

COUNT SZECHENYI

Young Hungarian Aristocrat Who Won the Heart of a Vanderbilt Heiress—Her Fortune About \$12,000,000.

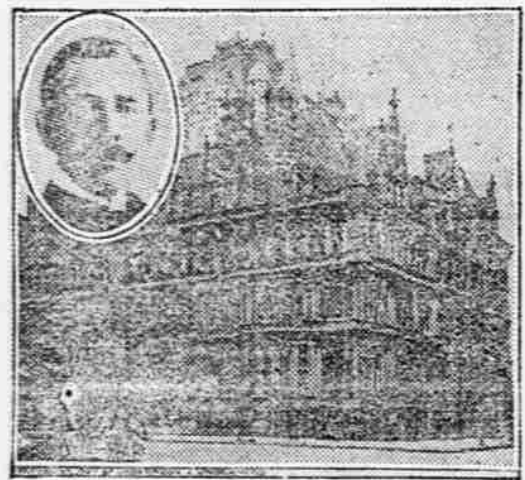
AND HIS BRIDE

The Count, Whose Name Sounds Like a Sneeze, Is a Rich Man Himself—His Castle.

WHEN the North German Lloyd liner Kronprinzessin Cecile brought to this country the relatives of Count Laszlo Szechenyi for his marriage to Miss Gladys Vanderbilt on Jan. 27 the noble ship bore a heavy freight in the way of titled aristocrats. The count's father is dead. He was Count Emerich Szechenyi, was long ambassador of Austria-Hungary at Berlin and was held in high regard by Emperor Francis Joseph. But the groom has plenty of relatives living, and the party of them which came over for the wedding on the Cecile included his eldest brother, Count Denes Szechenyi, newly appointed minister to Denmark, and the Countess Szechenyi, Count Anton Sigray, best man; Count Stefan Szechenyi, Count Paul Szechenyi, Count Stephan Prochaska and other relatives and friends. The Szechenyi house is quite an ancient one, and its members pride themselves very much on the fact. Some of Count Laszlo's kin have intimated that he was very condescending in reaching down from the heights of his ancient lineage to take up and unite with him in the bond of wedlock an untitled American girl, even though she be a Vanderbilt and possessor in her own right of a fortune of about \$12,000,000. It has even been said that his bride would be received in court circles in Vienna only as a morganatic wife because of a lack of quarterings in the Vanderbilt coat of arms, but this has been as emphatically denied.

However, the claim has been made that when it comes to a showdown as to ancestry the bride in this latest international match is really of bluer blood than the groom. Her mother before she married the late Cornelius Vanderbilt was Alice Claypoole Gwynne, Mrs. Vanderbilt's grandmother on her father's side was Alice Anne Claypoole, daughter of Captain Abraham George Claypoole of the Continental army. He was a grand-grandson of the James Claypoole who was a close friend of William Penn, treasurer of the Free Society of Traders of Pennsylvania and founder of the Claypoole family in this country. This Claypoole was a son of Sir John Claypoole, follower of Cromwell, by whom he was knighted. Carrying the line further back, various titled individuals are reached, some of them famous in English history, until in the thirteenth century Princess Elizabeth Plantagenet, daughter of King Edward I, of England and Eleanor of Castile, is met.

At this point the genealogical expert, Charles H. Browning, author of "Americans of Royal Descent," takes the ancestral line away from England right over into the country of the Szechenyis and, following it up through Bavarian and Swabian dukes and princes, comes to Bela, the first king of the Huns, from whom he says the rich and beautiful bride of Count Laszlo is twenty-sixth in descent. He also says that she is descended from Otto the Great, emperor of Germany, 936-973, who, according to Gibbon, defeated the Huns, including the Magyar tribe of the Szechenyis. Otto kept the Huns in subjection and organized them into a petty tributary nation, so that three generations later they enjoyed their first real king, Bela, who began his reign in 1061 A. D. There is a tradition that it was Bela who civilized and Christianized the wild ancestors of



THE COUNT AND THE NEW YORK HOME OF THE BRIDE.

Count Laszlo. At any rate, according to this genealogy, the bride's forbears were kings of Hungary when the groom's ancestors were only men-at-arms.

Coming down to more recent times, it appears that in the matter of titles, at least, the groom's family has somewhat the best of it. The men of the Szechenyi family have borne the title of count for at least 300 years. That is a little longer ago than the time when Cromwell knighted old John Claypoole. Among the most celebrated of the ancestors of Count Laszlo was Count Nicholas Szechenyi, companion in arms of the famous Hungarian general Zrinyi, who in the sixteenth century stood like a battlement between the encroachments of the Turks on the south and the kingdoms of western Europe. It was a clerical member of the Szechenyi family, an archbishop, who was the mediator in bringing about the peace between Emperor Ferdinand and Rokoczy by which the latter was recognized as the legitimate Prince of Transylvania. It was Count Laszlo's great-uncle, Istvan (Stephen) Szechenyi, who was prominent in Kos-

suth's time as patriot, statesman and philanthropist and who is called Istvan the Great. He founded the famous Hungarian Institution For Intellectual Research, recognized as the most influential society of its kind in Europe, and is sometimes called the "greatest Hungarian."

