

The Five Romances of Two Sisters

Extraordinary Social Triumph of Baltimore's Beautiful Armstrong Girls, and Their Successive Adventures in Matrimony



Mrs. Brinsley Fitzgerald, Formerly Mrs. Anthony J. Drexel.

BY BARBARA CRAYDON.

There are no stranger stories in the court and social fiction of the master writers of French literature than the Five Loves of the Two Armstrong Sisters. How two Baltimore belles, with beauty and charm as their sole assets, set siege to the most exclusive and unapproachable castles of the Money God and the Social God, and each single-handed, stormed both, makes up one of the most remarkable narratives from real life that has ever come before the people of the Old and the New World. By way of incident, the Far East has some small part in the romantic heart adventures of the pair.

For the flags of America, England, France, Portugal and Japan must be hung over the verbal gallery of this heart story to mark the scenes in which the two women have appeared on the world's social stage, amid settings that only a Croesus might buy and a king command.

The Quiet First Chapter.

By way of beginning, the two sisters had small prospects during their girlhood days of shining in the court firmaments that now hold them. In the venerable and sophisticated city of Baltimore, where the terrapin is famous and the food products of the Big Bay are held both in anticipation and remembrance by visitors, there came up Anne Armstrong and her sister, Margaret. They were bred to the self-contained atmosphere of the old city that clings to the edge of the South, while holding one municipal arm about the neck of the North.

If a master of the stage like Belasco were called upon to set the first act of their lives he would place it almost on colonial lines and a charming home atmosphere. But he would have been at a loss to find the action needed to get the first act over the footlights. First-nights would have gone to sleep and wondered why the author did not begin his play in the second act.

In the second act the most blasé occupant of a regular first night seat would have shaken off the enervating spirit and picked up the thread of the play, for it bounded from the home commonplace to the scintillating light of society with the suddenness of a battle plane, rising to meet an enemy attack, and its second setting was no more like the first than the stable-like dullness of the hanger is like the rarefied atmosphere of the fighting altitude. And in action the change is as great as the mise en scene. It is a transition from gathering roses from the climbing vines in the afternoon to the dizzy whirl of a gold-spurred establishment.

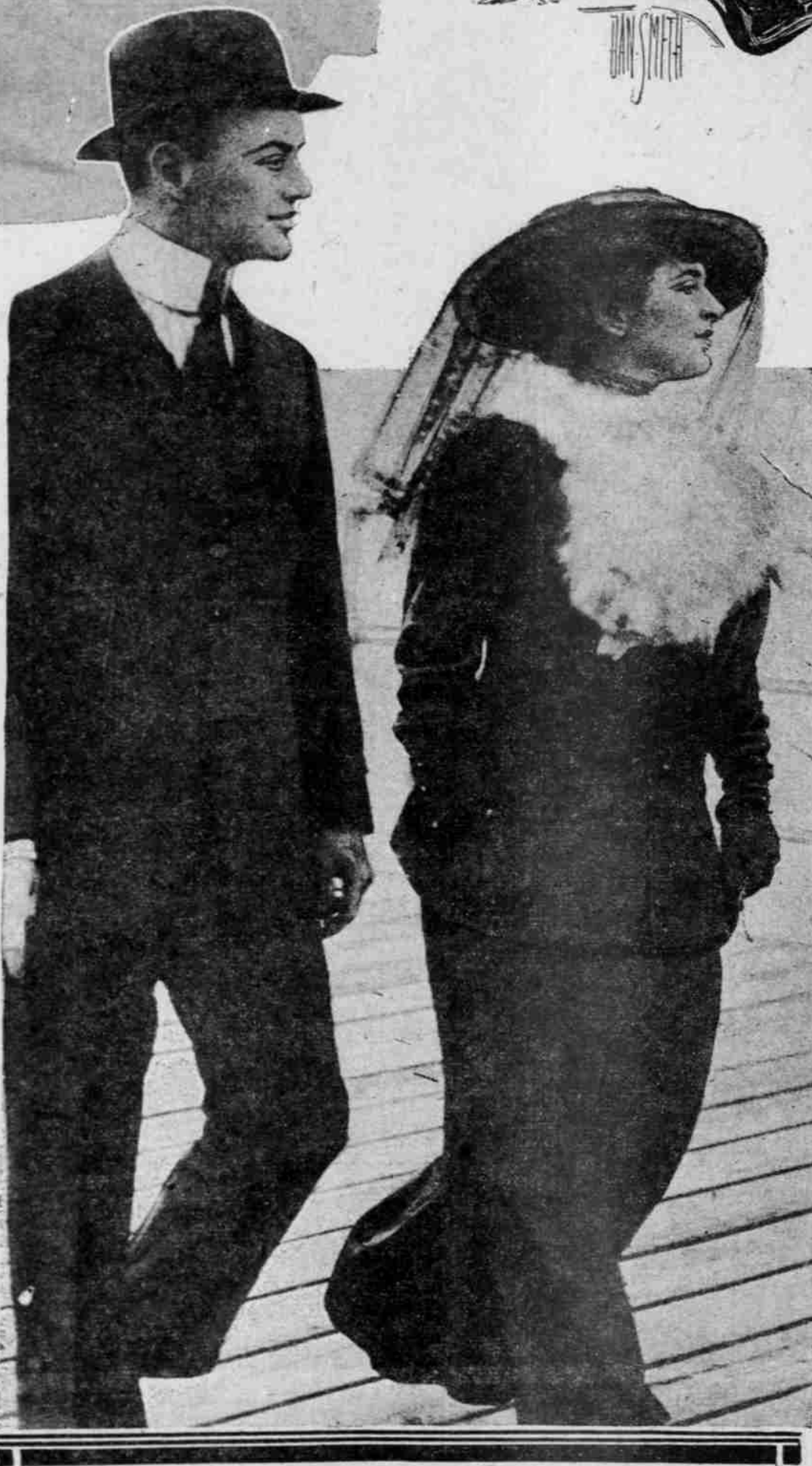
The Drexel Romance.

