RICH AMERICANS AT THE CORONATION

LONDON WILL BE INVADED BY PROBABLY 15,000 PEOPLE FROM THIS SIDE OF THE ATLANTIC

THE United States has never been so well or so numerously represented at any foreign court as it will be in June during coronation week in London. The exodus of Americans bound for the coronation began last month, and there has been a steady stream of fashionable folks and plain folks steaming Englandward ever since. America is not to be represented by her people of fashion alone at this crowning of a new English King. The steamship lists show that many men and women of comparative social obscurity are going there too, and while the smart set will be the portion of the American contingent most in view, there will be hundreds of quieter Americans who will view the royal procession from private houses, and who will participate, if only mildly, in the many interesting functions which have been arranged as a part of the greatest week of celebration that the present generation of English men and women has known.

No other people will be quite so warmly welcomed to London during coronation week as Americans. The spirit of friendship shown to Americans in the hotels, the cafes and racetracks of England at this time is only the natural growth of the friendship so constantly exhibited of late toward America and the Americans by the English royal family, and it can be readily believed that the Americans who throng the sidewalks as the royal procession slowly makes its way to Westminster Abbey will find their environment quite as happy as those more fortunate of their countrymen and women who view the spectacle from the windows of the private residences and whose aspirations run more to English social recognition than to anything else.

The number of Americans who will witness the royal procession and who will take part, as far as the rather stringent laws of England regarding this solemn event will permit in the event preceding and following the actual crowning of the King in Westminster Abbey, has been variously estimated at from 10,000 to 15,000. If the latter figure is an exaggeration it is a slight one, for in the societies of both Eastern and Western cities there are few of prominence who have not already decided to attend the coronation festivities.

Some Going for Social Reasons.

Undoubtedly many Americans of fashion are impelled to go abroad at this particular time from a notion that it is the proper thing to do. The social positions of some persons might tremble on their foundations if those persons remained at home at such a time. So, unless a person's social status at home is so firmly fixed that nothing can shake it, it will be well for him to be in London during coronation week and take as conspicuous part in the festivities of the time as possible. To be there and not to be seen or heard is almost as bad as not to be there at all. It is announced that Colonel and Mrs. John Jacob Astor will remain at home. They are a fair illustration of the kind of people who can afford to stay at home at such a time.

It is going to take a great many good American dollars to take all the Americans ho want to go to the coronation there in the way most of them have elected to go. The sum total will reach well up in the millions. If only $500 is spent by each American visitor, the total will be $7,500,000 if there are 15,000 of them. It costs money to hire a fine old British residence for weeks at a time, and it costs more than a trifle to conduct such a home as it will have to be conducted during coronation week if the occupants are to cut any figure. The English tradesman may well chuckle over the American invasion, for he knows that the arrival of the American means the arrival of the man with dollars, which he is quite willing to spend.

A great deal of American money has already gone to England for houses for coronation week and for choice positions along the line of the royal procession. This procession will traverse 14 miles of London's principal business and residence streets, and windows and houses in these treets, particularly the latter, are in great demand. Holders of these coveted privileges ran prices up so high in March that there was open rebellion against them, and the newspapers warned them that their greed would inevitably ruin the royal procession, as it did at the time of the Queen's jubilee. While this controversy was at its height Americans stepped in and bought the best windows and rented the best houses. Values in these commodities increase for some reason as they near Westminster Abbey, the end of the route over which the royal family and the attendant nobility are to travel. Almost all of these choice positions have been secured by Americans, and the English who bickered over the prices will have to take what they can get now.

Americans will undoubtedly take a conspicuous part in the social events that have been arranged as part of the week of celebration, for there are enough American women of title in London today to insure a warm welcome to those from the States of established social position who desire the entres to London's best society. Only those American women who have married English titles can hope to witness the actual ceremony of the coronation in Westminster Abbey. With 16 inches of sitting room to a peeress (that is actually the slotted space) there is no room for outsiders, and wealth, position and influence will avail nothing in this instance. But the United States will have at least two representatives at the actual coronation to every one that any other foreign country has. Uncle Sam has enough titled daughters to give him more than an adequate representation. With such women as the Duchess of Marlborough, Lady Naylor-Leyland, the Duchess of Manchester, the Countess of Essex and Lady Stafford to represent the beauty, the wit and the wealth of the United States, the American people may feel well assured that their representation inside of Westminster Abbey on this momentous occasion will reflect credit on their country.

