

London Letter.

I hear privately that the ex-Empress Eugenie is much grieved about the duration of the war. She says that her husband owed a debt of gratitude to America for many courtesies and kindnesses, and that she loves Spain as the land of her birth. "My people," she said recently, "are a brave and noble-spirited race, but they should show this to be true by declaring now for peace."

"Those Churchills always marry," is a current saying which applies even to maidens who are only half Churchills. Certainly an old maid is an unknown object in the family. Two more fair cousins of the duke of Marlborough are among the latest fiancées; and both are making love-matches quite apart from social ambition. The Hon. Rosamond Guest is the youngest of Lady Winborne's handsome daughters, and is twenty-one this month. Her beloved, Mr. Matthew White Ridley, son of the great North country baronet, is four-and-twenty, and her cousin. This will be quite a political wedding, for Sir Matthew White Ridley is popular at the home office and in the house, while all the Guests are ardent Primrose-Leaguers. Lady Winborne, the mother of the bride, is the eldest sister of poor Lord Randolph Churchill. Another sister is Lady Tweedmouth; and Lord Tweedmouth is Lady White Ridley's brother; so the bridegroom-elect is also cousin to the famous young Dudley Marjoribanks, whose infatuation for a gaily girl gave his parents so much anxiety two years ago. The youth is wiser now.

The other engaged maiden is Lady Margaret Innes-Ker, elder daughter of the late duke of Roxburghe. Her mother (another Churchill), was formerly the queen's favorite mistress of the robes, and is still a great friend of Her Majesty. Lady Margaret, who is three-and-twenty, and very nice indeed, is to marry Major Orr-Ewing, brother of Sir William Orr-Ewing. The gallant major is a distinguished soldier, but not a great catch for a duke's daughter; moreover, he is eighteen years her senior. But she seems quite content; so no one else needs grumble! Her brother, the duke, will be twenty-two this month. He is a handsome boy and a keen sportsman, also a dancer in great request. Presently, I suppose, he will begin to think about providing a mistress for Floors Castle. Are you pretty girls "on?"

Henley was a cheerful but much over-dressed function. The duchess of Devonshire's dinner and ball turned out brilliant, of course, although the crowding at the ball was grievous. (Of course Devonshire house was built in days when society was not the "omnium-gatherum" that it is now; and although the duchess is supposed to be exclusive, she finds her rooms inconvenient.) The prince and princess of Wales, the duke and duchess of Sparta, the Landsdownes, Lord and Lady Essex and Lady Randolph Churchill were among the diners. The prince has dined lately with the Bischoffsheims, with Lord Connemara and with the Arthur Wilsons (of Tranby Croft.) By the way, it amuses me to see how people will class the future duchess of Manchester as a Tranby Croft girl. She is only a cousin; and her family keeps as clean of the Tranby Croft set as it conveniently can. The only daughter "out" at the Arthur Wilsons is Muriel, who is renowned for her dark beauty and her French accent, and who was once engaged for a short time to Lord Willoughby d'Eresby, Lord Ancaster's



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heir. His mother, who is an astute person and a great lady to her fingertips, managed to get that match broken off, and Lord W. is very glad now—so they say. Miss Wilson is not very successful in getting another parti.

THE WAYS OF NEW REGIMENTS

The day after the Mississippi regiment arrived Colonel Guild, inspector-general, called at the camp on official business. The southern colonel received him most effusively, saying: "Welcome to this camp, sah. I want you to know, sah, that this regiment is made up of gentlemen who hold the highest social positions in Mississippi, sah. And now, sah, I want you to step into my tent and try some of the finest Mississippian wowsky, sah."

"But," protested the inspector, "I have called to inspect your camp. Won't you please issue the necessary orders for inspection?"

"Inspection, sah? I don't know as I exactly understand you? You see, sah, the boys made me colonel of this regiment. But, I assure you, sah, I know absolutely nothing about military affairs. I leave all such matters to my adjutant. Now, sah, I think its a long time between drinks, sah."

With a colonel who knows nothing about military affairs, the discipline in the ranks of that Mississippi regiment may be imagined. During the inspection of the rank and file, whom the adjutant at last drew up in line, the inspector-general came to a gray-haired private who handled his peace with some skill.

"This is evidently not new business to you," remarked the inspector.

"No, sah," replied the private. "I served the southern confederacy from '61 to '65, sah, and I tell you I'm profoundly glad to be inspected today, sah, by a southern inspector, sah."

"But I'm not a southerner," said Colonel Guild. "I'm from Boston."

Whereupon the private threw his piece to the ground, advanced to where Colonel Guild stood and embraced him, welcoming him to the regiment "in the name of Mississippi, sah."—Gilson Willets in Collier's Weekly.

Gerald—Do you love me?

Geraldine—No, sir.

Gerald—Is that true?

Geraldine—Part of it.

Gerald—Which part?

Geraldine—The sir.

"There is one trouble with our victories," remarked the Spanish general as he oiled his typewriter.

"And what do they lack?" asked his aid.

"Durability."

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