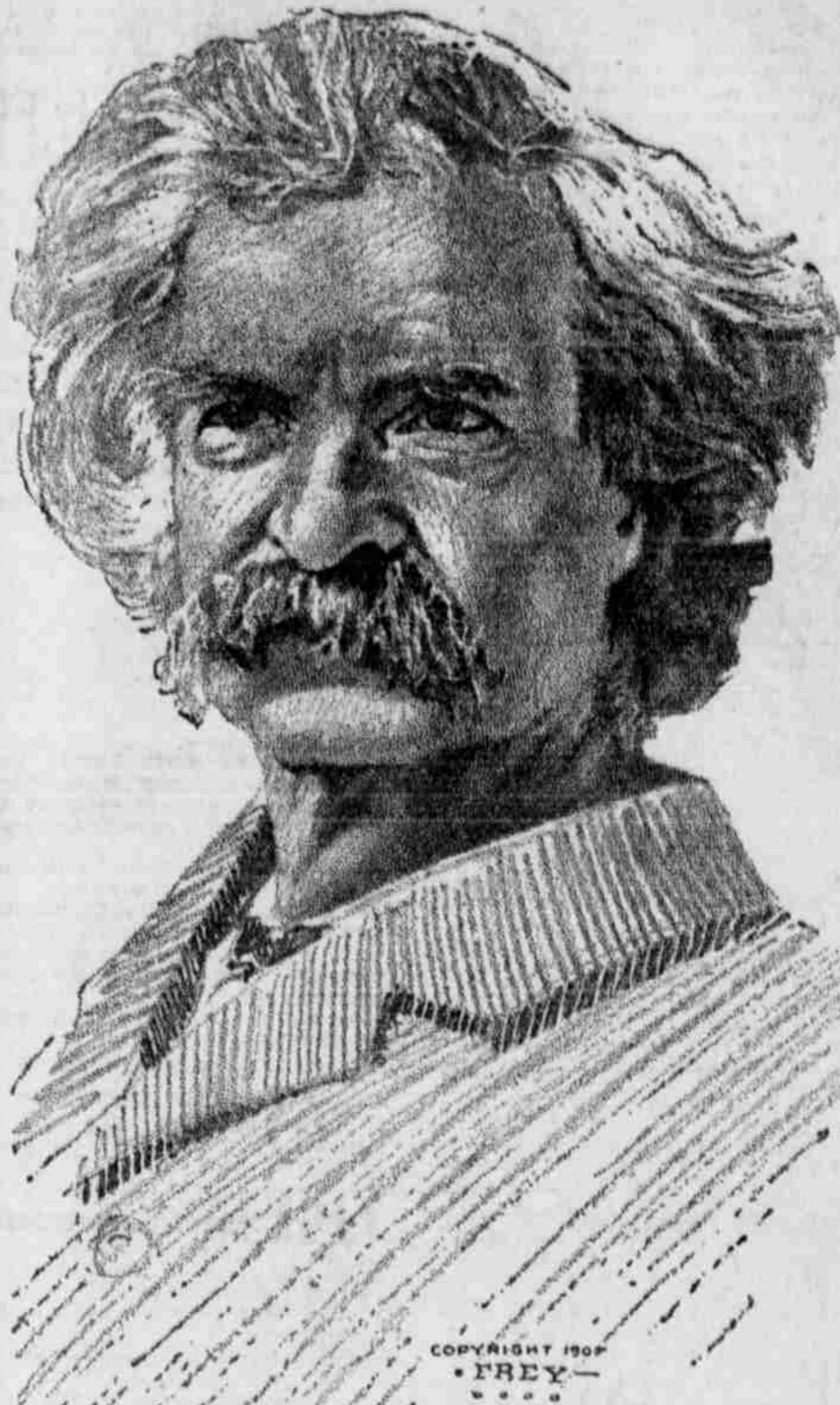
Story of the Tragedy.

