

# THE COST OF KEEPING A NOBLEMAN'S PALACE



In the early days of their married life the sun smiled radiantly upon the Marlboroughs. The duchess reigned socially. During the coronation visiting princes were entertained, and thousands of dollars were spent. When she married, her father, William K. Vanderbilt, gave Consuelo \$10,000,000 as a dowry. When the duke returned from the South African war he sent her a check for \$500,000. But still they had to "squeeze." Creditors continually dunned them. And with this there was growing a spirit of uncongeniality between the couple.

When they separated, the duke dismissed most of the 800 servants. Before this, however, he put up for sale twenty-one fine pictures from the famous family collection. These brought him \$25,000. But think of \$25,000, with an establishment on your hands costing \$100,000 a year.

By the terms of separation the duke gave up the \$100,000 a year settled upon him at his marriage, and it is now settled upon his two children. Thus, with a great castle on his hands, he is virtually penniless.

It, however, the duke of Marlborough finds the maintenance of a castle too expensive a luxury, many English noblemen do not. The duke of Devonshire, for instance, maintains not only one, but several



Trentham Hall, Virtually Abandoned by the Duke of Sutherland

and duchess prefer Lisimore Castle to any other. Lisimore once belonged to Sir Walter Raleigh. In the gardens Raleigh planted the first potato in England, and there, it is believed, Spenser wrote his "Faerie Queene." Many fishermen live in the village, the water near by being famed for its salmon.

The banquet hall is one of the most splendid rooms in the kingdom. It is paneled in oak, with a pointed Gothic roof of oak. There are two great stained glass windows, one with the heraldic designs of the Boyles and Cavenishses, and the other showing St. George and St. Patrick linked by the arms of Great Britain. On the marble above the mantelpiece appears the phrase, "A hundred thousand welcomes." From a great bay window in the large drawing room one can see what is said to be the finest view in all the country. Far away loom the blue mountains, and nearer, a charming valley. To maintain this establishment the duke is said to employ more than a hundred servants, and the cost is said to exceed \$50,000 a year.

Another nobleman who need not bother about his purse is the duke of Richmond, one of the richest peers in England. At his splendid home, "Goodwood," there is a magnificent chamber known as the king's

remarkable homes in England, the hall roof being covered with antlers. In the smoking room are hung models of all fish weighing forty pounds or more, caught by visitors, with the date of the capture and the name of the captor. A cross is given to successful fishers. The sport of the guests consists chiefly of hunting and fishing. Only nine persons have pulled a forty-pound fish and won the cross.

During the hunting and fishing season Gordon Castle is the rendezvous of scores of guests. Among the successful fishers have been Lord Leconfield, Lord Winterton, Lord March, Lord Alington, Lord Lennox and Mrs. Arthur Sasson.

The duke of Sutherland has virtually abandoned Trentham House, one of his palaces. Such homes cost money—large amounts of money. Stafford House, in London, is considered one of the most stately dwellings there, and possibly the maintenance of this establishment cuts a pretty figure in the duke's annual expenditures.

It is said that when Queen Victoria once visited her friend, the mother of the present duke of Sutherland, she remarked: "I have come from my house to your palace."

Stafford House is filled with treasures of art. The picture gallery contains one of the finest collections of paintings in London. In the boudoir of the duchess is a marvelous Correggio. A broad marble staircase leads from the floor of the hall of the mansion to a gallery, whence open the doors of the state reception rooms.

At no house in London are so many charitable fetes given as at Stafford House. The duchess is interested in the Scottish Home Industries Association, the Royal Lifeboat Institution, and other charities. Like her sister, the countess of Warwick, the duchess is interested in the needs of the poor, and the bazaars, garden parties, sales and fetes supply much money which goes to help the needy. To attend these fetes the guests sometimes pay two guineas, or ten dollars. Sometimes theatrical productions are given, and on one occasion the Ben Greet Players gave an open-air performance of the "Comedy of Errors."

These affairs cost the duke and duchess a great deal—possibly more than \$5000 at a time. Even more



Blenheim Palace of the Marlboroughs, Which Made the Vanderbilt Millions Fly.

