

American Girls who are "Near Queens"

YANKEE PRINCESSES AND DUCHESSES MOST OF WHOM HAVE SUPPED UNHAPPINESS SORROW AND DISGRACE

WHEN she weds the Duke of the Abruzzi, Miss Katherine Elkins, daughter of the eminent Senator from West Virginia, will sit nearer to the throne of a great European monarchy than any American girl who has yet married a scion of old-world aristocracy. In the popular slang of the day, she might, in her probable future status, be termed a near-queen, the Duke being a member of the royal household of Italy, the first cousin of the King, the grandson of a Queen, and a possible heir to the throne.

Only American Girl Enthroned.

Another American girl, however, once actually won for herself a seat on one of the thrones of Europe. This was Miss Helene, daughter of Michael Helms, a former banker of New Orleans, who married Prince Albert, reigning sovereign of Monaco, and from whom she was judicially separated some years ago. She is the only American woman who ever occupied an old-world throne, but she never bore the title of queen, and her throne was a small one, her royal husband's petty state extending little beyond the great gambling mecca of Monte Carlo.

A dozen of our women have become princesses and 14 have become duchesses to date, but none of our princesses rank or ranked as high as some of our duchesses. Thus neither Anna Gould, in her new role of Princess de Sagan, nor any of the other American women who have married French princes, are officially recognized in France as near-queens, their titles having disappeared after the French revolution.

Husbands of other American princesses belong only to the "mediatized," or formerly reigning houses of Germany, whose thrones, crowns and scepters were confiscated by Napoleon Bonaparte, although the Congress of Vienna, by way of a bribe, allowed them to retain their empty rank and titles. Last and least are our American princesses, whose husbands bear titles in Slavie countries like Russia, where the rank of prince is one of the least, being about equal to that of count or baron in other countries, and then in Italy titles may be purchased, there being two classes, those belonging to royalty and the nobility, and those going with ancient estates, even when purchased by foreigners. But in Italy, as well as in some other continental European countries, one may be a duke and yet of higher rank than a prince of ancient lineage.

Yankee Princess of Italy.

Thus as the Duchess of the Abruzzi, Miss Elkins would have far above three other American women who can, or could, boast of being Italian princesses. For example, there is Miss Elizabeth Hickson Field, of New York, who married Prince Salvatore Brancaccio, whose title dates back to 1261, and who also bears the Spanish title Duke of Lustra. This prince, who has been a model husband, was a prime favorite with King Humbert and an attaché of his court while the American princess used to be lady-in-waiting to Queen Margherita. Another American princess in Italy was Miss Josephine Mary Curtis, daughter of Joseph Davis Beers Curtis, of New York, who at Paris, in 1886, became the third wife of Don Emanuel, Prince of Ruspoli and of Poggio-Susano, an Italian deputy. In 1887 the Italian Prince Camporeale, who was also Duke of Aldragana, married a New York divorcee, Mrs. Thomas Kingsland, who had been Miss Florence Binney, daughter of John Binney, of Burlington, N. J., in which city the American girl became the Princess Camporeale. This prince's family as far back as the 14th century migrated from Bologna to Uclly, where they have since been established.

Among the other early American princesses was Miss Evelyn Julia Bryant Mackay, stepdaughter of John W. Mackay, who, at Paris, in 1885, married Prince Colonna di Galati, a Spanish scoundrel, whose abuse and brutality caused her to leave him, and live afterward with her mother in London, keeping her three children with her. About this time, Miss Clara, daughter of Collins P. Huntington married Prince Hatzfeldt of Germany, and Miss Winifred Singer, another American girl, married a Prince de Scy-Montbellard.

Then in 1890 Miss Florence Hazard, daughter of E. C. Hazard, a millionaire cask manufacturer of Shrewsbury, N. J., married Prince Francis Auerperg, who had been a poor physician in New York, and this is the only American girl who, so far as rank is concerned, has been one of the most brilliant yet made by an American girl, since this prince belonged to one of those mediatized, or formerly reigning houses of Germany, rather than to the mere nobility. But because of his marriage, he was obliged by his family to renounce his rights and prerogatives as a member of a mediatized house, and to descend to the rank of the ordinary nobility, as in the case of the mediatized Count Poppenheim, whose countess, now divorced, was a Miss Wheeler, of New York. Princess Auerperg also left her husband after a short and stormy married life.

Our Princess Elopes.

The next American Princess entered upon the page of history was the wealthy but ill-fated Clara Ward, of Detroit, who in 1890 married the Prince de Chimay, of the old French house of that name, and who, after living with him five years, spending \$200,000 in repairing his estates and bearing him two children, ran away with Rigo, a Hungarian gypsy musician, who has lately been performing in this country. The Prince, who has been described in the American prints as of irreproachable conduct, obtained a divorce in 1897, after which the ex-Princess had the noble Chimay great tattooed upon her arm and then distributed photographs of herself adorned in this manner. The courts gave the Prince the custody of her



DUCHESS OF MANCHESTER. NEÉ MISS ZIMMERMAN



PRINCESS OF MONACO.



