

## My Diplomatic Mission

It Was My First and My Last

By F. A. MITCHEL

I am the daughter of an American admiral. When my father was retired he joined us in Washington, where we lived. At his death, his income being cut off, I found it necessary to do something to add to the small income of my mother and was given a clerkship in the navy department, but the salary was small, and I confess I looked forward to the humdrum life before me with dislike.

Notwithstanding our limited resources I maintained my position in society. Washington does not suffer socially from commercialism as other American cities. I was invited just as often after my entrance upon my clerkship as before. Indeed, I occupied a better social status than many newly rich people who, having suddenly acquired wealth, settled in Washington to spend it.

One evening during a reception at the White House the wife of a member of the Russian diplomatic corps sought me out and drew me away from the throng for a chat. She gradually led the conversation upon myself and asked me how I would like to enter the diplomatic service. Upon asking her what she meant she explained that diplomacy was synonymous with chicanery. There was a constant effort between the diplomats of the world to get possession of each other's secrets and thus forestall action. I was interested, and the lady proceeded to tell me that women were usually mixed up in these affairs and were relied on principally by their husbands to extract information from their diplomatic rivals. Then, after pledging me to secrecy, she told me that the Russian embassy was at that time in want of an attractive woman to obtain a secret from a diplomat and that she would be paid liberally for the service rendered.

Of course the lady was sounding me to learn if I would undertake the matter. I neither accepted nor declined, leaving her, intending to think it over. I did think it over and came to a decision that may be considered peculiar. I determined that I would not dishonor my father's name by becoming a spy; but, being infatuated with the idea of swimming in that undercurrent of duplicity that had been mentioned, I resolved to accept the offer, but not for pay. I had an object in view that concerned my own individual self far more than Russia. When I had made up my mind I called on the lady who had been given the commission to employ me and told her I was ready to listen to a proposition.

I dare say that this may be considered whipping conscience around the stump, but at the time I was not aware of doing anything dishonorable. I was employed by the Russian embassy—no particular person in it was specified—to get a secret from the secretary of legation of Great Britain. It was suspected by the Russians that England was making a secret treaty with the sublime port, Russia has always been at issue with the other European powers as to Turkey, and ever since the Czar Nicholas I. was outwitted by the British minister, just previous to the Crimean war, Russia has been eager to get even with England by some sharp diplomatic move. I was therefore employed to draw this secret from Edward Cathorne, who would surely be cognizant of it, who had chosen diplomacy as a profession and was expecting soon to be raised to the rank of ambassador.

At the next important social function, given by the secretary of state, a member of the Austrian embassy asked permission to present his friend Edward Cathorne. What the Austrian had to do with the matter I did not know. Evidently he was either in some way connected with the plot or was being made a tool of. That was nothing to me, but I experienced a peculiar sensation of pleasure at being launched in the whirlpool of diplomatic chicanery. I graciously permitted the introduction and found Mr. Cathorne very agreeable. Indeed, he was of the best type of English gentleman, not noble, but well connected at home and in every way desirable. I refrained at this first meeting from anything connected with the work I had undertaken. I simply endeavored to make myself as agreeable as possible to him. I saw at once that he was an intellectual man, and I treated him accordingly—that is, I talked of anything but weighty matters. Girls make a mistake in thinking that men of depth wish deep women for companions. One might as well expect a lawyer to talk law for amusement. However, I permitted Mr. Cathorne to do most of the talking, leaving him to chat as he liked. Small talk is all that can be introduced at social functions anyway.

Mr. Cathorne asked permission to call upon me, which was, of course, granted. We occupied the same house as when my father lived, a two story brick near — circle, and it had in it all the attractiveness of simplicity. My visitor told me during the evening that he would sail for England on leave of absence the next week. I told him that I was about to go abroad, and by comparing notes it turned out that I had engaged my passage on the same steamer on which he had engaged his

Russian embassy would do my bidding in the matter. Mr. Cathorne seemed very much pleased to have my company on the voyage and offered his mother's and sisters' hospitality during my stay in England.

I was offered a passage across the ocean and ample funds for other expenses by my employers, but Mr. Cathorne knew that I was not able to travel expensively so I chose one of the poorest staterooms and declined to accept anything from the Russian embassy until I had finished my work. Fortunately I had enough for the purpose saved from my salary. I offered to resign my position in the navy department, but on account of my father's services was given a leave of absence. I learned afterward that those who sent me on my mission were much puzzled at my declining to be furnished with funds. But they continued to be puzzled till they heard definitely from me later, for I gave them no satisfactory explanation. I also learned that from this time they began to doubt me and took measures to get the information they desired through other parties.

