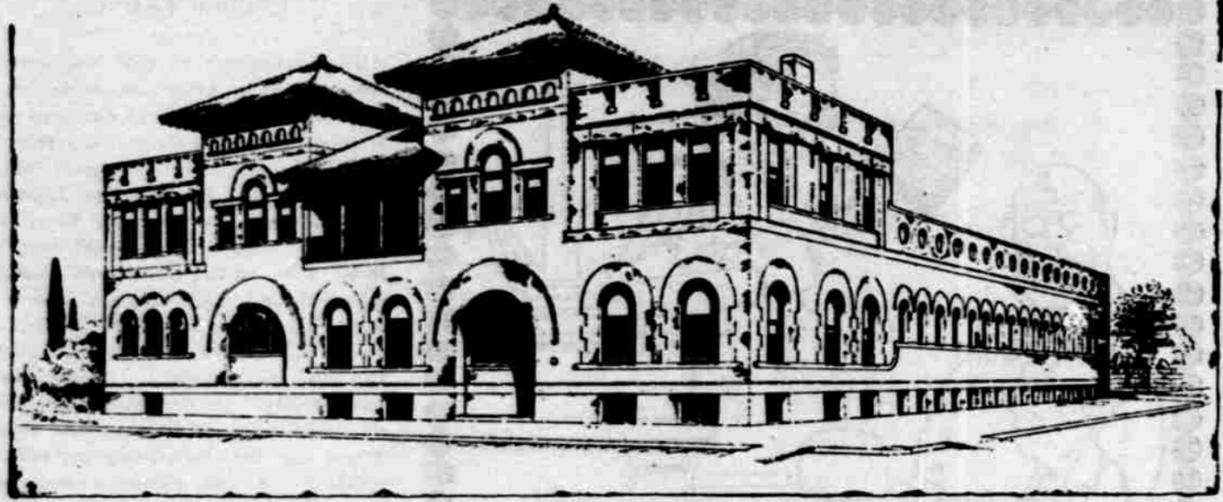


concealing a lighted cigar in the folds of her light dress. Last week a sentry on duty at the royal palace saw the white lady wandering round the building, and reported the fact to his comrades, who made fun of him. Two days later came the telegram from Geneva!

Aldershot is in woe over the approaching departure of the Connaughts. The duke and duchess have become immensely popular; and he has been most devoted to duty. During the recent manœuvres he was often in the saddle for eight hours at a stretch; and his cheery ways animated the men. Buller, though a magnificent soldier, is brusque, so a difference will be felt; and, of course, the feminine military contingent will be left lamenting past festivities. The duchess never missed a field day, and always brought the children with her. Lately they have been accompanied by little Alexander of Battenburg, who is resolved to be a soldier.

Have you heard the latest about Rider Haggard? He is the most chivalrous of men, and has been much worried by his wife's fondness for importing "lady domestics" into their pretty country house. The lady nurse was such a success that a lady cook was engaged; then a lady parlor maid was threatened; but the novelist "struck." Said he: "No, my dear; that would be too much. I can stand having my dinner cooked by a lady, or even my boots blacked by a lady,—so long as I don't actually see her doing it, but to have a lady waiting on me at table is more than I can stand. So if you get one I shall rise and offer her my seat, and do the waiting myself! the courteous creator of "She" was obeyed; the butler was suffered to remain.

A rumor has reached me that the Duke of Norfolk is about to visit this country. The report goes on to say that his purpose is to bring his only child, the earl of Arundel, with him in the hope which even the duke himself must confess is almost vain, that some of the American springs may benefit his heir. The latter is a paralyzed and deformed youth of about twenty years of age, who has been an imbecile from birth. His father's devotion for the past two decades has been unparalleled. He is never seen in society, and spends most of his time making pilgrimages to various shrines and healing resorts with his afflicted boy. The duke is the mainstay of the Catholic church in England, and many of his female relatives, including two sisters, have taken the veil, while memory of the late Cardinal Howell is yet fresh in the minds of all good Catholics. The duke is the premier duke of England, and holds the proud title of Earl Marshal and hereditary marshal of England, ranking immediately after princes of the blood royal; he is also



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able to style himself Earl of Arundel, Surry and Norfolk, Baron Fitz-Alan, Clun, Oswaldestre and Maltravers, and with his enormous wealth and four castles, besides the Norfolk House, in London, it is almost pathetic that so little sunshine enters into his life, and that his days are passed with Philip Joseph Mary, his idolized and idiotic boy.

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