PRINCESS CANTACUZENE



PRINCESS de CHIMAY



PRINCESS HATZFELDT



PRINCESS de SAGAN (NEE ANNA GOULD)

children. She was only in her teens when she married him. Our only other French Princess is Anna Gould, daughter of Jay Gould, who some months ago divorced Count Boni de Castellane and this summer married his cousin, Prince Helle de Sagan, whose mother, the former Princess, was leader of the Paris smart set into which the former Countess de Castellane was ambitious to enter.

Two American women have become Russian Princesses, this rank, however, as explained, being near the bottom of the list of titled Russians. One of these is Julia Dent Grant, granddaughter of President Grant, who married Prince Michael Cantacuzene, of the Russian Imperial Guard, and the other is Amelie Rives, the Virginia girl who became famous for writing "The Quaker or the Dead." She first married John Armstrong Chanler, who after their divorce was adjudged insane in New York State and who has lately appeared before the courts and had his name changed to Chaloner. Twelve years ago she married the Russian Prince Troubetzkoy, a studio in this country.

Miss Elkins will become the 15th American Duchess when she marries the King of Italy's cousin. Of higher rank than any of the Princesses enumerated above have been the four American women who have become Duchesses of Marlborough and of Manchester. The first American Duchess of Marlborough was Mrs. Hammersley, stepmother of the present Duke. She was reputed to have inherited \$7,000,000 and to have spent more than \$1,000,000 upon his palace, Blenheim. After his death she married Lord William Bessford and endeavor to retain the title of Duchess, but Queen Victoria insisted that she drop it and rest content with that of "Lady" Bessford. The young Duke, as we better remember, emulated his father and married an American heiress, Consuelo Vanderbilt, daughter of William K. Vanderbilt, the New York multimillionaire. The young Duchess' legal separation from her overbearing husband is fresh in the public memory. Early in her married life it was said to be her ambition to eventually marry one of her children to one of King Edward's grandchildren. The last two Duchesses of Manchester have also been American women, the former having been Consuelo Yanaga, daughter of Antonio Yanaga, of Ravenswood, La., who had married a Vanderbilt. And, oddly enough, Consuelo Vanderbilt, who married the Duke of Marlborough, was named for this king-

woman Consuelo Yanaga, who married the Duke of Manchester. The latter Duke was reckoned among the poorest Dukes of England, but he had an enviable social position, and his American wife soon became a favored friend of the present Queen. The young Duke a few years back married Miss Helene, daughter of Eugene Zimmerman, of Cincinnati, who rose from petty officer to Lieutenant-Commander in our Navy during the Civil War, and later to president of the Cincinnati, Hamilton & Dayton railroad. His career, by the way, is similar to that of Miss Elkins' maternal grandfather, ex-Senator H. G. Davis, who, from brakeman on the Baltimore & Ohio Railroad, also rose to multimillionaire railroad king as well as to coal baron.

A Duke who has married two American women is his grace de Dino, who as the French Marquis de Talleyrand-Perigord first wedded Miss Bessie Curtis, daughter of Joseph Davis Beers Curtis, of New York. This marriage, which occurred at Nice, was away back in 1867, and was one of our first international alliances to stir the fashionable world. Had they remained wedded she would have become a duchess, but they were divorced and not until after the separation did he fall heir to the title of Duc de Dino. Then he made a duchess of Mrs. Adele Livingston Sampson, daughter of Joseph Sampson, of New York, and divorced wife of Frederick Livingston. His first wife has called herself the Marquise de Talleyrand-Perigord and has spent her winters in New York. She is a sister of the above-mentioned Miss Josephine Curtis, who became the Italian Princess of Ruspoli and of Poggio-Susano.

Two members of the multimillionaire Singer family—the same which produced the Princess de Scy-Montbellard, mentioned above—have become duchesses. These were Mrs. Isaac Singer, who married the Duke of Camposelle, and Miss Isabella Singer, who wedded the Duc de Decazes.

Other American duchesses not to be forgotten are Miss Mathilde Davis, who married the Duke of Santa Monfretro;

Miss Mary E. Forbes, wife of the Duke of Choussat-Praslin, and Miss Lowry, daughter of Archibald Lowry, of Washington, who before he had inherited his title and while he was a young attaché of the Spanish legation in Washington fell in love with and later married the Duke of Arcos, who directly following our war with Spain, served as Spanish minister to the United States. This marriage has been a happy one, like that of Miss Mitchell, daughter of the ill-fated United States Senator Mitchell, of Oregon, who married the Duc de Rochefoucauld.

