

America's Finest Families

AN ASTOUNDING amount of American wealth is invested in titles of nobility across the sea. Recently a statistician figured that 152 marriages had carried abroad an aggregate dower of \$161,000,000.

What American fathers and grandfathers have gathered in business is handed over to Princes, Dukes, Counts and other titled foreigners, many of them of impoverished estates and diminished coronets, who seek new infusions of financial blood to redeem the waning glories of their houses.

Some of these international alliances have been pure love matches and have resulted happily. As a general thing, however, it is noticed that the crested and escutcheoned European selects only the girl who can bring him a comfortable fortune.

Not long since, it was stated, some Continental money lenders advanced \$200,000 to a German Count upon the prospects of a campaign which he had planned among American heiresses.

Kind hearts are more than coronets,
And simple faith than Norman blood.

THAT strawberry leaves are considered worth what American girls pay for them is evidenced by the fact that the drain of dowers to Europe, like a golden Gulf Stream across the sea, goes on most merrily.

Not long since, Baron Max von Schwedler Schwartzburg, of Germany, who was in Cleveland endeavoring to secure from his wealthy father-in-law an increased allowance, unburdened his soul in the course of an interview and voiced the European view of the mating of titles with money. A title, he declared, has an actual market value. In his opinion, this value should be arranged to a sliding scale of prices, ranging from a Prince or Duke to a Baronet or Knight.

"Of all European titles," he continued, "those of Germany and Spain are the oldest. Newness of titles in England and France interferes with their value."
"When a nobleman who, as I do, enjoys privileges at court and in the salons of Europe marries a woman without title, he loses social caste. He should be recompensed for this loss. Moreover, an untitled woman marrying into a titled family should expect to pay for it."

That quite a number of wealthy American women agree with the Baron is evidenced by even a partial list of the many who have wedded titles of recent years. Some of these, with the amounts of their dower and the names of their aristocratic husbands, follow:

American Girl	Dower	Titled Husband
May Goelet	\$20,000,000	Duke Roxburghe
Anna Gould	15,000,000	Count de Castellane
Consuelo Vanderbilt	12,000,000	Duke Marlborough
Mary Leiter	5,000,000	Lord Curzon
Daisy Letter	5,000,000	Earl Suffolk
Alice Thaw	5,000,000	Lord Farmouth
Cornelia Martin	2,000,000	Earl Craven
Helen Zimmerman	2,000,000	Duke Manchester
Virginia Bonynge	4,500,000	Viscount Dewhurst
Miss Brewster	1,500,000	Count Frankenstein
Maudie Burke	2,000,000	Sir Baheo Cunard
Lita Garner	4,000,000	Marquis de Breteuil
Miss Gillender	5,000,000	Marquis di San Messano
Miss Caldwell	2,000,000	Baron von Zeiwitz
Miss Forbes	1,000,000	Duke Choiseul-Fraslin
Mathilde Davis	2,000,000	Duke Santa Monfetrlo della Revere
Frances Lawrence	1,000,000	Lord Vernon
Cornelia Roosevelt	1,500,000	Baron G. Seydlitz
Mrs. Isaac Singer	5,000,000	Duke Camposella
Winaretta Singer	2,000,000	Prince de Scy-Montbelliard
Isabella Singer	2,000,000	Duke Decazes
Sarah P. Stokes	5,000,000	Baron Halkett
Mrs. Frederick Stevens	7,000,000	Duke di Dino
Miss Wheeler	1,000,000	Count Pappenheim
Miss Sperry	1,000,000	Prince Poniatowski
Miss Yanaga	1,000,000	Lord Lister Kaye
Miss Hazard	1,000,000	Prince Auerberg
Miss Gallatin	1,000,000	Count de Rohan-Chabot
Miss Spencer	1,000,000	Prince Vicovaro
Miss Berwind	1,000,000	Baron Bocklinson
Miss Satterfield	1,300,000	Count von Lartach



Lady Curzon, formerly Mary Leiter, Fortune \$5,000,000



Countess Perigord, formerly Helen Morton, Recently Divorced, She has \$1,000,000



Duchess of Manchester, formerly Helen Zimmerman, Whose Fortune is \$2,000,000



Duchess of Marlborough, formerly Consuelo Vanderbilt, She has \$10,000,000



Countess of Suffolk, formerly Daisy Leiter, Her Fortune is \$5,000,000



Countess of Craven, formerly Cornelia Bradley Martin, Her Fortune is \$2,000,000



Countess of Yarmouth, formerly Alice Thaw, Her Fortune is \$1,000,000



Countess de Castelleja, formerly Anna Gould, \$15,000,000 Heiress



Duchess of Roxburghe, formerly May Goelet, Her Fortune is \$20,000,000

of the Thaw and Martin estates, so that neither of these young girls is liable to come to want.

Ample provision for the bread and butter of the young Duke and Duchess of Manchester was made by "Papa" Zimmerman, of Cincinnati, when his daughter went over to adorn the Manchester ancestral halls. It has been said that \$2,000,000 was settled upon the couple.

That his Grace of Manchester was not at all displeased by such an arrangement is evidenced from the fact that he occasionally returns to democratic America in order to keep up the friendly acquaintance with his rich father-in-law.