Lavish American Entertaining.

It is generally accepted that the center of American social activity in London during Coronation week will be Brook House, the magnificent home of Lord Tweedmouth, which has been taken for a period of six weeks by Whitelaw Reid, the special ambassador of the United States. Mr. and Mrs. Reid will entertain lavishly at Brook House, and an invitation there during coronation week will establish the claims of any American visitor in London to general social recognition. Brook House is at Brook street and Park lane and faces Hyde Park. It was put up by the first Baron Tweedmouth 32 years ago, and is not a handsome building from the outside, being built of red brick, like many of the best London residences. In its interior fittings, though, Brook House is one of the finest places in London, and it is particularly well adapted for entertaining. Pictures and statuary abound in the halls and reception-rooms, and in the main hall, fastened to the center balustrade, is one of the proudest possessions of the Tweedmouths, the first Boer flag brought to England. It was captured by the eldest son of the house, the Hon. Dudley Majoribanks, from a wagon near Kroonstad. There is a ballroom at Brook House, the walls and ceilings of which, painted by Fragonard, were transferred to this house from a French chateau; there is a wonderfully handsome staircase and one of the finest dining-rooms in England.

Mr. Reid takes Lady Tweedmouth's staff of servants, accustomed to the work of waiting on royalty as royalty should be waited on, so that nothing is lacking in the equipment of the American headquarters to make it one of the finest places in London during the coronation week, and a place well worthy to house such a distinguished party as that making up the special embassy from the United States.

But the Reids will not be the only Americans in London especially for the coronation to entertain on a lavish scale. Mrs. Ogden Mills, with her twin daughters, Miss Gladys and Miss Beatrice Mills and her mother, Mrs. Maturin Livingston, will be there also, and in London will be the guests of Mrs. Mills' twin sister, Mrs. Cavendish-Bentwick, unless they decide to take a London house themselves. Both Mrs. Mills and her sister plan to entertain extensively during coronation week, and as there are no better known or more popular American society women than these two twin sisters, the houses that they occupy are sure to be centers of social interest for Americans abroad.

Mrs. William Astor, the leader of New York society, is in Paris just now, but she will be in London during coronation week, at the residence of her daughter, Mrs. Haig. William K. Vanderbilt, who has been cruising in his yacht the Vallant, with Mr. and Mrs. Oliver Harriman, and Winfield Scott Hoyt will go to the coronation with his entire party. Mr. and Mrs. W. K. Vanderbilt, Jr., will have a house in London, where they will do a great deal of entertaining. The Duchess of Marlborough will spend much of her time with her brother, and the younger set of American society people in London will undoubtedly make the Vanderbilt place their headquarters during the coronation festivities.

Mrs. Frances Ormond French, Mr. and Mrs. Amos Tuck French and Mr. and Mrs. Alfred Vanderbilt will be the guests of the Hon. and Mrs. Herbert F. Eaton, of Hyde Park. Mrs. Eaton is Mrs. French's daughter, and is a sister of Mr. French and of Mrs. Vanderbilt, and she will do a great deal of entertaining the week of celebration. Mrs. O. H. P. Belmont, Mrs. Herman Oelrichs and Mrs. Stuyvesant Fish will be among a large number of American society women who will take hotel apartments during coronation week. Of course this precludes any possibility of their entertaining, save on a very small scale; nevertheless, these women will be conspicuous in the social life of London during the week.

Among other Americans who have taken houses are Mrs. Charles T. Yerkes, Mrs. Elisha Dyer, Jr., Mrs. Albert O. Brown, Mr. and Mrs. Elbridge T. Gerry, Mr. and Mrs. George Crocker, of San Francisco; J. Henry Smith, Lispenard Stewart, Mrs. Gouverneur Kortright and Mrs. James E. Kernochan. William C. Whitney will be in London during coronation week, but has not decided whether to stay, see the show and mingle in the social whirl or to get out into the quiet country until the turmoil and excitement attending the crowning of a King is over.

The socially conspicuous Americans who are already in London or soon will be include people from all of the larger cities in the country, and their names would make a very long list. The amount of the fuss and the bother and negotiation which the preparing, sending and housing of this army of Americans has entailed is incalculable. There is one real estate broker in New York who for some time has had a dozen commissions in his hands to secure London houses for Americans who want to do the coronation comfortably, but he hasn't succeeded in placing more than half of his clients so far, and coronation week is getting uncomfortably close for those who want London houses and haven't got them yet.