## A Visit From the King, for Instance, May Mean \$150,000 Extra Expense

royal visitor, as the king can sleep in no bed ever occupied by any person not of royal rank. Some English castles have apartments especially set aside for his majesty, and in some of these are beds in which have slept former kings and queens of England.

When the king comes to visit, he brings with him court officials of high rank, equerries, lords-in-waiting, minor functionaries, such as clerks and assistant secretaries; many servants, policemen, detectives, telegraph operators, a chef, a member of his medical staff, and friends.

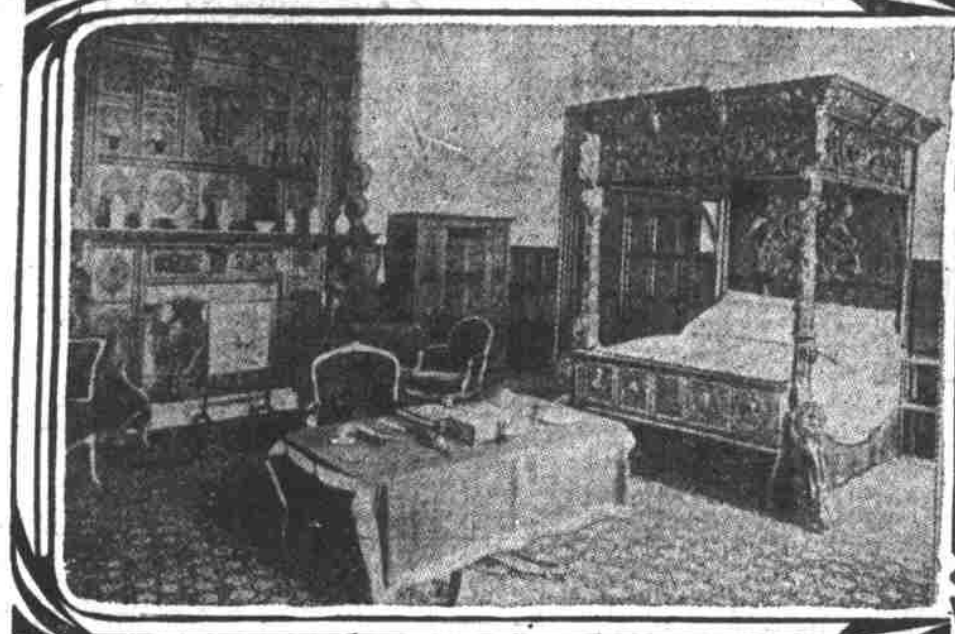
It is said that the Manchesters provided royally for the royal visit. Among the items of expense were \$25,000 for new furniture, pictures, beds, etc., for the king's and queen's apartments; \$10,000 for souvenirs for the king and queen; \$10,800 for wines, liquors, mineral waters and cigars; \$5000 for the hiring of theatrical companies and other amusements; as much for game and fish to stock the preserves for his majesty's pleasure; \$18,000 for a new launch, and several thousands for a celebration by the peas-

**N**OW and then news dispatches from the other side tell of some nobleman, financially "strapped," who has rented a palace or a shooting preserve to a rich American.