At the present time, as in the past, the Szechenyis are extensive landowners. It has been estimated that Count Laszlo is worth at the least \$5,000,000, while in time he will come into possession of a still greater estate. He has an income of something like \$60,000 and is reputed to be anything but a spendthrift. His economical ideas were illustrated in the cable dispatch



COUNT SZECHENYI'S BRIDE.

he sent his relatives in Hungary announcing his engagement to Miss Vanderbilt and which was said to have contained but two words, "Laszlo-Gladys," and to have cost him 50 cents. His principal residence is the castle of Ormezo, situated amid wild and romantic scenery. While it may not compare in elegance with The Breakers at Newport or the splendid Vanderbilt town house at Fifth avenue and Fifty-eighth street, New York, the scene of the nuptials, it will be likely to possess special fascination for the young bride by reason of its romantic surroundings and historic associations.

The count, who is twenty-eight and rather dashing in appearance, fought a duel about three years ago with Aurel Batonyi, who married Mrs. Burke-Roche and has recently been sued by her for divorce. The count's life at his castle of Ormezo is said to have been a simple and sedate one, and it is predicted he will prove a loyal and devoted husband, thus doing something toward counteracting the prevailing prejudice against international marriages. The castle of Ormezo was erected in the fifteenth century and rises from the top of a crag in the mountainous county of Zempler, a ten hours' trip from the Hungarian capital. The count is a hereditary member of the Hungarian parliament and has the right to wear as part of his court uniform as an imperial chamberlain a golden key or tassel at the back of his coat. Little things like this often count with a romantic girl of twenty-one, the age which the bride reached last summer, when she came into her fortune.

It was a charity worker of New York who, in speaking of the Szechenyi-Vanderbilt nuptials, said:

"When this good and charming girl goes to Hungary as the Countess Szechenyi I know of certain hospital wards where she will be missed."

He paused and smiled.

"But let me tell you," he said, "of an incident that befell Miss Vanderbilt last year."

"There was a children's hospital which she visited regularly, bringing fruit and flowers to the little patients, and in a certain ward a boy was pointed out to her one day as a very bad customer."

"Oh, he is incorrigible," sighed the nurse.

"Miss Vanderbilt talked awhile with the little chap, and when she rose to go she said:

"See here, I have heard bad reports about you. Now, I want you to promise me to be good. If you are good for a whole week I'll give you a dollar when I come again next Thursday."

"The boy promised to try to be good. This promise, though, he did not keep. On her next visit Miss Vanderbilt, going to his cot, said:

"I shall not ask the nurses how you have behaved this last week. I want you to tell me yourself. Now, what do you think—do you deserve that dollar I promised you or not?"

"The boy regarded Miss Vanderbilt with a troubled frown; then he said in a low voice:

"Gimme a nickel."

One should pronounce the name Szechenyi as if it were spelled "Say-chain-ner." It has been suggested that it is easier to pronounce when accompanied with a sneeze.

Bravery.

Mrs. Naggs (reading)—In some parts of Africa the more wives a man has the greater his social importance. Naggs—Well I suppose the people there admire a brave man.—Chicago News.

Too Much Collection.

A Scottish gentleman paying a visit to London was taken by his nephew to a service in St. Paul's cathedral. He had no acquaintance whatever with the liturgy of the Church of England. He picked up a prayer book and became very much interested, but as he turned over the leaves his face became clouded with a look of intense anxiety. He placed the prayer book carefully down, looked cautiously around, picked up his hat and crept stealthily to the door. His nephew followed him and said:

"Are you ill, uncle? What is the matter?"

The uncle replied: "No. But it is enough to make any man ill to see the number of collections made in this kirk!"

"Collections!" said the nephew, in surprise. "If there is any at all, there certainly won't be more than one."

"Well," said the uncle, "they should no' mark so many in the book. There's naething but 'collect' and bits of prayer, then 'collect' and more prayers, and 'collect' again. And says I to myself, 'If I bide here until all these collections are ta'en, I'll no' have a bawbee in ma pocket!'"—London Tit-Bits.

How Indians Tan Deerskin.

The skin dressing of the Indians, both buffalo and deer skins, is generally very beautiful and soft. They stretch the skin either on a frame or on the ground, and after it has remained there for three or four days, with the brains spread over the fleshy side, they grain it with a sort of adz or chisel. After the process of graining, though the skin is apparently beautifully finished, it passes through another process—that of smoking. For this they hang the skin on a frame in a smoke proof house or tent. The fire is made at the bottom out of rotten wood, which produces a strong and peculiar smell. The fire must be smothered to make the smoke. The grained skins must be kept in the smoke for three or four days, and after this the skins will always remain the same, even after being wet, which does not belong to the dressed skins in civilized countries.—"Life Among the Indians."

