

Where Does Mr. Drexel, Multimillionaire, Really Live?

"I'm a Frenchman," He Swears; "You Live in England," the British Courts Declare; "He's an American," the Trustees of the Drexel Millions in Philadelphia Assert—Curious Revelations in His Matrimonial Troubles



Mr. Anthony J. Drexel as American, Frenchman and Englishman.

MOST Americans are familiar with the troubles of "The Man Without a Country," related by Edward Everett Hale.

There is a distinguished multimillionaire native of Philadelphia, Mr. Anthony J. Drexel, who may be known as "The Man with Three Countries."

The beautiful and brilliant Mrs. Drexel, who, like so many society women, is separated from her husband, is bringing a suit in London to make him pay certain sums due to her under the deed of separation.

Now, Mrs. Drexel declared in court that her husband was a resident of England, though momentarily keeping out of the country; that he declared fifteen years ago that he would have been naturalized as an Englishman but for the fact that it would have prevented him from serving as a trustee of his father's estate in America.

France and America Both Claim This Butterfly.

Thereupon Mr. Drexel, in order to show that his wife had no ground for suing him in England, declared that he was living in Paris and that he took the first step toward becoming naturalized in France last November and that he was practically a Frenchman.

The records in the United States show that Mr. Drexel is still a trustee of the Drexel estate in Philadelphia and an American citizen.

The other trustees in response to inquiries have replied that he is still an American citizen, and that they consider him quite a good one.

Mrs. Drexel has explained in the course of her action that her husband is really having fun with the French Government. He has acquired a nominal domicile there, and he can at any time after the end of five years become a French citizen if he wishes. But it binds him to nothing, and in the meantime he does not have to give up his citizenship in any other country. She believes that as soon as he has got what he wants—a divorce on his own terms—he will dodge back to London and take up the British citizenship which has always been nearest his heart.

What, after all, is the true nationality of this remarkably elusive gentleman?

Wife and "Tony" Can't Agree About Their Pleasures.

Mr. Drexel is the oldest son of the great banker who was the founder of the firm that is now J. P. Morgan & Co. He is never known to have done much but wander about the world and enjoy himself. The late King Edward, who was fond of American men, said Mr. Drexel was one of the few of the latter kind that amused him. The Philadelphia millionaire is distinguished as a connoisseur of good food and wine and women's looks.

Mrs. Drexel, who was Miss Margaret Armstrong of Philadelphia, and is a sister of "Silent" Smith's widow, has made quite a position in English society. For ten years Mr. and Mrs. Drexel have failed to agree about their respective methods of amusing themselves and the result has been a formal separation.

Mrs. Drexel's present lawsuit in

England is to recover money due under the separation agreement. Mr. Drexel's first answer to her action was to move to set aside the writ on the ground that the English court had no jurisdiction over him, as he was domiciled in France. Many prominent figures in the British peerage and society were in court, including the Drexel's son-in-law, Viscount Maidstone, in his uniform as an officer of the Royal Flying Corps. The testimony was full of entertaining revelations about fashionable life.

Mrs. Drexel said that in their separation agreement it was stipulated that they were not to interfere with or annoy one another. Mr. Drexel was to allow her \$50,000 a year and the income of a policy in New York and had made various other provisions for her and for his family. He had recently failed to pay her the monthly instalments of the \$50,000, and this was the ground of her suit.

Mr. Drexel's counsel said he would not come to give evidence in London, because he had been advised that the English courts had no jurisdiction over him and he had started divorce proceedings in France to end a situation that had become intolerable to him. Sir Edward Carson, the noted Ulster leader, who was Mrs. Drexel's counsel, remarked that a man ought not to be able to go to France and say he was a resident there to "defraud somebody." Sir Edward also said Mr. Drexel was concerned in "a well arranged plot."

He Also Has a Home in Lovely Venice.

Mr. Drexel introduced his own story of his troubles and his wanderings by saying:

"By birth I am an American citizen. I have never been naturalized in Great Britain. I had for a good many years a residence in London, but I have had for some years and still have, a residence in Paris and another in Venice. I have never intended to acquire, nor have I, as I verily believe, ever in fact acquired an English domicile."

Mr. Drexel's counsel explained that the pair came to England in 1898 and took a castle in the Isle of Wight and various houses in London and other parts of the country. In 1906 he took to living in Paris. In 1910 two of his children were married—his daughter, Miss Margaretta Drexel, to Viscount Maidstone, and his son, Anthony J. Drexel, Jr., to Miss Marjorie Gould. When he wanted to come to the Drexel house in London, his wife said he had better give her two or three days' notice, so that she could get out of the way.

He stopped his wife's allowance because that was a regular part of the divorce proceedings he had begun in France.