It was into such an establishment that Margaret Armstrong came when she met and won Anthony J. Drexel, heir by right to the banking prowess and social place of the famous Philadelphia family. He had \$200,000 a year to shake at any wolf that might perchance, array itself in a dress suit and slip by the butler.

"She has stormed the exclusive Philadelphia set," said the social writers when the news of the marriage came. For some years she made her way in the Quaker city, acquiring the sure nose and the art of playing the game of Society. Then, before anybody knew it, she had moved her pawns and castles, her bishops and her kings over the water to the British court. People smiled at her audacity. Edward VII was then the Prince of Wales, wondering if the name of King would ever be his, and the elegant arbiter of things social in the British world.

There came a day when the Prince of Wales met the American woman, and she others who had fallen under that spell, the man who had conquered many women capitulated before one. Society heard that Windsor Castle had placed upon its dinner list the names of Mr. and Mrs. Anthony J. Drexel. Margaret's daughter, Margaret, known to her intimates as "Daisy," had reached the age when Society hangs her buds upon the tree of knowledge of the good and evil of the social chase. A coming-out party was arranged. For it the mother rented a castle for which she paid \$15,000 for a single week. This came little "Daisy" into the social orchard from which, later, and with much ceremony, Lord Maidstone plucked her for his own. And Maidstone, learning more than love in the wooing, acquired a knack of London Stock Exchange work that did not leave the young woman with a drone.

In the meantime Tony Drexel had been looking around a trifle. Fate had



Mr. and Mrs. Jean H. E. St. Cyr, Photographed on Their Honeymoon.

not made him to hang helplessly under the hind wheels of any social chariot, and while his wife conquered courts he courted pleasure. Paris was agreeable to him for mere reasons than one, some of which were subsequently named in his wife's divorce suit.

At first there came a separation, with \$20,000 a year for the wife. Then followed the real divorce. It had hardly been forgotten in the day's news when there came in January the news that Mrs. Drexel had married Lieutenant Colonel Brinsley Fitzgerald, private secretary to the commander-in-chief of the home forces. The officer was Mrs. Drexel's junior by many years, but the Armstrong charm does not fade with the years, and that fact constitutes the most unusual feature of the careers of the two sisters.