French Titles Hoodooed.

Miss May Golet's becoming the Duchess of Roxburgh is fresher in the mind of the American reader, as is Miss Helen Morton's (daughter of the ex-Vice-President) becoming the Duchess de Valencay. This latter marriage was one of the most unhappy of those culminating in the granting of a dual coronet by the fair brow of an American girl. This Frenchman, a brother of Prince Helle de Sagan, now husband of Anna Gould, was Comte Boson de Perigord when Miss Morton married him in London in 1901. Soon after the marriage, it is said, the Comte obtained from his father-in-law \$42,673 to purchase the Chateau de Valencay, the possession of which bestowed upon him the title of Duc and of his bride as Duchess de Valencay. Mr. Morton advanced the money on condition that the property should be held in his daughter's name, and this stipulation incensed the family of his titled son-in-law. A separation followed and the Duchess applied to the courts for a dissolution of the legal bond.

The last American girl to become a duchess had also a chimay to her name. This was Miss Shontz, daughter of Theodore P. Shontz, former chairman of the Panama Canal Commission. But a few weeks after her marriage last winter to the French Duc de Chaulnes, the latter suddenly dropped dead in Paris.

The curse which has hung over French titles since the days of Louis the Grand seems not to spare the American heiress.

It is a question whether they are worth striving for, considering that many of them are clouded; that after the extinguishing of the old nobles many of the latter's servants and other spurious persons rose to claim them; that since then, in France any one has been able to assume them—whether as comtes or princesses—without provoking the smallest interference of the government.

Could Hendrick Hudson See It Now?

What Would He Think of the River That Bears His Name?

"SOMETIMES I wonder," said a Riverside-drive dweller to the New York Sun, "what our old friend Henry Hudson would think if he could come back and see the river that bears his name as it is now, and especially I'd like to have him see it at night."

"I think I'd take him over to Jersey City first and let him see the marvelous spectacle of Manhattan's tall buildings lighted. Then I'd bring him up here to Upper Riverside drive, where the city is quietest, and set him down here in the stillness and let him look at his river at night as he would see it from our window."

"There he would see the broad river with the tall Palisades beyond, just the same as in his own time, but he marvels more when he sees another light appear at the top, to move steadily down, and he marvels most of all when he sees that light coming down ships across the river—the headlights of a trolley car flashing into momentary brightness as the car comes around a bend."

"Yes, Henry would certainly marvel at that, at trolley cars climbing and descending now the face of the Palisades. And as he looks through the darkness he would marvel again as he saw spring into view, crowning an eighth-mile stretch of the farther high bank, an unbroken line of electric lights—only he wouldn't know what they were—these lights marking, where in his time the wilderness was quite unbroken, the site of a present-day amusement park. And as he looked along that farther bank he would see other lights scattered there on the shore and on the cliffs, and then perhaps he'd close his eyes, to muse a little on these sights so extraordinary, and then when he looked up again, to let his eyes fall now on the face of the river, he would see there something more wonderful yet."

"A red light, moving silently along in the middle of the broad stream, the port side light of a towboat, with white lights scattered for a long distance

astern of her, and moving with her, these marking a string of canalboats and barges, unseen and moving silently in the darkness."

"Or perhaps we see a tow coming up, its towboat showing its green starboard sidelight, with another long line of white lights, but green light and the white lights behind it moving just as silently."

"But it is not all silence here. Perhaps we have from one passing towboat a musical boom, the clang of the gong in its engine-room. And now before us pass other towboats, without rows and moving faster, and if the wind is right and the boats are near enough our shores we may hear the churning of their propellers, and perhaps one of those boats turns here, bringing a pretty sight, first her green light and then her red light into view."

"And bigger—passenger—boats pass, their paddle-wheels smashing the water, and the boats themselves all aglow with light; and now comes one big river passenger steamer with a great oblong of electric lights running all around the upper rail of her hurricane deck, while her walking beam is outlined with lights in like manner, showing there a great diamond shape of light that plays in the air with the play of the walking beam; and really, what would Hudson, knowing neither steam power nor electric light, think of that? And now far out in the river, with its red port light to us, is passing silently a towboat towing homeward a great excursion barge, crowded with people and with its decks one above another all alight, while from this moving island of light we have the music of a band coming to us across the water."

"So the river, as he would see it now at night looking from our window, seeing now, where in his time the sole traveler abroad might have been some lone Indian in a canoe, unheard, and in the darkness quiet invisible, a sort of fairy spectacle, of darkness and stillness alternating with lights and music and motion. Pity that Henry couldn't come back to see his noble river now, and especially to see this marvelous after-nightfall show."

Great Britain imports about \$140,000,000 worth of timber, wood and manufactures thereof yearly, of which the United States supplies about \$22,000,000 worth.