There was a merry party at Meyerling, according to this doctor, and Prince Rudolph, excited by wine, boasted that Marie Vetsera had the most beautiful neck and shoulders of any woman in the world. Some one disputed the statement. Whereupon the archduke roughly tore the girl's bodice from her. Resenting this indignity in the presence of these reveling men the young baroness struck the crown prince in the face with a champagne glass, inflicting a severe cut. Instantly he shot her through the heart. One of the company seized a bottle of champagne and struck Rudolph over the head. The prince fell dead from the blow.

The list of women possessing a fatal charm might be continued indefinitely. Here in America, for instance, we have had the recent cases of Senator Platt, Stanford White, Harry Thaw and many others of men whose lives or careers were wrecked or damaged by infatuation for some woman.

It is a matter of history that the women who have wielded the most potent charm over men have fascinated by other means than mere beauty.

SAMUEL LANGHORNE CLEMENS
"MARK TWAIN."



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LIFE OF "MARK TWAIN," THE GREAT AMERICAN HUMORIST

Early Struggles and Adventures, Followed by Years of Successful Literary Work--Later Days Saddened by Deaths and Financial Reverses.

Samuel Langhorne Clemens, America's foremost humorist and known to the world over as "Mark Twain" was born in the little town of Hannibal, Mo., on November 30, 1835.

His father, John Marshall Clemens, came from an old Virginia family, and with his young wife, Elizabeth Lampton, a descendant of the early settlers of Kentucky, he joined the sturdy band of pioneers who pushed over the Alleghenies in the early part of the last century and settled along the banks of the Mississippi river.

In the uncouth environment of the then little frontier town of Hannibal the famous author spent his boyhood days. Here he fished, hunted and lounged along the river banks with his sturdy companions, living a healthy outdoor existence, which undoubtedly accounted for his long life, in the face of his many afflictions.

He attended the little school, but not being of a very studious disposition, he learned far more from contact with the rough companions whom he immortalized in later years as "Huckleberry Finn" and "Tom Sawyer," and others of their type.

At the age of twelve his meager school education was brought to a sudden close by the death of his father.

His older brother, Orion S. Clemens, was the proprietor of a printing shop in the village, and young Sam Clemens began his journalistic career there as a "printer's devil." In the course of a few years he learned the trade as a compositor, and in 1853 he left his native town and began a wandering existence. He journeyed from place to place, working at his trade in New York and the principal cities of the middle west.

But while he gained a vast amount of experience during his travels, which proved of the greatest value in the preparation of some of his works in later years, this period was rather unprofitable from a financial standpoint, and he was finally compelled to return to his home along the banks of the great river, in rather straightened circumstances.

The life of a steamboat pilot had always appealed to his youthful imagination, and now that he had grown to manhood, he resolved to realize his ambition. He was fortunate enough to become a pupil of Horace Bixby, and he was soon guiding the awkward river craft along the tortuous channel of the muddy stream.

The idea of his becoming an author had never entered his mind at that time, but he absorbed enough of the pilot life to enable him to describe the difficulties encountered in guiding a boat along the great river in his "Life on the Mississippi River," which he wrote many years later.

First Literary Work.
In 1852 he began his first regular literary work on the staff of the Virginia City Enterprise. He wrote a column daily, dealing with the political situation in the state, that attracted wide attention. These articles he signed with the nom de plume "Mark Twain," which he had heard sung out on the Mississippi steamers to let the pilot know that the sounding showed two fathoms of water.

In March of 1857, "Twain" published his first book, "The Jumping Frog of Calaveras County." The book made quite a stir in that part of the country, but only 4,000 copies were sold. It attracted the attention, however, of the editor of the Alta California, who sent the author out as a newspaper correspondent on a steamboat excursion to southern Europe and the Orient.

His letters were published from time to time, and in 1859 the author revised them and published them in book form under the title of "The Innocents Abroad." This work made "Mark Twain" famous and compelled his recognition as America's foremost humorist. In the first 16 months, 85,000 volumes were sold, and many more subsequently. This was a record sale for those days.

