

DOOR POSTS' THING OF PAST

American Women Force All Guests to Learn to Dance.

ENGLISH FORM CLUB FOR SNOBS

Mrs. John Jacob Astor Enjoins House Number Thirteen and Many Accidents Befall the Establishment.

LONDON, June 20.—(Special).—American women, notably those most original of hostesses, Miss Van Wart, Lady Bateman and Cora Lady Stafford are responsible for the social triumph of the dancing man this season. By mutual consent, the invitations they have sent out to men have had in the corner, "Kindly do not come unless you can dance." This has had the desired effect. The men come and dance for all they are worth.

"What on earth has become of all the poor pillars?" inquired Mrs. John Jacob Astor of Mrs. Reid the other night at a small "hop" at the embassy. Other years the non-dancing man who invariably hung around the entrance used to be called the "door-pillar."

A Dangerous Chaperon.

Miss Van Wart is surely a dangerous chaperon for two girls even as good looking as the Misses Wentworth. She seems very proud of them and they are with her everywhere. Indefatigable she is in trying to give them a good time, but I noticed at her 75th dances at the Ritz that crowds of men were far kinder in talking to the hostess than to her two charges. She is a charming looking woman and her gown and jewels are the last word in magnificence. Glided youths, middle-aged, courteous, venerable gentlemen all have a try at winning her. She seems to stand them all off successfully.

An ultra-aristocratic club in the process of formation. The first essential for membership is that a coat of arms shall have been in the family for a hundred years. This is to ensure that no nouveau riche may enter. All members will have a special crest and a characteristic cocktail and striking liveries which are to provide their servants. Those interested in joining are to induce the duke of Norfolk to be president, but as he is the most ultra-exclusive peer in England it seems doubtful that they will succeed.

The committee has under consideration the premises occupied by the Automobile Club in Piccadilly, that popular institution having now taken up its quarters at the old war offices, which has been made quite palatial for the automobilists. The snobs also propose to have a rural resort run on the lines of Banelagh and Huntington where the members can play polo and practice fencing. The duke of Roxburgh is said to be greatly interested in the new venture.

Religate Priory, which Mr. and Mrs. John Ford have secured, is a delightful spot which was frequently visited by the king in the days when it was rented by the late Captain Ronald and Mrs. Grey. The house is of the Queen Anne period and is built on the site of an ancient Augustinian monastery. It is full of historic things, notably the exquisite chimney piece from Henry VIII's palace of Nonnuch. Mr. Van Alan has long wanted the possessors of this work of art to sell to him. He has refused to sell it notwithstanding the most lavish offers of the ex-American millionaire.

The park connected with Religate Priory is one of the most beautiful in England. There is a magnificent view under the Queen Anne had refreshment. So immense is the tree that a table which is located in a narrow iron staircase is located among the branches, while around are placed seats. The stairs and furniture are painted red, so that a picturesque effect is achieved.

John Ford continues extremely delicate. His wife, the elder daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Cavendish Bentinck, has been to all intents and purposes but a nurse since her marriage. She never complains and never seeks sympathy. Her family moved heaven and earth in the first instance to break off her engagement, but she pluckily refused to do so and said that through she was prepared to take the consequences.

Number 13 Brook Street. Ever since Mrs. John Jacob Astor took 13 Brook street a series of small disasters have overtaken her. One morning while coming downstairs she slipped and fell, and though not seriously hurt, she was compelled to stay in the house for a week. A little later, as her maid was dressing her she upset a spirit lamp and set Mrs. Astor's snaky locks on fire. The flames were, however, promptly extinguished before serious danger resulted. In the kitchen a large portion of the ceiling fell just as the cook was serving up the dinner and at least one course had to be omitted. The debris having fallen into it, while quantities of the crockery were broken. Mrs. Astor, who is not in the least superstitious, insists that these fatalities are purely coincidences and says she is charmed with the house.

Most people were surprised to find a woman as wealthy as Mrs. Grosvenor, who was before her marriage Florence Padelton, talking a house in Gloucester Place, where every other establishment is a boarding house. It was once a smart quarter and the houses are very large and commodious, and it is comparatively central, but lately all the best people have flown from the neighborhood, as they always do when it becomes known that the "paying guests" reside close by. Gloucester Place is one of the streets which in a few years

