

To Paris!—for a Divorce and a New Gown

The Interesting Explanation of Why Fashionable Society Women Now Prefer Paris to Reno as a Divorce Center as Revealed Through Recent Separations



Mrs. Leonard M. Thomas



Paul Helleu's Etching of the Former Edith Kelly Gould Who is Credited With Setting the New Paris Divorce Fashion

BY NINA CARTER MARBOURG.

FOR years the social sign posts of fashionable America have directed the pilgrim to Reno for a stylish divorce and to Paris for a stylish gown. And the pilgrims in need of both divorce and gown had to travel far to get them.

But judging from the rapidly increasing number of divorces now being granted in Paris to socially prominent Americans, it begins to look as though the French capital is furnishing an excellent illustration of the old adage about "killing two birds with one stone."

The question is, who started the ball rolling? Some say it was and some say it was not Mr. and Mrs. Frank J. Gould, in whose case a decree of divorce was granted on April 16, 1919.

The Parisian Idea of Alimony.

However that may be, the Gould divorce is a matter of great interest to legal circles here, for Mrs. Gould who was granted 3000 francs alimony by the French court has instituted new separation and divorce proceedings in this country. When she heard the verdict of the French court she exclaimed:

"Three thousand francs is a mere pittance. I am going to America where I will find a jury that will give me a fair deal."

Mrs. Gould will be remembered as Miss Edith Kelly who while playing in "Havana," met Mr. Gould and went abroad to be married to him. It was probably the intention of Mr. Gould in bringing suit for divorce in the French courts to have as little publicity attached to these proceedings as possible.

The Goulds leased the romantic Abbotsford home of Sir Walter Scott. Here the ex-actress and her millionaire husband spent their honeymoon. Then came reports, later, of the splendor of Edith Kelly Gould at the Paris races. But the bubble of that romance has been pierced and the sequel of the Paris divorce is to be reacted in the American courts.

Following in the footsteps of the Goulds came Mrs. Ogden L. Mills, Jr., most exclusive of society matrons, known in American and European society circles for her wit and beauty.

Mrs. Mills went quietly to Paris with her mother, Mrs. W. K. Vanderbilt, Sr., and there as quietly obtained her divorce. Few friends of hers in America knew anything of the proceedings, in fact it came as a shock and a surprise to most of them when the news became public. For if ever there was a love match it was thought the engagement of Ogden L. Mills, Jr., and Margaret Rutherford was one.

Mr. and Mrs. Leonard M. Thomas were the next couple to obtain their freedom in Paris. The news of this breaking off of marriage ties came as a surprise to fashionable society, for the brilliant and beautiful Mrs. Thomas had been considered a happy and contented wife.

Mrs. Thomas was Miss Blanche May Oelrichs and when Paul Helleu, the famous dry point etcher, came to America in 1912 he termed her "America's most beautiful woman." Aside from her beauty Mrs. Thomas was an ardent worker in the cause of

sufrage, and even with all her other duties she found time to bring out several volumes of poetry under the pen name of Michael Strange. Through her verse Mrs. Thomas has long been referred to as "Society's Poetess of Passion," and since the news of the French divorce has come to light there are those who pretend to believe that in her poems the ending of this marriage was foreshadowed, and that the love of the poetess for her husband, Leonard Moorhead Thomas, the son of one of Philadelphia's wealthiest families, was shown to be on the wane.

Next came the news of the divorce obtained last October by Mrs. Philip Lydig on the grounds of desertion. Mrs. Lydig is another American woman famed for her beauty. She divorced her first husband, W. E. D. Stokes, in 1895, and married Captain Lydig in 1902.

The method adopted by the plaintiff in obtaining her freedom was unostentatious but sure. She slipped by the French court and after establishing a residence in accordance with the law, applied for and obtained her divorce.

Killing Two Birds With One Stone.

Of late there have been whisperings of the impending departure of several other young society matrons for Paris. The reason given to their friends for their trip are varied. Most of the ex-

cursionists frankly admit that they are going to Paris for two reasons, and that one of the reasons has a great deal to do with new clothes. And, after all, there are certain ad-

CONTINENT IS TRAVERSED IN 75 MILES OF STRANGE SCENERY FOUND IN MEXICO

Many and Varied Natural Attractions Are Seen on Trip Through Wonderland From Vera Cruz to Mexico City, Taken by Adventurous Traveler.