Marries Miss Langdon.
It was on his trip in the Mediterranean that "Mark Twain" met Olivia L. Langdon of Elmira, N. Y. They fell in love with each other, and in 1870 were married. Their married life was one of perfect harmony and four children blessed their union.
Mr. Clemens resided in Buffalo for

a year after his marriage, and was nominally the editor of the Buffalo Express. In 1871 he joined the literary colony at Hartford, Conn., where he lived for a great many years, and where he did the greater part of the work that has made his name immortal.

In 1872 "Roughing It" appeared, and in the same year "The Gilded Age," written in collaboration with Charles Dudley Warner, was published. "Tom Sawyer" came in 1876, and "Huckleberry Finn" nine years later. Of the stories with an historical setting, "The Prince and the Pauper," "A Connecticut Yankee at the Court of King Arthur," and "Personal Recollections of Joan of Arc," appeared in 1882, 1889 and 1894 respectively. In 1893 that curious philosopher, "Pudd'nhead Wilson," made his bow.

Misfortune Dogs Him.
But while the great humorist was meeting with well-deserved success from a literary standpoint, the imp of misfortune seemed to dog his very footsteps.

In 1884 he conceived the idea of reaping the publisher's as well as the author's profits from some of his works. Accordingly he organized a stock company known as C. L. Webster & Co., in which he was the largest stockholder, to publish his works. He had accumulated considerable wealth and was rated as a millionaire.

His financial ability, however, was none of the best, and in 1894 his entire fortune was swept away by the failure of the publishing house. Mr. Clemens was abroad at the time, and although 60 years of age, he started out on a tour of the globe, delivering lectures and writing articles in order to pay the debts of the defunct firm.

He had scarcely begun his great task when fate struck him another hard blow. This was the death of his eldest and most accomplished daughter, Miss Olivia S. Clemens, who died in August, 1896, at the age of 24. Broken in spirit, he continued his great task and in two years he had paid off his debts.

Wife Passes Away.
As if in sympathy with her husband's misfortunes, his wife's health began to fail. He moved to Florence, Italy, in the hope that the mild climate would restore her, but it proved of no avail, and on November 6, 1904, she died in that far off land.

About this time the humorist met H. H. Rogers, the Standard Oil magnate, and the men became fast friends. Rogers gave his literary friend the aid of his financial experience, and Clemens was soon in possession of a comfortable income.

And now misfortune selected another weapon with which to attack the white-haired author. Heretofore his books had escaped harsh criticisms, but in November, 1907, "Tom Sawyer" and "Huckleberry Finn," his boy masterpieces, were withheld from youths by the Brooklyn public libraries, as "unfit for young minds." Comptroller Joy of Detroit, Mich., declared his work, "A Double-Barreled Detective Story," was "literary junk, unfit for a public library," and a Massachusetts public library refused to give shelf room to his "Eve's Diary," declaring that the book was "shocking."

Worn out by his lectures, after dinner speeches and misfortunes, "Twain" purchased a farm in Redding, Conn., and erected a 340,000 villa, which he called "Stormfield." With his two daughters, Clara and Jean, he moved there in 1908, and settled down to a life of ease.

But a series of fresh misfortunes was in store for him. He had vigorously denounced the rule of the late King Leopold II. in the Congo Free State, and just when the reform movement was at its height, his ill health compelled him to abandon his work.

The "Children's Theater," which was founded by "Mark Twain" in New York, and which represented one of his life-long ambitions, was forced to close through lack of funds.

Then the humorist and his daughter Clara became involved in a lawsuit over a farm which he had presented to his former secretary, Mrs. Ralph Ashcroft, on her wedding day; and which he later attached on the advice of his daughter.

The facts regarding this disagreeable affair were aired in the press, much to the humiliation of the veteran humorist.