The Partitions of Poland.

There have been three partitions of Poland. The first was in 1772, when Prussia took the palatinates of Malberg, Pomeria and Warmia, a part of Culm and a part of Great Poland. Austria took Red Russia, or Galicia; a part of Podolia, Sandomir and Cracow, and Russia took White Russia, with all the part beyond the Dnieper. The second partition was in 1793, by which Prussia acquired the remainder of Great and a portion of Little Poland, and the Russian boundary was advanced to the center of Lithuania and Volhynia. In the third and final partition, in 1795, Austria had Cracow, with the country between the Pillen and the Vistula. Prussia had the capital, with the territory as far as the Niemen, while the rest went to Russia.—New York American.

A Dramatic Author.

Like most actor managers, Macready was pestered by would be dramatic authors. An ambitious young fellow brought him a five act tragedy one morning to Drury Lane.

"My piece," modestly explained the author, "is a chef d'oeuvre. I will answer for its success, for I have consulted the sanguinary taste of the public. My tragedy is so tragic that all the characters are killed off at the end of the third act."

"With whom, then," asked the manager, "do you carry on the action of the last two acts?"

"With the ghosts of those who died in the third!"—Cornhill Magazine.

Gray Versus Brown Camels.

The length of a stage varies throughout Persia, depending on the character of the country, and is reckoned in farsaks, the old Greek parasang. The farsak is a most elastic and uncertain measure, and as animals are paid for per farsak as many as the credulity of the traveler will allow are crowded into each stage. "How far," I once asked an old Kurdish muleteer, "is a farsak?" "As far as one can distinguish a gray from a brown camel," was the discreet answer. They average about four miles and the stage about six farsaks, or twenty-five miles.—Atlantic.

Thought He Could Buy Them Cheap.

Elderly German (as he calls at a lodging house door)—Glad lady, I saw, yes, der advertisement in der evening paper dat you have a pair of pajamas to sell, yes? Boarding House Mistress (indignantly)—Pajamas! You old fool, do you think this is a department store? Where is the advertisement? The German (producing the advertisement and reading it aloud)—"For sale, you almost new bedroom suit, cheap! Gall and see it!"—Bohemian.

Eats 'Em Alive.

"Does this dog like strangers?" "Loves 'em, ma'am."

"Well, I must have a dog that does not like strangers."

"As I was about to say, ma'am, when you interrupted me, this dog loves strangers an' has eaten several of 'em, ma'am. Yes, ma'am, thank you!"—Houston Post.

Lingering Animosity.

"Those two families in the adjoining flats who used to be at daggers drawn have been reconciled, haven't they?" "I don't know. They profess friendship, but one family gave the little boy in the other a big toy drum, and the second family gave the first one's oldest boy a fiddle."—Baltimore American.

Life is but a fleeting show, but it is nevertheless the greatest show on earth.—Athenian Globe.

As to Spring Hats.

Large hats will be the fad. Small hats will be large small hats. The larger the hat the more stylish it will be.

The real "nifty" hats are the cerise shades. Blue hats, including Alice blue shades, will also be in style.

Shapes of the new Easter bonnets incline principally to large Russian turban styles, with or without bandeaus, and plentifully decorated with ribbons, plumes, small flowers, large flowers, aigrettes, dotted nets and lace.

The hats have a decided roll at the left side with brims standing out from the back instead of drooping like the present mushroom styles.

Trimmed sailors will also be popular, but all hats have large brims of enormous size.

Millinery trade starts early this year, although Lent does not begin until March 4, with a consequent late Easter.

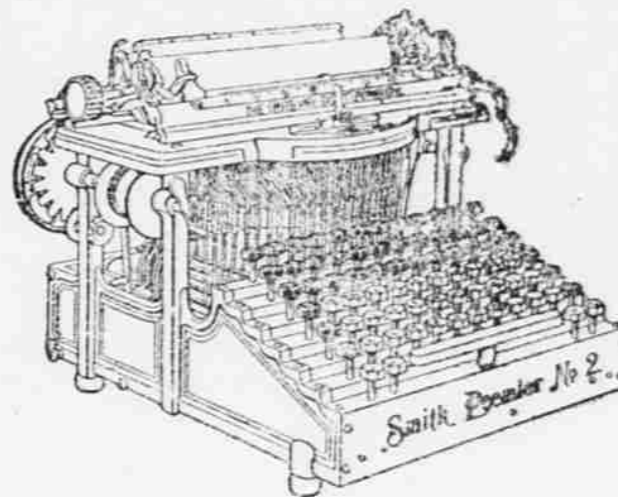
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