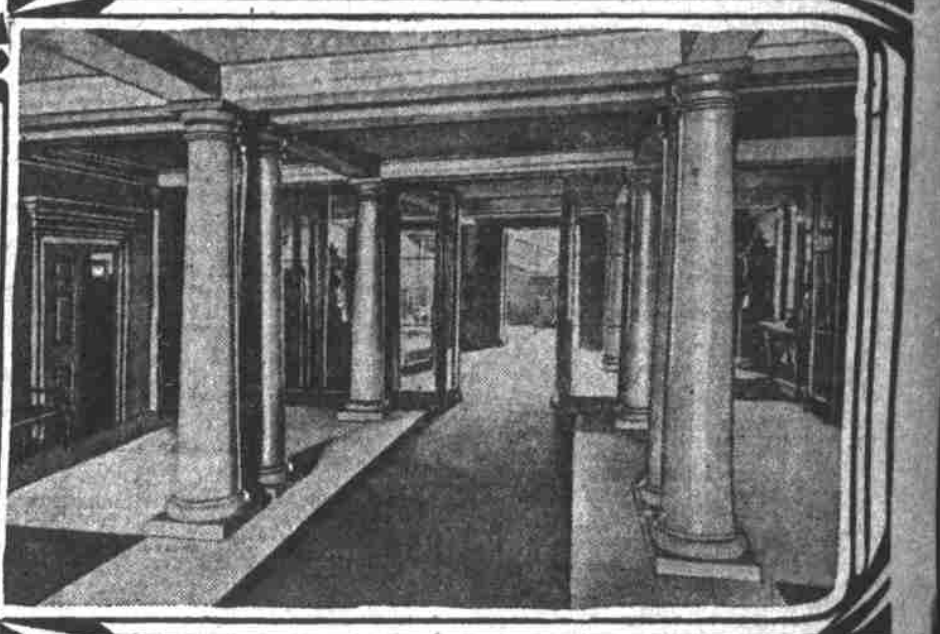
When items of this sort are scarce one reads a paragraph in the London cable column telling of the economies practiced by the duke and duchess of Manchester, or that the duke of Marlborough, living alone in solitary state on his Blenheim estate, has been obliged to discharge a few more servants since the Vanderbilt purse has been showing signs of obduracy and the duchess prefers to dwell apart in her own quiet home in London.

Every modest housekeeper in this country knows the necessity for watching the dollars, making ends meet in her own little domain, is a sufficient, even a grievous tax.

So she may appreciate the difficulties encountered by many noblemen who must maintain their high social positions, one or more palaces and entertain more or less lavishly. The great expense of keeping his establishments is a heavy burden on the shoulders of the average person of title and social rank.



Bedroom for the King at Duke of Richmond's "Goodwood"

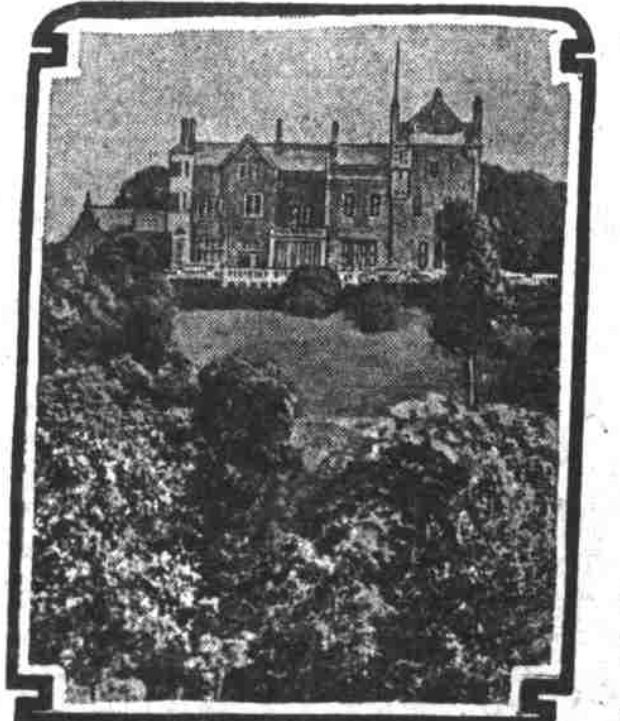


Entrance Hall to Devonshire House, a Costly Piece of Architecture

homes. Immensely wealthy, the amount he is said to spend exceeds a half a million a year. In addition, he often entertained the king and queen, these visits necessitating expenditures running from \$25,000 to \$150,000. Of their six splendid dwellings, the duke

bedroom. No one sleeps there except his majesty, when he visits his wealthy subject. The room is sumptuously furnished.