In the early part of 1909 his staunch friend and adviser, H. H. Rogers, died suddenly at his New York home. This great financier and the white haired humorist had been inseparable companions for a number of years. They had made trips to Bermuda together, and when Rogers opened his railroad in Virginia, "Twain" was one of the guests of honor. The author was greatly affected by the financier's sudden death.

In the latter part of 1909, "Twain" made another trip to Bermuda, and on his return his feeble appearance attracted a great deal of attention. Then the last crushing blow came the day before Christmas, when his youngest daughter, Jean, was found dead in the bath tub at his Redding home. The young woman had been a victim of epileptic fits.

A Reason.
"Do be quiet. Don't you know that there's a visitor in the next room?" said Frances to her little brother. "How do you know? You haven't been in." "But," said Frances, "I heard mamma saying 'My dear to papa.'" —Tit-Bits.

Gaily Colored Baboon.
In the Berlin zoo is a baboon with a bright blue and purple face, bright red nose and grayish-white beard and whiskers.



shipped at her shrine. We here in America can know these women only by their photographs, and these photographs are especially interesting, as they reveal that scarcely one of these women about whom tragedy has revolved bears features that will stand comparison with the classical standards. Yet, after all, no man has a right to say unqualifiedly this woman is beautiful or that woman is ugly. Fortunate that this is so!

It is surely a unique distinction in these days to have five challenges to duels issued in defense of her name. And this distinction the Baroness Eleonora von Siemens can boast. There was a great sensation in the Italian Chamber of Deputies on March 4 when Enrico Chiesa, a Socialist representative of the Extreme Left, in interpellating General Prudente, the Under Secretary of War, formally accused several generals of having betrayed the secrets of the national defense through the Baroness von Siemens, a foreign woman with whom they were on friendly terms. At the close of the session five men challenged Chiesa to fight duels. Among these were General Fecla di Cossato, General Prudente, the Duke di Litta and Count Giacomo Morando. The challenges came so quickly on top of each other that the seconds and umpires had much difficulty in arranging their priority. This was at last settled and two of the duels have been fought. Nobody has been killed up to the present writing, but General Prudente wounded Cies in the face and Chiesa gashed General di Cossato in the left cheek. Apologies have made the other duels unnecessary.

Proved Power Over Men.
The Baroness von Siemens is a very rich woman, who has a fine house in Rome, where she entertains many members of the highest society. She is a Swiss by birth, with a fair skin, exquisitely rosy cheeks and great velvety brown eyes. Carolus Duran painted her portrait, which was ex-

her guilt, there is none whatever about the fascination she had for men. This may have been deliberate, but the story of her adventurous life proves that it was most potent. She is not yet thirty, but at least six men have ruined themselves for her; two of these met tragic deaths and four of them deserted wives and children.

Made Lawyer Her Victim.
One day the Countess called on business at the office of a lawyer, Prilukow by name. He had a loving wife and a thirteen-year-old son, and was making from \$12,000 to \$15,000 a year from his practice. Wife, family and practice were thrown to the winds as soon as he saw Countess Tarnowska. His wife got a divorce; his fortune vanished; he appropriated the funds of his clients. When 60,000 rubles in the hole he shot himself, but the surgeons saved his life, and since then he and the countess have wandered all over Europe, he her devoted slave, she fascinating all men with whom she came in contact.

Among her victims was Naumow, a youth of good family and married. His wife divorced him on account of the Tarnowska woman, and he joined the latter and Prilukow in their wanderings.

They met Count Kamarowsky, colonel of the Czar's Noble Guard, a widower with one son, and a millionaire. He wooed the countess honorably and wanted to marry her. He made a will and insured his life for \$250,000 in her favor, and introduced her as his fiancee to his mother.

When away in Russia Naumow received a telegram ostensibly signed by Kamarowsky, containing gross insults directed against the Countess Tarnowska and himself. Naumow went at once to Venice, where Kamarowsky was living, and shot the latter to death in his room.

The Countess Tarnowska confessed that she and Prilukow had sent the telegram to Naumow, knowing that it