An entertaining affidavit by Mrs. Drexel, seeking to show that her husband was a thorough Englishman, was read, in which she said: "My husband repeatedly told me that he found it impossible to live in America and that England was the only fit place to live in, and that he was determined to live there. He said that 'nothing could induce him to live in such a rotten country as America.'"

"He is still a member of White's, the Marlborough and the Bath clubs in London, and he had always referred to England as 'home.' He was very angry when he had to make yearly visits to America and

was always very glad to get back to old England."

Mr. Drexel, by the way, while keeping out of the jurisdiction of the English court seized the occasion, in a statement to a Paris correspondent, to deny that he had abused America.

"There is no reason in the world why the United States should not be a fit place for a gentleman to live in," he said. "In my experience as a traveller, I have found that of all the people in the world the Americans are the most congenial to live among. In the days when I lived in Philadelphia and rode a great deal in the street cars, my best friends were among the conductors and gatemen. They called me 'Tony' and we used to hobnob about the weather and the baseball averages."

To return to Mrs. Drexel's story. In order to show how English Mr. Drexel was she gave a list of the houses he had taken in England. First there was Norris Castle, in the Isle of Wight. In 1902 he took a furnished house in Surrey, and in 1903 he took another furnished

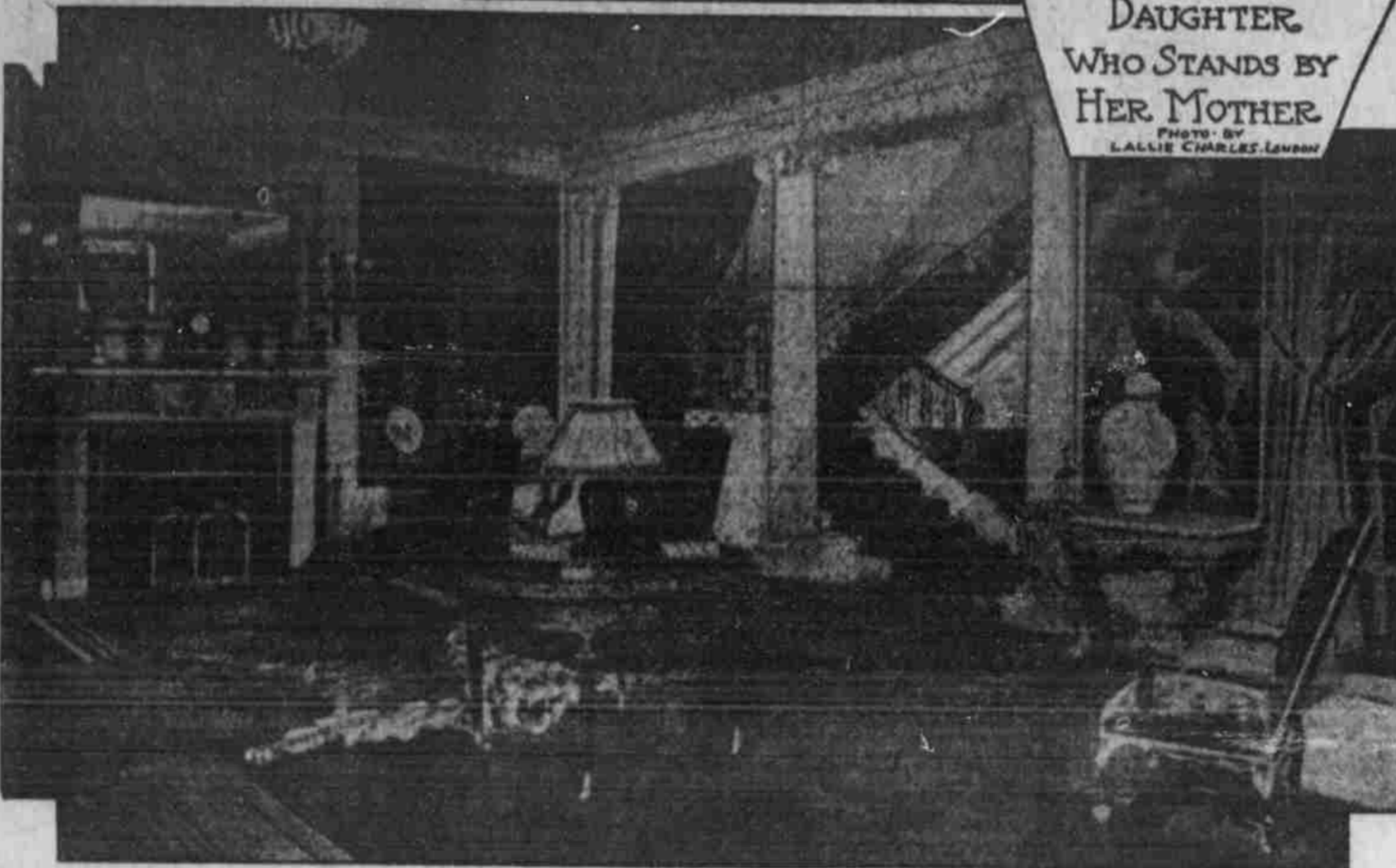


LADY MAIDSTONE, MR. DREXEL'S DAUGHTER WHO STANDS BY HER MOTHER

PHOTO BY LALLIE CHARLES LONDON



Mr. Drexel's Beautiful, Quite American Daughter-in-Law, Mrs. A. J. Drexel, Jr., Formerly Miss Marjorie Gould.



Main hall of the London residence of Anthony J. Drexel—Mr. Drexel says it's not his home, the English courts say it is his home.

house in Oxfordshire. He then took a furnished house in Carlton House terrace, London. He also had a short lease of No. 55 Grosvenor street. The first time he took an unfurnished house in London was in 1908—No. 22 Grosvenor Square Gardens. In 1910 he had a furnished house at Hooley and in February, 1915, he took No. 3 Upper Brook street on a twenty-one year lease.

Mrs. Drexel lived in the house Mr. Drexel had furnished, No. 22 Grosvenor square, one of the best places in London, until her first grandchild was born, so as to give society an impression of harmony. Then he gave her the furniture and she moved to a house in Cavendish square.

Then Mrs. Drexel began to tell a story of personal grievances.

"After 1908," she said, "my married life began to be very unhappy, and my husband assaulted me on more than one occasion and treated me with great indignity. In 1910,

after my eldest son married Miss Gould, of New York, and my daughter married Viscount Maidstone, I told my husband that I would not live with him any longer. My husband begged me not to divorce him and eventually I was persuaded by my children to drop American divorce proceedings and enter into the separation deed. My husband undoubtedly made England his home and he spent \$10,000 for carpets alone in his house in Upper Brook street.