WASHINGTON.—"While fully aware of the high percentage of error most sweeping assertions contain, I nevertheless venture to claim that the country lying between the cities of Vera Cruz and Mexico City possesses more varied natural attractions than any other area of similar extent in the world."

This is the statement of Frank M. Chapman, in a communication to the National Geographic society, concerning Vera Cruz, which figures so conspicuously in news dispatches from Mexico. Dr. Chapman continues:

"Be one student or tourist, there can be no question that one should enter Mexico from the gulf. A journey from the coast to the capital follows a natural succession of climatic zones as well as the sequence of early historic events."

"The day, indeed, should begin at sunrise, some hours before disembarking at Vera Cruz, with a hope that one may have the rare good fortune to see the first rays of the sun touch the summit of Mount Orizaba, the first, as it will be among the most lasting of one's impressions of Mexico. The shore is still some three miles distant, the mountain itself about 100 miles and one is with difficulty convinced that the gleaming pink cloud high above the horizon is part of the still invisible earth beneath it. Doubtless the Aztecs

were not familiar with this view of Mount Orizaba, but from no other place is their name for it—Citlaltapetl, the Star mountain—so applicable.

"Nearly every little raft of gulf weed shelters a swarm of small fish; near the Arco keys the black and white gannets, which evidently live there, are abundant, and occasional herring gulls, sooty or bridled terns, and frigate birds are seen, while at frequent intervals flying fish, flushed by the steamer, spring from beneath the bow and scale away. One exceptionally calm morning, when the gulf was glassy smooth, we could see them from the bow of our ship, swimming ahead a foot or two beneath the surface.

"Time was when Vera Cruz was dreaded as a pest hole, and trains at once took one from the steamer up the Sierra on the way to Mexico City, usually as far as Orizaba. Now, however, sanitary conditions and hotel accommodations have been so improved that one may stay here without danger or discomfort. At least, one should remain over night to begin the trip toward the tableland early in the morning, and thus be able to see every foot of this remarkable journey.

"In our journey from the gulf to the summit of the Sierra, we pass through tropical, temperate and po-

crucy of a verbal nature is considered good grounds for divorce and all the advance styles of smart new fall millinery are to be seen.

Paris divorce suits are generally conducted privately. The records are sealed and consequently nobody, with the exception of the few persons directly connected with the taking of

Frissel Point was used as a lookout station and consequently we suffered some of the privations of pioneers. We carried water over a third of a mile up a rather steep blazed trail. The trail from McKenzie bridge was only about six miles, but was very steep and difficult. The lookout on Horse Pasture mountain was my twin-sister, Martha Andrews, and while we could see each other's mountain peaks we communicated by telephone. I had for companions a small boy, a dog and a cat. I saw ten different people in my five and one-half weeks' stay. We slept on the ground on beds of Alaska feathers and cooked over an open fire.

"Our hours of duty were from 8 to 5. We were provided with maps of the country and located the fires by means of a fire-finder, that is by the degrees north or south, and also by the landmarks nearest the fire. Most of the fires in our district were set by an electrical storm about the second week in August and were the worst in many years. We reported fires immediately by telephone to S. L. Taylor, the ranger at McKenzie bridge."

"Hop Prospects Again Good. WHEATLAND, Cal.—Hors brothers again have planted their large tracts here to hops, good prices being in prospect. In 1916 the hop vines gave way to vegetables and Hors brothers erected a dehydrating plant, said to be one of the largest in the world. The following year the land lay fallow because it was thought there would be a good market for neither hops nor vegetables. In 1918 hops were again set out and last year the firm changed again to vegetables.

WOMEN GUARD FORESTS

(Continued From First Page.)

wolf howling in the woods too close for my comfort." Miss Dorothy Andrews, the school-teacher-lookout, says: "Last year was the first time that

testimony, is able to pry into the facts in the case. Some idea of the secrecy connected with the doings of the French courts may be gathered from the records which show that in many instances divorces are granted months before the news becomes public.