Mr. Cathorne was devoted to me on the voyage. He talked about everything except diplomacy, on which he maintained a rigid silence. I did not make the slightest attempt to draw him out in that line. Any effort to do so would have aroused suspicion. But it was not in accordance with my plan to draw him out. Something far deeper was in my mind. Besides, I soon learned from him what was necessary for me to know. He told me that he would remain at home only long enough to make a report at the foreign office in London, after which he would take a little trip on the continent. I well knew that this meant a visit to the sultan of Turkey.

Everybody knows what an ocean voyage is for matchmaking. We had not reached England before Mr. Cathorne and I were engaged in what in America we call a flirtation. The flirting, however, if it really was flirting, was all on one side. An Englishman is not an adept in such affairs. The game at which he is especially expert is not the game of love, but of diplomacy. I was content, for the time being at least, to let him have his own way at the game of diplomacy provided I could have mine at the game of love.

I had not been in England eighteen hours before I received an invitation from a sister of Mr. Cathorne to visit the family home, near London. I spent several days there, during which, I fear, the visiting was rather between Mr. Cathorne and me than between me and his mother and sisters. Our affair reached a crisis one evening when he told me that he must run over the next morning to Paris on business. Before going he told me what I had been hoping for—not his diplomatic secret, but that he wished me to be his wife.

Before parting with him that evening—I was not to see him the next morning—he admitted that he was going farther than Paris. I asked him if he was going still farther, and he finally admitted that he would not stop till he reached Constantinople. I asked him why he was going there, and he declined to tell me. I remonstrated with him, saying that a promised wife should share all her fiancé's secrets.

"Not his government's secrets." I threw my arms around his neck, laughed and said: "You're going to Constantinople on the matter of a treaty between England and Turkey."

Disengaging himself from me, he looked at me with astonishment. I told him that I had been employed—by whom I would not say—to get a knowledge of that treaty; that I had accepted the offer for the fun of the thing and had declined to receive even the money for my expenses. He demanded to know who had employed me, and I refused to answer. That, I considered, would be dishonorable.

Had I set out with the intention of spying upon him his love for me would have turned to hate, even though I had weakened on the way through love for him. My action was incomprehensible to him. He became convinced that I had had from the first no intention of getting any diplomatic knowledge from him, but he could not understand the reason I gave him for entering upon the matter at all. I told him I had yielded to a desire to see something of the undercurrent of diplomatic life. It was not remarkable that he did not understand this, for there was another reason underlying the first.

And now it is time that I give this reason. Before I made up my mind to accept the Russian offer I felt pretty sure that Edward Cathorne was to be the man I was to prey upon. I had seen him often, and the moment I first looked upon him the little god shot one of his deadly arrows into me. But I had not had an opportunity of meeting the man I worshiped. The Russian offer I regarded as a possible means, at least an opportunity, to win him.

He did not feel easy about me for a long while, but I brought him around in time, and we were married. I made it a condition that he should not return to Washington. I didn't like the prospect of facing the diplomats who had employed me to do their spying. I having married the man I was to spy upon. I learned, however, long afterward that they had a very high opinion of me since they had learned that I would not give them away even to my own husband.

I have continued to be a diplomat's wife at many courts, but the diplomatic effort by which I received a husband is the only one of my life. I am quite content to leave the obtaining of the

## FISCAL REFORMS PRODUCE RESULTS

Treasury Department Example of Economical Administration.

EVEN DEMOCRATS APPROVE.

Under Taft Reorganization Accomplished. Frauds Stopped and Law Violators Punished—Divorced From Wall Street.

The treasury department has recently received the commendation of the Democratic appropriation committee of the house of representatives for the results achieved in bringing about economy and efficiency in that department. The general basis of this unusual praise is the fact that it is costing \$2,500,000 a year less to run this big business machine of the government than it did three years ago when President Taft began his administration and initiated his campaign for governmental economy by placing an experienced business man, Secretary MacVeagh, at the head of the treasury department.

**The Economy Effected.**  
The amount now saved each year is a 10 per cent reduction in the previous cost. It tells but half the story of the actual economy effected; for there has been a 10 per cent increase in the business of the department during this time, making a total gain in the interest of the taxpayer of 20 per cent.

