

LONDON LETTER.

Lady Anne Coventry's marriage to Prince Victor Dhuleep Singh was interesting for many reasons. First of all, it was a genuine love match, the pair being quite absurdly devoted to each other and having had to display constancy and patience under various trying delays; then the bride is the daughter of an official of the royal household; also the rumor had gone about that the display of jewels would be magnificent, which proved to be the case. It was really a charming wedding, but I was much amused at the naive disappointment of certain good people who did not know the prince by sight. They had evidently expected a romantic-looking dusky hero whereas he, though very Oriental in type, could not be called handsome, and his stoutness and (dare I whisper it?) absence of neck seemed to grieve these worthies greatly. Now he is a thoroughly good fellow and amiable, which is far better than being beautiful, so I thought all this unreasonable. However, the appearance of the bride and bridesmaid gave consolation. Lady Anne, refined, slender and graceful, looked really poetic in her softly-falling satin gown and Marie Antoinette fichu, simple tulle veil and coronal orange flowers. She left all her gorgeous gems in her jewel case, wearing only one gift of the bridegroom's, a large turquoise set in brilliants. You will observe that our smart brides nearly always wear turquoise of late; this is because we are becoming more superstitious and try to carry out the adage which threatens ill-luck unless the bride wear

Something old
and something new,
Something borrowed
and something blue.

The six bridesmaids were Lady Anne's sister, Dorothy Coventry; the bridegroom's two sisters, Princess Sophie and Princess Ramba Dhuleep Singh; Miss Brenda Van de Weyer (daughter of Lady

NEXT TO THE COOK'S HEART

And the most important factor in a well regulated kitchen is the range. It must be one that the drafts are easy and accessible to handle, so that the oven can be tempered to any degree necessary for baking. One of the most particular elements of making a stable, healthy baked food consists in keeping the oven at the proper heat. It must also be economical of fuel, in size and form it must be symmetrical; material and workmanship the most perfect. It should have beautiful and artistic designs in Nick's Trimmings.

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Emily Van de Weyer, Lady Victor's handsome niece, Miss Elspeth Campbell (the young lady who plays the bagpipes.) They wore white silk trimmed with golden otter and silver gauze. The picturesque hats were of silver gauze, turned up sharply on one side with mirror velvet rosettes (each lady having a different color) and white plumes fastened with a paste brooch. They carried graceful posies of lilies of the valley. The presents from the bridegroom were ruby and diamond crown brooches with the initials 'V. A.'

And the wedding gifts! I must mention the bridegroom's offerings in detail. First of all there was the diamond crown—and very charming in design it is—then the lovely collar of pearls, eight rows, with bars of brilliants between; also a long rope of single pearls of matchless shape and lustre. A heart of brilliants had a center formed of a lovely rose-pink diamond. There were three single stone rings—such stones!—a chain bracelet set with pearls and diamonds; and, perhaps the rarest of all, a truly magnificent necklace of Cabochon emeralds mounted with rare white sapphires. Victor is evidently determined that his princess shall carry off the palm for splendor wherever she appears.

Is it not a good idea to establish a lifeboat as a memorial of Poor Terriss? It is to be called "The Breezy Bill," thus perpetuating, not only the pet name, but the brave memory of one who, on several occasions, saved lives at sea at the risk of his own. Dear old "Bill" leaves only £20,000. People seem surprised, but not so those who knew his generous temperament. It is a wonder he left so much.

Have you seen any copies of Princess Beatrice's book, "Comfort in Sorow?" It is published at Darmstadt, in Germany, I am sorry to say, it being her idea to issue it in language native to, and loved by her lost one. I hope there will soon be an English translation, for the work will do good to many sad hearts. I think everyone is surprised at its loftiness and depth. One expected it to be true, tenderly and womanly, but one was not prepared to find evidence of the possession, by this quiet royal woman, of a commanding and subtle intellect. There are some wonderful thoughts; she attacks the problems of life and death firmly, bravely and with originality. The subject is, of course, too serious for detailed notice here, I can only give you the benefit of one idea. She speaks of the times when the soul of the mourner is shrouded in utter darkness. "Let us dwell therein," she says. "In vain shall we seek to illuminate the darkness with candles. Perhaps we shall discover new beauties in the stars." Is not this true courage? When her sun sets forever, it takes a noble soul to set about discov-

ering the beauties of her stars. But this is what the Queen has always done, so doubtless she has given her best-loved daughter many a lesson in fortitude.

By the way, did you hear what the dear old lady said to Prince Henry of Prussia when he came over to say good-bye to her? She laughed rather quizzically at the bombastic little airs which he has begun to learn from his brother, and said: "Well, good-bye, and luck go with you; but, my dear grandson, don't kill quite all the poor Chinese!" The Queen is always a little unmerciful to anything that looks like "putting on side."

The dramatic entertainment at Blenheim was a big success. The first part consisted of tableaux. "The Presentation of Mme du Barri to Louis XV" showed the Duke of Marlborough as Louis and Lady Sarah Wilson—blonde and buxom—as the heroine, while the young duchess was a dainty *Comtesse de Bearn* and Lord Chesterfield a handsome *Cardinal*. Another very successful scene was the *Empress Theodora* (Lady Randolph Churchill) receiving the homage of her court. This was as sensuously beautiful a picture as female charms, rich color and dazzling jewels could make it. After the tableaux came a musical burlesque, "An Idle Hour." The scene was laid in the grounds of "the Jubilee Hotel," kept by a typical (?) Yankee, *Septimus Sands* (in representing whom the duke was permitted by his spouse to caricature her countrymen in most diverting fashion.) A widowed *Countess*, whose husband has vanished in a ballroom (and, of course, reappears), and a very up-to-date lady journalist were played by the duchess and Lady Randolph; Mrs. Oshant (a sister of Mrs. O. Chant) was played by Lady Churchill; the two sisters of the duke, Lady Lillian and Lady Norah Churchill, played a pert *Barnmaid* and a *Salvation Army Lass*; there was also the *Husband*, a *Vicomte*, a *Boots* and a *Chinaman*; the latter represented by Lady Randolph's handsome younger son. What glorious dark eyes that boy has! He will do mischief, I wager, in the dove-cotes!

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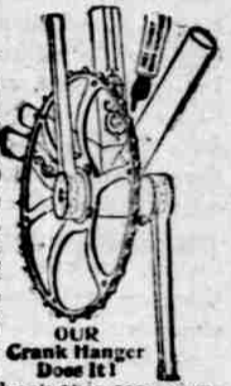
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