While the one sister was winning her way through court and drawing-room, Anne, the other, met and married William Rhinelander Stewart, holder of one of the oldest names in New York society, and a fortune that ranked along with the big estates. Society was rather surprised when, in August, 1908, she received at Sioux Falls, S. D., a divorce from the New Yorker, and wondered what would come next.

At the time there lived in New York James Henry Smith, one of the stran-

gest characters of the financial and social world, who was known as the wealthiest bachelor on the carpet, and who had, by his combination of safe reticence, acquired the nickname of "Silent" Smith. A bit of information had about as much chance of escaping from his lips as a newly-made millionaire has of escaping the income tax collector. Imagine, therefore, the surprise of society when it learned that the Sphinx had really spoken, and that the utterance was a proposal to Mrs. William Rhinelander Stewart.

"Silent" Smith had something like \$50,000,000 that had not been decreased by any spendthrift hand. With his bride, he sought joy in the blossoming land of Japan, along the flower-bedecked Hawaiian lanes and then back over the court paths of Europe. A daughter belonged also to the Rhinelander Stewart name, and the mother, seeking to find in court circles a mate that would outshine her sister's son-in-law, made a match with the young Prince Miguel of Braganca, pretender to the overturned throne of Portugal.

In the course of events "Silent" Smith was taken to the perfect rest that awaits millionaires in common with mortals who know less of this world's goods. His widow, left with unlimited means, was free to choose

another mate. Youth this time held her fancy, and it was a young man who came to win and to take his place at her social side. Indian Summer, won by June, never presented a stranger aspect.

There had suddenly appeared in the New York firmament a young man who gave the name of Jean H. E. St. Cyr. He wore his clothes well, danced well, and society did not make any diligent inquiry concerning any other unessential detail. He found among those present in the list of notables Mrs. Caroline Peck Redfield, who was born Peck at Farmington, Conn., some 25 years before young Mr. St. Cyr learned to lip his first infant words. She had married Henry Alexander Redfield, a Hartford banker, who, dying, consigned to her care an estate of ample proportions.

Mrs. Redfield's first marriage had taken place in 1862, just about the time when the North had caught its breath after Bull Run, and was taking a fresh start for the race that ended at Appomattox. In 1859 she married young St. Cyr, and after six years, Mrs. St. Cyr died at the age of 74.

A Third Marriage.

And shortly after that time the tidings arrived that the widow of "Silent" Smith had succeeded to the affections

of the youth, duly sanctioned by the law and the church. The marriage had not ceased to be a matter of gossip

when some busy person started the story that St. Cyr was really John Henry Thompson, who had started life

RECIPIENT OF REBEL TRUCE FLAG IS LIVING IN OREGON

Sidney Stickels, Who Witnessed Surrender at Appomattox in 1865, for 30 Years Lane County Farmer, Now Resides in Eugene.

EUGENE, Or., April 5.—(Special).—Few people in Oregon know that in Eugene lives Sidney Stickels, the man who received the flag of truce which marked the close of the Civil War 53 years ago, April 9, 1865, near Appomattox Courthouse.

Sergeant Stickels, for 30 years a Lane County farmer, now living at 1400 Willamette street, Eugene, has not forgotten that memorable day which ended the struggle in which he fought for four years.

"We had been following up Lee's line every day since April 1, when we broke it at Five Forks," he says. "On the night of April 8 we captured Lee's heavy artillery and wagon trains. Foragers Meet Rebels.

"On the morning of April 9 I went out to the front, skirmishing in a foraging party with my Captain, John N. Reeves. We took two rebel prisoners and the Captain started back with them. I went ahead about 40 rods. My orders had been to keep to the right, and so I went on about 20 or 30 yards, when my horse jumped a rail fence and we turned into a road.

"Just a little way down the road I saw a big oak tree, and three rebels under it, as sharp and keen men as ever I saw. I shot at them, but missed 'em, and then I saw that one was waving a little white flag.

"General Gordon wants a private interview with General Grant," called out one of the men. I figured later that these men must have been General Gordon himself and two of his staff officers.

I saw a picture in the newspapers of General Gordon at the time of his death, and he and one of the men I saw that day looked as alike as two peas.

Last Encounter Described.

"I took the three back to my Captain, who passed them on to the Colonel. Then the order came that all firing was to cease along the lines, but some of the cavalry didn't hear the order and didn't know that a flag of truce had been sent in. The rebels charged our lines and we drove them back and that was the last fighting of the war.