The eagerness that now exists to make political capital out of criticism makes the fact eminently striking that through this period of investigation and inquiry the treasury department has been found a fruitless field of operation. It has not even been mentioned in connection with the alleged "money trust," for the reason that the treasury department is now for the first time wholly independent of the big bankers of the country in its operations. That the department should always be above the slightest ground for moral criticism is of course one of the fundamentals of its administration.

**Frauds Are Punished.**  
The vigor with which the administration has gone after those who have attempted frauds on the customs revenue is illustrated by the fact that more than \$5,000,000 has been collected in fines against dishonest importers and attempted smugglers. Jail sentences in numerous instances have been added to the fines. The result has been the creation of a wholesome respect for the law on the part of importers and Americans who travel in foreign lands. The entire machinery for the collection of customs has been overhauled, with the result that valuations are made more accurately, and many channels for frauds have been stopped. One of the special aids in this connection has been the special agents' service, which the secretary has taken personally in hand.

The other collection agency, the internal revenue service, has been brought to a high degree of efficiency. Its collections last year were the highest in its history—\$322,000,000—which was collected at the expense of 1.68-100 cents for each dollar, a substantial decrease in cost. Internal revenue collectors are now giving the major portion of their time to their official duties, an innovation brought about for the first time through the insistence of the president that efficiency of administration was more to be desired than the developing of political machines.

**Where Savings Resulted.**  
Savings in the method of printing the paper money of the country have been made to the extent of \$900,000 annually, while similar work in the mints has resulted in cutting down the expenses annually to the extent of \$387,000. By using the mails instead of the express a saving of \$60,000 a year is effected in sending warrant notes to the treasury for redemption. Nearly \$50,000 a year is being saved through improved methods in handling the paper on which money and postage and internal revenue stamps is printed. A similar amount is being saved through closer scrutiny and economy in printing the stationery for the department. The revenue cutter service adds to the list a saving of \$100,000 a year with increased activities, so also does the public health service. There are many more details of savings, all telling the same story.

**Genuine Reforms Made.**  
And this story is the strongest kind of a denial of the charge that President Taft has used the government employee to further his own political advantage. There have been 1,500 unnecessary places abolished under the treasury department in the last three years. Five hundred and forty-two of these have been in the department service in Washington. None of these in Washington whose places were abolished have been separated from the service by that fact. Secretary MacVeagh has rigidly adhered to the policy of saving the vacancies which occurred in the department by resignation and death, and these places have been filled by those who would otherwise have been dropped.

The facts above set forth are convincing proof that under the administration of President Taft genuine reforms in administration have been accomplished in bringing the government business to the most practical and economical basis in the history of the

## Beatrice Cream Separator



500 to 1,000 lbs. capacity per hour from \$50 to \$75 Highest Market Price Paid for Cream.

Poultry Leader Incubators and Brooders at Factory Prices. SIMON BROS., North Platte, Neb.

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Frozen from water pumped from a good depth, and the lake has been re-iced thus insuring the best and purest ice possible to obtain.

Price 50 Cents Per 100 Lbs.

We solicit your orders and insure prompt delivery.

L. W. EDIS.

### Referee's Sale.

Notice is hereby given that by virtue of an order of sale issued to me by the district court of Lincoln county, Nebraska, on the 20th day of Dec., 1911, in an action therein pending, wherein Oliver Christian and David E. Martin are plaintiffs and Claude H. Reed, also known as C. H. Reed, is defendant, and also an additional and supplemental order issued to me by the district court of Lincoln county, Nebraska, on the 11th day of April, 1912, in said action, I will on the 8th day of June, 1912, at the hour of 1 o'clock p. m. of said day at the east front door of the court house in the city of North Platte, Lincoln county, Nebraska, sell at public auction, to the highest bidder, the following described land, to-wit: The east one-half and the south-west quarter of section twenty-five in township fifteen, north of range thirty-three west of the 6th P. M.; and also all of section twenty-nine and the west one-half and the north-east quarter of section thirty in township fifteen north of range thirty-two west of the 6th P. M.; all in Lincoln county, Nebraska; also sixteen school land leases, made by the state of Nebraska, on the 14th day of August, 1897, for a term of twenty-five years, from Jan. 1st, 1898, for the following state school lands, to-wit: all of section thirty-six in township fifteen, north of range thirty-three, west of 6th P. M. in Lincoln county, Nebraska, and of the interests created by said leases in said land, and the improvements thereon, each of said sections thirty-six, all of the above described real estate and school land leases will be offered for sale in quarter section tracts, and at the same time all of the above described real estate and school land leases will be offered for sale as one tract, and the bid or bids will be accepted which will amount to the greater sum.