Sometimes the king visits the duke at his Highland seat, Gordon Castle. This is one of the most



Tanderagee Castle, Sold by the Duke of Manchester.

antony, with sports, games, etc. In honor of the king. Of course, visits from the king pay—socially. Although she had less money than the duchess of Roxburgh, the duchess of Manchester became a social star. She won the favor of the queen, and was appointed lady-in-waiting, one of the greatest honors her majesty can bestow. The duke was appointed captain of the yeomen of the guard, which he resigned some time ago. This position paid him \$6000.

Kylmore Castle, their Irish home, was bought for a song. That is, a song so far as cost of castles goes. It is an impressive pile of granite, with limestone facings and chimney. It was sold by the builder, Mitchell Henry, because of threats against his life during the Land League agitation in Ireland. Besides this, however, the Manchesters have another home. This is the family seat, Kimbolton Castle.

### FORTUNES FORTIFIED BY MARRIAGE

Until the fortunes of the duke were reinforced by his marriage, the family seat was sadly in need of repair. Despite this, however, it holds some of the most precious treasures in England. The drawing-rooms are hung with costly tapestries and family portraits painted by Rubens, Kneller, Holbeins and Reynolds. There are the famous Cromwell and the best-known Van Dyck of Charles I. Life at the castle possibly costs from \$50,000 a year upward.

One of the costliest places in England is Blenheim, the family seat of the duke of Marlborough. The maintenance of this establishment is said to have cost the duke—or rather, his wife, the Duchess Consuelo—about \$100,000 a year. So great was the expense connected with it that since the duchess separated from the duke he gave up the castle, and moved from the castle to Woodstock House, a modest dwelling on the grounds.

When the duke married the American heiress he planned a rehabilitation of the famous castle. Money flowed like water. Nearly \$200,000 was expended on an Italian garden. New windows were put in the great building; the roof, which leaked, was headed; parquet flooring laid in many rooms, new grates and chimneys were installed, and a regiment of servants hired. Furniture, tapestries and art objects were purchased in large quantities by the duchess. Even the Vanderbilt coffers groaned as they were emptied. Two hundred servants were required in the palace.

## The World's Only Race Track of Its Kind

**H**AVE you ever heard of the most unique race track in the world? It is at the home that Grand Duke Michael of Russia maintains in England.

It is a private race track. There are many other private tracks—not a few in this country. But the grand duke's track is unique in that it is a private racing course on which meetings are held under auspices of the national committee.

If John Brown, of somewhere in America, were to have racing annually on his private estate—racing under the same auspices as the time-honored events at Sheepshead Bay or Saratoga—events for the entertainment of his friends and others he chose to invite, it would be what Michael is doing on his English estate.



Grand Duke Michael, Who Maintains the Track



The Duchess of Devonshire, who is Deeply Interested in Racing

**K**EELE HALL, in England, is leased by the Grand Duke Michael. He prefers residence there to living on his own splendid estates in Russia. One reason, perhaps, is because his morganatic wife, the countess of Torby, is not a welcome visitor to the domains of the czar.

Whatever else may be charged against Michael, he has remained true to the woman he married, even though she be persona non grata at the court of his august relative, Nicholas of all the Russias.

Keel Hall is a magnificent place, and was leased by the Russian grand duke from a family that traces its ancestry back to King Alfred the Great. The race track which Michael has laid out and maintains is as complete a little thing of its kind as can be found anywhere.

It is within a short distance of the hall, where many guests of European prominence are entertained each year. It is not a trumpery, temporary affair, with grand stand put up one week and pulled down the next.

"On the contrary," states an English writer, "it has all the appointments—constructed on a miniature scale, of course—of Epsom Downs, Sandown and Kempton. It even boasts its tattersalls ring, have been held at Keel Hall. The course is used for both steeplechases and flat events. A feature of the course is a mile of straight running."

The winner of a Keel cup is as proud of his trophy as though it were thousands of dollars.

In other words, Grand Duke Michael endeavors to foster the purest spirit of sport at his race meetings.

During a race week his home is crowded with distinguished guests from all parts of Europe—not only in the year, but in a season, but he stands close to the great throne of Russia.