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LAUGHTER IN POOR HEALTH

It is understood that the purchase of the splendid historic property has been made by Duse principally for maternal reasons. Her only daughter, who has just finished her education at the old-time Medici villa (famous as the alleged place where Isabella Orsini was slain by her jealous spouse) and now converted into the "Institute della S. S. Annunziata," is unfortunately afflicted with delicate lungs. The "Villa Capponi," enjoying an elevation of perhaps 250 feet above the sea level, provides pure air, and there is a charming garden, laid out in the former Italian style, where the invalid can indulge her enthusiasm for horticulture. The "Villa Capponi" is, indeed, in all respects calculated to satisfy the taste of both mother and daughter, from its situation—it commands a superb view of Florence—and by comfortable arrangements. The property, besides the house, and grounds, includes a farming dependency, and the whole is valued at something like \$40,000. It was originally owned by the Capponi, one of the wealthiest and most powerful of the old patrician families of Florence. The villa consists of about forty rooms, having a private chapel, and a very magnificent hall ornamented with great stone canopied chimneypieces, and contains beautiful frescoed ceilings and other details of seventeenth century date that make it of particular interest.

AN INTERESTING STUDENT

Mme. Duse, who has been staying in Florence at the Grand Hotel, is expected to see to the business of installing herself in the villa, consented to speak a little of herself and her plans, despite her much-heralded repugnance for even casual interviews. Duse off the stage is very much like Duse behind the footlights. "Face of suffering" is not, however, the weary lines about her mouth and the deep melancholy of her eyes, which has so stamped her as a great stage personality, loses nothing from being seen in closer contact. The private woman is as interesting as the actress, and in every movement, every play of feature, emanates the indefinable atmosphere of the genius. Of a delicate and highly nervous organization, Duse, perhaps a woman of 48, might be younger or older, time itself being less responsible for the expression she wears than the tax that emotionalism of art life has laid upon her. Her unwillingness to be "bothered" by the world at large and to be made the victim of undue public curiosity springs from no arrogance of nature, but is simply an instinct of sensitive and retiring refinement, a shrinking from the "frivolous" and "petty" moment of one who, by necessity of art, experiences too much the less agreeable side of reputation's glare. Simple in her tastes as in her dress, Duse off the stage lives on the broad and beautiful lines of an artist whose character is dominated by the dramatic. "Frugality" is not her main reason for establishing herself again in Florence," she said, "is to provide a suitable home for my daughter. The beautiful and beautiful site of the Villa Capponi is just what is desired by me. I have always preferred country life to the restraint of cities. Florence is full of the repose and charm I enjoy. Besides, I have many old friends and acquaintances here that make it particularly agreeable to me."

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Among Duse's Florentine friends, it may be remarked, is Gordon Craig, son of Ellen Terry, between whom and Duse has existed a warm friendship of many years' standing. Mr. Craig, who occupies a house near Gallio's Tower, not far from the Villa Capponi, has, as is generally known, made a special study of artistic stage mounting; and it was under his direction that "L'Amico Reale" and other plays in which Duse has been playing were given their highly effective setting. For Duse, like the late Mr. Mansfield, Beerholm Tree and Antoine of Paris, is fastidiously exacting about all details of scenery.

"That my talking a villa expresses an intention on my part of abandoning the stage," Duse continued, "is without foundation. I expect to carry on my work as heretofore. I have always had some place in Italy where I can retire for purposes of rest and the study necessary to the presentation of new roles."

When questioned whether she expected to make future tours in America, she answered, as had been rumored, restrict herself to the Italian stage. Duse declared that it was still her intention to act in South American cities, as well as in the north. Some of Duse's foreign successes have been made in Rio Janeiro and Buenos Aires, where the natural verve of an artist, owing to the condition of being thoroughly understood by the public, is spurred to its utmost. Besides the kinship of language, Italian itself is widely known in South America. The contrary conditions, as far as the United States is concerned, have naturally been a severe handicap to Duse in her appearances in the latter country, especially where half the plays she acts in are unfamiliar even as translated literature to the majority of her audiences.

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Cleveland and Utah---Some Unwritten History. My proposal was, as above intimated, that a movement should be immediately made for calling the people of the territory into a general convention for the adoption of a constitution, "republican in form," under which they should apply to congress for admission to the union as a state, which constitution should contain the fundamental condition that "plural marriage," another name for polygamy, should be forever abolished. That memorandum faithfully forecasted and foreshadowed what is now the fundamental law of the state.

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Fat People's Hearts. As the mercury climbs upward the strain on fat folks' hearts grows more severe. Many will drop dead. Of course, there may not be more than one sudden death in your neighborhood, but who will that one be? Fascinating guessing contest, isn't it? The only way out of danger is to reduce, but how? Exercises overtax the heart and actually increase one's liability. Dieting is better and easier—this appetiteless weather, but how about the drinking?—dieting is "dry" work, rumbustious to last you a long time. Take one after meals and at bedtime and you'll soon see the benefit.

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