"Then my husband sent a message to me that he was sick of the agreement and his terms were that I should go to Paris and get a divorce and that if I did not do so, he would get one himself. He said he would stop my allowance if I did not go to Paris by May 14, 1915.

"I declined to be a party to a fictitious divorce in Paris and declared my intention to take proceedings in an English court, whose decision would be regarded as valid all over the world. As I refused to

submit to my husband's ultimatum he left London for Paris. In the French courts he could get a divorce on grounds that would not entitle him to one in England.

"My husband did not dare charge me with misconduct in the Paris proceeding. He made the insinuation, but there was not the slightest foundation for it."

All the Drexel children supported their mother's case vigorously. Viscount Maidstone swore that her father told her that America was no place for a gentleman to live in and that he disliked the American people.

Mr. Drexel's oldest son, Anthony J. Drexel, Jr., said that his father told him that America was a horrible place and that the French were "effeminate and nothing but little powder puffs." This remark was greeted with loud laughter in the English court.

Viscount Maidstone testified that his father-in-law told him that he had made his home in England for

good and never intended to return to America.

Mrs. Drexel's socially distinguished sister, Madame Jean H. E. St. Cyr, formerly Mrs. James Henry Smith, and before that Mrs. William Rihelander Stewart, also gave evidence concerning her brother-in-law's feelings about America. She testified that he said:

"America is a rotten hole, no place for a gentleman to live in and the people are rotten."

In reply to these accusations Mr. Drexel filed an affidavit from Paris saying that he was a great admirer of the French people and never assaulted his wife.

Sir Edward Carson, in concluding the case for Mrs. Drexel, poured a good deal of scorn upon Mr. Drexel. He suggested that he was playing a great many tricks to force a lady to abandon her rights—to a divorce and other things.

"Mr. Drexel is to all intents and purposes an Englishman," said Sir Edward Carson. "In 1905 he

wished to become naturalized in England, but when it was pointed out that if he did so he could not remain a trustee of his father's estate, he did not persist. At the outbreak of the present war he was at Baden and he returned to England. He expressed the desire that his son should join the Royal Horse Guards. His yacht had always been manned by an English crew and laid up at Cowes.

"When Mr. Drexel came back he joined the English Red Cross in France; this was in October, 1914, although his contention now was that he was not ordinarily resident in England at that time.

"All Mr. Drexel's children were educated in England. His sons went to Eton and his daughter married an English peer. It is only within the last few months that Mr. Drexel has not given England as his country of residence. He had never pretended before that that he had any love for France."

The Judge decided that Mr. Drexel was a resident of England sufficiently within the meaning of the term to permit his wife to sue him in the English courts.