The French law deals with all applicants for divorce very leniently—almost fatherly. After a petition has been filed the judge issues an invitation to both parties to meet him in his chambers where he asks them to reconsider the matter of obtaining a divorce. A period of two weeks is generally allowed them to think it over. If at the expiration of that period both parties still are opposed to a reconsideration, the divorce case

goes on the calendar. It can be disposed of in less than three months.

There once was a time when Sioux Falls, S. D., made advantageous offers to the unhappily mated to seek severance of their matrimonial bonds via the Sioux Falls route. A colony of the would-be-divorced soon assembled in that city bringing in its train much business for lawyers, tradespeople and the courts.

Then, when Reno began to offer even better inducements than Sioux Falls, much of the business which otherwise might have gone to South Dakota was diverted instead to Nevada.

And now Paris is competing with both these cities for the cream of the divorce business. In Sioux Falls and Reno the legal requirements for a divorce were so carefully adjusted that misated husbands and wives were generally able to obtain a divorce without the delays, inconveniences and publicity so often coupled with such formalities of the courts in other states. And Paris in promising equal advantages, is endeavoring to go even one better by offering the additional inducements of a trip to the gay French capital, a chance to study the newest styles in hats and gowns and, best of all, an opportunity to buy Paris clothes at the very source of supply.

It remains to be seen whether Paris is to have the field all to herself. London, the mecca of many American shoppers, may yet loosen her divorce requirements to the extent of making them attractive to misated ones from all over the world. In fact, there has been some slight agitation in England of late for a radical modification of the divorce laws.

Then, too, there are other delightful old world centers of fashion which may want to get a share of the trade by offering inducements equally as attractive as those in Paris is offering today. But, for the time being, Paris seems to have the advantage by being able to combine the accommodating divorce with fine clothes—and that is a combination which may be very hard to beat.

Mrs. Philip Lydig

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OYSTER'S MEAL TIME BARED BY USE OF ELECTRIC BELLS

Bivalves Seldom Cease Eating During Day or Night, Dr. Nelson Tells Fisheries Commissioners.

ATLANTIC CITY.—Dr. Thurlow C. Nelson, assistant professor of zoology of the New Jersey Agricultural college at New Brunswick, N. J., told delegates to the twelfth annual Association of Fisheries commissioners of experiments with oysters conducted at Tuckerton under the direction of the experiment station of his college and Rutgers college, when oysters were attached to electrical wires sunk into the ocean so that it could be recorded at what hours the oysters' shells were open and when closed. In this way the feeding time of the oysters were recorded and the tests showed the oysters fed almost all of the 24 hours.

Doctor Nelson in his address explained there is a constant loss of valuable salts from the land to the water, the salts being washed into the waters by the rains. In the sea, he said, there are many microscopic plants which depend on these salts and that the only way of recovering these salts is by growing oysters and fish which eat the plants.

Analysis of the stomach contents of oysters, he said, shows a wide range of food organisms are eaten, including minute plants and minute animals, including the young of the oyster, clams and snails. These and other marine forms make up a large portion of the oyster's food, he said.

Any addition of nitrogen salts to the water increases the oyster's food, the doctor said. The oyster feeds actively throughout most of the 24 hours, being active far longer than any other animal used as human food. The oyster does not have much trouble getting food, apparently, for Dr. Nelson said that much of the oyster's food grows upon the surface of the oyster shell, acting both as food and shelter.

Dr. Wells in his address said that attempts made to cure the pollution of waters have been lacking in effectiveness and that there is need for a national body with ample powers to take up this matter and press it to a successful conclusion. He said it has long been recognized that the state should control the waters and that navigation, irrigation and other water subjects have been directed by the government, but that now it must be recognized that the quality of the water is as essential as the quantity, and steps must be taken on a national scale to end pollution.

Canada May Get Prisoners.

VANCOUVER, B. C.—According to Grant Hall, vice-president of the Canadian Pacific, Roumanian prisoners of war, now in Siberia, may pass through Canada on their way to Europe. The matter is being taken up with the Canadian imperial and Roumanian governments.