The trouble is in getting London houses suitable for the kind of entertaining that American women want to do in London this year. There are an abundance of such houses, but those who own them and occupy them are not persons to whom even a large sum of rental money for a short period of occupancy appeals very strongly. The Americans want houses just as they are; want the owners to step out without taking as much as a servant with them, and let them step in, but there aren't enough of these obliging persons in London to go round. Lord Tweedmouth's renting of his home to the Reids is said to have been a simple act of courtesy, he being very much interested in having the head of the American Embassy suitably housed during his stay in London. It is said that enormous sums of money are being offered for well-equipped London houses by Americans, but that the English owners cannot be induced to let their places at any price. It seems certain that a large number of Americans who had reckoned on doing the coronation in most finished style, entertaining as well as being entertained, will be obliged at the last moment to take to the hotels or stay at home.

There is already much talk of rivalry among American women who propose to entertain in London on the subject of royal recognition. Just what the plans of the King and Queen and the members of the royal family are in this respect is not known, but that a strong effort will be made by certain American society leaders to get the King and Queen, or at least a Prince of the blood, to accept their invitations there is no doubt. And the woman who lands a member of the royal family will surely be at the same time the most envied and most admired among American women in London.

CHARLES APPLETON.

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DECORATING A FIREPLACE

OF a number of excellent plans for screening or decorating a fireplace, none is more sensible or ornamental than that of turning it into a sort of fernery. Ferns, ivy, swamp lilies, periwinkles, and two or three varieties of Oriental iris love to root in cool, dark, moist places, and properly drained and planted a fireplace garden can be made just as attractive as one in a window. One woman, whose cottage drawing-room is provided with a very old-fashioned square brick fireplace, in which the antique crane still swings, and above which the narrow mantel shelf is set very high, resorted to very simple measures for beautifying it during the Summer. She bought three copper pots, such as the florists hang in their windows full of flowers. These she had filled with earth and planted with green things that love the shade, and stringing them along the crane she effectively screened the smoke-blackened cavern where the flames had leaped all Winter.

Many of her friends have since had polished steel cranes fixed in their modern fireplaces, and on these they have hung brass kettles and bowls, and one went so far as to have her bric-abrac dealer hunt up for her a true old-fashioned, three-legged iron crane pot.

Another resourceful housekeeper, who has had large experience with house plants, found last Winter that English ivy would grow gratefully if allowed a vase of fresh water every day in which to keep its green toes moist. With the coming of Spring she dared not plant her ivy outdoors, knowing it could not withstand the withering heat of the climate. Accordingly, she bought two boxes, made of small green tiles, filled them with rich earth and a larger portion of sand, and, taking two well-grown ivy sprays from the water, she planted them on either side of her plain hearth. Two more sprays she put in boxes and set them on either end of the black marble mantel shelf.

The ivy has already grown up and down, and promises to throw a rich green veil over the whole fireplace, frame the mirror above it, and do away with the need of bric-a-brac at that point. As hers is a city house, where, on her husband's account, she spends the major portion of every Summer, she finds the curtain of green a most delightful and refreshing ornament.

Fireplace Screen.

The florists, who are always quick to accept good ideas, have come to a realization of the fact that something is needed for fireplace decoration in Summer. Accordingly the fireplace screen has been introduced. This is two or three fold, has an antique green iron frame, handsomely wrought and twisted. In the leaves of the screen the ribbons and tendrils of iron form a series of brackets, into which large and small green tile pots fit. In the pots all manner of trailing green things are rooted, and their garlands and long tendrils, weaving as they grow through the wrought iron fret work, form a delicate and effectual screen for the whole hearth.

By another equally pleasing arrangement the florist will measure a fireplace and build a special floral hearth box. He makes the box of beaten brass, or copper, or tiles, or painted wood, and roots in it iris, and lilies, and green up-standing things, that will shut off the view of the grate or the gap left by the removal of the fire dogs and logs with a wall of color and verdure that is a delightful ornament to any room.

Since so many of the Summer gowns have elbow sleeves the bracelet is sure to put in appearance in all is manifold variations, and semi-precious stones figure largely in its construction, surrounded by just as exquisite workmanship as if they were the genuine article.

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