The expense of having these racing meetings is considerable, but is cheerfully borne.

Not far behind the grand duke in enthusiasm over these events is his wife, who knows more about racing and is a more ardent patron of the track than most of the guests who gather at Keel Hall.

Romance has figured largely in the history of Michael. He is a grandson of Czar Nicholas I and was formerly in the Russian army, donning the uniform when but a child of 7 years.

At the breaking out, in 1871, of the war between his country and Turkey, he went to the front as a member of the ambulance corps, and did such conspicuous work as to win recognition.

He never forgot the scenes witnessed in that conflict, and during the recent war with Japan he established and maintained a hospital for wounded officers.

His self-inflicted banishment from his own country is due to his devotion to the woman he made his wife. While yet a soldier, he succumbed to the charms of a handsome daughter of Prince Nicholas of Nassau, and sought permission of his relative, the czar, to marry her.

This permission the czar promptly refused to give, asserting that the young woman was not of full royal blood, and therefore, was not a fit mate for a son of the Romanov house. Every effort was made to break the engagement.

Michael persisted, however. He went off to Vienna and married the lady of his heart, then calmly notified the emperor.

Not so calm was the latter. He was furious, in fact. The young bridegroom was informed that his wife would have no standing at the St. Petersburg court; that he had been deprived of his military rank; that half of his property had been forfeited and that even his own father would not see him again.

Since then there have been numerous efforts at reconciliation, but all have been fruitless.

The young couple, being banished virtually from the land of the bridegroom, settled in England, where they were shown many kindnesses by the English court.

Only once since his marriage has Michael been permitted to revisit his native land, and that was when his father lay on his deathbed.

So the couple have remained in England, where they have established a happy home.

The private race track at Keel Hall furnishes an ideal entertainment for both, and meantime, while smiling at to numbers of persons attracted by really sporting events of national interest.

**"D**EAREST, don't you think it is rather expensive living here? Had we not better move to a cheaper place?"

It was Helena, duchess of Manchester, who spoke. Her husband listened thoughtfully. From the window of Tanderagee Castle could be seen part of the wonderful demesne of 1000 acres.

The place was dear to him, and it was dear to the duchess, who, before her marriage, was Miss Zimmerman, of Cincinnati. Was it not one of the most beautiful castles in Erin? Did not the noble building cover more ground than a city block? Was there not a hunting park, with thousands of hares and pheasants? Yes, all, and more.

"It is costly," declared the duke, who, before his marriage to the American heiress had been declared a bankrupt. "If you are satisfied, wed better move."

Just like a couple of limited means, finding they had started wedded life on too elaborate a scale! But of course Father Zimmerman's checks were not inexhaustible; the castle had cost a great deal, and would cost a great deal more. So, regretfully, the duke sold the splendid estate to his tenants for one million dollars.

Tanderagee Castle. It has the reputation of being one of the most beautiful in Ireland. It has been the Mecca of tourists for years. It boasts of a ballroom as big as that in the Waldorf-Astoria, in New York; a private chapel, with the finest chimes in the country.

The boudoir used by the duchess is forty feet square, draped with a tapestry of blue and gold. In it are sixteen windows. Within a brass railing is a great canopy bed, carved with figures of the chase. The canopy of the bed is blue and gold. But they just couldn't afford to run the place, and keep fifty servants. So they sold it.

Of course, they couldn't be quite homeless. Father Zimmerman bought them another home. This was Kylmore Castle, in Connemara, the west of Ireland, which was built at a cost of \$2,500,000, and knocked down at the sale for \$250,000.

Some years ago the Manchesters entertained the king of England. A visit from the king means a staggering outlay of money. This is said to have cost the Manchesters \$150,000.

Entertaining the king is an item of expense in the running of manorlands, but it is one of the items that is gladly paid. When his majesty accepts an invitation he usually stays about four days. This time is supposed to be no moment here, with an establishment and banquets following one another. There must be yachting, if the place is near the water; shooting, coaching parties, theatricals, concerts, vaudeville shows, and so on.

New beds and bedding must be provided for the