Now and then a painful echo of international marriage in which the title is supposed to have played an important part drifts back over the sea.

Not long since were broken the marital ties that bound Miss Helen Morton, the beautiful and accomplished daughter of former Vice President Levi P. Morton, to her French husband, who rejoices in the aristocratic name of Saint Louis Marie Archambault Bozan, Comte de Talleyrand Perigord.

October 5, 1901, at Chelsea, England, the pair were married in the presence of a distinguished company. The event was the social topic of two continents. Once the Talleyrand-Perigord family had been rich and powerful in France.

Not long after the marriage it was reported that the Comte had again secured control of the family estates, that had been heavily mortgaged. The amount required to clear them was over \$500,000, and it was said that this was advanced by Mr. Morton, who stipulated that the title should be vested in his daughter.

This provision was bitterly contested by the groom's relatives and, report had it, brought on the first rupture between the pair. They went to live at the Perigord Chateau, but, it seems, the union was never a happy one.

When, a few weeks ago, Mrs. John W. Mackay's granddaughter, Dona Bianca Colonna Stiglino, was married in Paris to Count Jules de Bonvouloir, Mrs. Mackay made an arrangement that was probably suggested by unhappy experiences of the past.

She declined absolutely to settle any money upon her granddaughter, but agreed to give her a handsome allowance, which, however, is to be conditional upon the good behavior of the young pair.

This means that Mrs. Mackay, who is devoted to her grandchild, will continue to provide the young people with ample funds as long as the Count, who is without fortune, walks sedately and discreetly and makes his wife happy.

The mother of this bride, who was a daughter of Mrs. Mackay; the Countess Festetics, formerly Miss Haggin, and the Princess Hatzfeldt, formerly Miss Huntington, were three rich Western brides of titled Europeans, taking to them dowers estimated at from one to five millions each.

Now and then a foreigner of high rank manifests the good sense of seeking the heart and hand of a portionless American girl simply because of her charming personality. These are love romances purely.

Miss Grant, daughter of General Frederick D. Grant, carried an insignificant dower to Prince Cantacuzene, of Russia, whom she married in 1899. Prince Beloselsky, of Russia, also chose an American bride who was comparatively poor—Miss Susie Whitney. Miss Margaret Stom, of New York, conferred only the wealth of her love upon Count Beroldingen, of Austria.

Nor do all American fathers agree with the views of the Baron von Schwedler Schwartzburg, quoted above, to the effect that titles have an actual market value. Commenting upon that assertion, Mr. P. J. Keidel, father-in-law of the German nobleman, and is stated to have tersely remarked:

"I will state, simply, that I have received no dividends from the only investment of the kind I ever made."

the \$10,000,000 that went with the hand of Miss Consuelo Vanderbilt.

Under its inspiring influences, the drooping fortunes of that noble house revived with noticeable splendor; once more the lands and castles of Marlborough were burnished with the prosperity of a golden touch.

Now and then, it is true, there have been rumors that the bottom of the treasure chest was nearly in sight, and that pronounced economies were necessary. Fairly well, however, the noble Duke appears to have retained the good-will of his wealthy relatives-in-law on this side the ocean, so that there is, probably, no immediate danger of acute financial embarrassment.

Of the many millions shrewdly and patiently gathered by the late Levi Z. Leiter, of Chicago, ten have gone to uphold titled dignity in England.

Five millions such is said to have been the portions of Miss Mary Leiter, now Lady Curzon, and her sister, Miss Daisy Leiter, who recently became the Countess of Suffolk.

Doubtless, his wife's fortune has greatly aided the political ambitions of Lord Curzon, although he is acknowledged to possess considerable ability in statesmanship. When he was appointed Viceroy of India, it was currently reported that his financial ability to maintain the semiregal splendor of the Indian court had quite as much to do with his selection as his acknowledged fitness for the place.

The Earl of Suffolk appears to be regarded as a man of quiet tastes and few extravagances, so that his bride's handsome dower is thought to be in no danger of undue dissipation.

When Miss Alice Thaw, of Pittsburg, became the Countess of Yarmouth last year, her marriage portion was reported as being a cool million of good American money.

Two million is the estimate placed upon the fortune with which Miss Cornelia Bradley Martin endowed the Earl of Craven.

Among the latest of these important financial captures was when the Duke of Roxburghe bestowed his title upon Miss May Goelet, of New York.

From the many millions of the late Ogden Goelet, it was stated that \$20,000,000 was the endowment portion of the bride. Such a bank account in possession of his wife, no doubt, proved very acceptable to the wearer of the Roxburghe ducal crown.

This is \$5,000,000 more than Miss Anna Gould carried abroad to bolster up the prostrate fortunes of Count Boni de Castellane, of Paris, and with which generous Alice from the vast wealth of Jay

Gould the young Frenchman has made so merry. In fact, the extravagance of the Castellane assumed such alarming proportions and made such terrific inroads upon the wife's financial holdings that, some time since, it was necessary to impose a firm and peremptory restraint.

At that time it was stated that the brothers of the Countess took control of the remainder of her dower, and will, in the future, exercise such kindly fraternal supervision that the wings of the gay Boni will no more undertake any flights of extravagance.

As welcome as refreshing rain in the desert to the poverty-paralyzed Dukedom of Marlborough was