"Some people think there was a lot of cannon booming when the rebels surrendered, but there wasn't. I was put on guard for about a half hour and was relieved by one of the Pennsylvania Bucktails. We called them that because they wore big hats with squirrel tails hanging down behind. They were fine sharpshooters."

Stickels Mustered Out.

After the war the cavalry went back to Petersburg and Sergeant Stickels was finally mustered out June 27, 1865.

He then went to Elgin, Ill., and came to Oregon in 1888 and settled on a Lane County farm.

When the war began in 1861, Stickels, then a lad of 16, was determined to enlist. "I was just like the young boys are now—crazy to go," he said. "I got my parents' consent and enlisted in Company C, New York cavalry."

Sergeant Stickels was never out of the field, except once on a 30 days' furlough. Very few soldiers now living in Oregon have such a record of service as has Sergeant Stickels. He served in the Eastern Army during the entire war. "I know that part of the country better than I know Oregon, even if I have lived here 30 years," he said. "We went back and forth over the same territory so many times."

Sergeant in Many Battles.

Sergeant Stickels was in many of the big battles of the war. His regiment was sent to Washington and then

to the Shenandoah to be a part of

Banks' army. He took part in all the Shenandoah campaigns; was at Harper's Ferry several times and helped to capture Longstreet's wagon train just before the battle of Antietam. After serving in this battle he went to Hagerstown, Md., where a horse kicked him in the jaw.

Later he was at Fredericksburg. At another time, while on a foraging party, one of the "rebs" shot him in the right elbow.

Stickels at Gettysburg.

Stickels' cavalry arrived at Gettysburg on the night of June 30, 30 years in time to take part in that great three-day battle. Mr. Stickels returned to Gettysburg at the time of the celebration of the 50th anniversary of the battle.

His regiment was at Cold Harbor and in the battles of the Wilderness, where it aided in cutting off the Danville railroad. At this time Sergeant Stickels rode for nine days and nights, the only sleep he had being what he could get while in the saddle.

"I tell you we were all worn out," he said, "getting so little sleep and with the sun so hot in the daytime while we were riding hard. But it was wonderful to see how soon we could learn to sleep while riding."

Mr. Stickels has a son, Roy, who has enlisted in the Navy. He has a nine-months' leave and is at present attending the University of Oregon.

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Only a woman who has watched her complexion change from wrinkled, coarse, sallow ugliness to clear, soft youthful beauty can realize the feeling of joy that came over me when first I saw that my own careworn, aged-looking skin was actually regaining its girlish freshness. Yet prior to this there was scarcely a preparation, including treatment at the highest prices, which I had not tried, only to make my face look worse. Finally a French lady gave me a little recipe which she had obtained from a doctor in Paris. It failed because they lacked the power to get down into the skin and renew the youthful activity of the tissues. It was only a short time after that my son showed me in my improved appearance by exclaiming, "Mother! You look young enough to be my sweetheart." I am certain that most any woman can successfully use the same recipe. I gladly repeat it here for the benefit of others. Merely wash your face with buttermilk and rub in a teaspoonful of roseated cream (which can be obtained from Surgiside), wipe the face and apply Surgiside. Fascination—a very fine complexion powder, prepared especially for shiny noses and bad complexions. If your face is badly wrinkled, get a box of Japanese Ice Pencils to use in connection with the roseated cream. I have seen many a wrinkled, hollow-cheeked, faded-looking woman banish (banish) these and marvellously increase her beauty, through this simple and inexpensive recipe.

Pure roseated cream—Cream Tokalon Roseated—is guaranteed by its manufacturers to banish complexion blemishes and make any woman look years younger and far more beautiful in ten days' time or the price paid will be refunded. When shown the above article, the following local merchants stated that despite the war, they could supply Cream Tokalon Roseated and the other French created products mentioned. Order at Frank Owl Drug Co., Lyman Wolfe, Roberts Bros., Holzer & Nevins Corner Drug Store. —Adv.

How Do You Keep That Youthful Look in Your Face When So Many Others No Older Than You Have Such Bad Complexions and Coarse Wrinkled Skin?

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