The terms of said sale will be one-fourth cash on day of sale; the balance on March 1st, 1913, on which date the premises will be conveyed and delivered to the purchaser or purchasers. Dated this 27th day of April, 1912. W. T. WILCOX, Referee.

### Steam Boilers.

NOTICE TO BIDDERS.  
Sealed Bids will be received at the office of the city clerk of the city of North Platte, Nebraska, up until 5 p. m. of the 7th day of May, 1912, for the furnishing of one horizontal return tubular boiler, 60 inches in diameter by 16 feet long, suitable for a working of pressure of 125 pounds, in accordance with the plans and specifications on file in the office of the city clerk of North Platte, Nebraska. Specifications can be obtained from the city clerk or water commissioner of North Platte, Nebraska.  
Each bid must be accompanied by a certified check for 10 per cent of the amount bid, made payable to the order of the city treasurer of said city, to be forfeited to said city in the event said successful bidder shall fail to enter into a contract according to his bid and specifications within ten (10) days after award of same.  
Approximate estimate of cost of said boiler is eight hundred dollars (\$800).  
The city reserves the right to reject any or all bids.  
By order of mayor and city council. Dated at North Platte, Neb., April 26th, 1912. CHAS. F. TEMPLE, City Clerk.

### Sheriff's Sale.

By virtue of an order of sale issued from the district court of Lincoln county, Neb., upon a decree of foreclosure rendered in said court wherein the American Investment and Trust Company, a corporation, is plaintiff and Victor A. Palm, et al are defendants and to me directed I will on the 5th day of June, 1912, at 2 o'clock p. m., at the east front door of the court house in North Platte, Lincoln county, Nebraska, sell at public auction to the highest bidder for cash to satisfy said decree, interest and costs, the following described property to-wit: The west half of section nine (9), township sixteen (16), range (31), Lincoln county, Nebraska. Dated at North Platte, Nebraska, April 30th, 1912. A. J. SALISBURY, Sheriff.

### PROBATE NOTICE.

In the County Court of Lincoln County, Nebraska, April 16, 1912.  
In the matter of the estate of Katie Hendy, deceased.  
Notice is hereby given, that the creditors of said deceased will meet the Administrator of said estate, before the County Judge of Lincoln County, Nebraska, at the county court room in said county, on the 26th day of May, 1912, and on the 26th day of Nov. 1912, at 9 o'clock a. m. each day, for the purpose of presenting their claims for examination, adjustment and allowance. Six months are allowed for creditors to present their claims and one year for the Administrator to settle said estate, from the 16th day of April, 1912. A copy of this order to be published in the North Platte Tribune a semi-weekly newspaper of said county for four successive weeks prior to said day of hearing. JOHN GRANT, County Judge.

### PROBATE NOTICE.

In the County Court of Lincoln County, Nebraska, April 16, 1912.  
In the matter of the estate of Christian Marquette, deceased.  
Notice is hereby given, that the creditors of said deceased will meet the administrator of said estate, before the County Judge of Lincoln County, Nebraska, at the county court room, in said county, on the 20th day of May, 1912, and on the 20th day of November, 1912, at 9 o'clock a. m. each day, for the purpose of presenting their claims, for examination, adjustment and allowance. Six months are allowed for the creditors to present their claims, and one year for the administrator to settle said estate, from the 16th day of April, 1912. A notice of this order to be published in the North Platte Tribune, a semi-

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Opposite Depot PALACE CAFE

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# Wednesday, May 15.

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# BUFFALO RANCH WILD WEST

AND TRAINED WILD ANIMAL EXHIBITION.



### TENTH TRANS-CONTINENTAL TOUR.

THE LARGEST WILD WEST SHOW ON EARTH COMING DIRECT ON THEIR OWN SPECIAL TRAINS OF DOUBLE LENGTH RAILROAD CARS FROM THE BIGGEST RANCH IN THE WORLD.

## Menagerie of Trained Wild Animals

From all parts of the Globe. Daring and death defying acts almost beyond the realms of lucid imagination.

A COSMOPOLITAN COLLECTION OF COWBOYS AND GIRLS, VANQUEROS, SENORITAS, GUARDIS RURALES, CHAMPIONS OF THE LARIAT, ROUGH RIDERS, PONY EXPRESS VETERANS, DARING ATHLETES, COMICAL CLOWNS, THRILLING INDIAN FIGHTS AND WAR DANCES.

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TWO MILES LONG at 11 a. m. daily on the main thoroughfares.

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