

Royal Scandal in Spain *Like the Intrigues of the Middle Ages*

Prince Antoine of Bourbon-Orleans, Uncle of the King of Spain.

Accuses His Beautiful Daughter-in-Law and King Alfonso of Conspiring to Rob Him of His Vast Fortune, His Rights, and His Liberty

ROME, Dec. 26. HIS Royal Highness Prince Antoine of Bourbon-Orleans, uncle and cousin of the King of Spain, has revealed to the world a story of court plots and counter plots that sounds like an intrigue of the Middle Ages.

The Prince's story, indeed, is as thrilling as one of the historical novels of Alexandre Dumas or as a chapter of real history in the days of the Borgias or at the court of the Valois in France.

Prince Antoine, who was deprived of his royal rank and estates in Spain in December, asserts that this action was the result of a deep-laid conspiracy at King Alfonso's court to obtain possession of his property in order to pay the King's vast debts incurred in all kinds of debauchery and extravagance, which he dared not publicly admit.

Prince Antoine married the Infanta Eulalia of Spain, who came to the United States as a representative of her country at the time of the great Columbian Exposition. He has long been separated from her. The Infanta is the aunt of King Alfonso and her husband is by birth a cousin of the King and by marriage the King's uncle.

Prince Antoine's son, Prince Alfonso, in 1909 married the Princess Beatrice of Saxe-Coburg, sister of the beautiful Queen Marie of Rumania and daughter of the late Duke of Edinburgh, King Edward's brother. The Duke inherited the German duchy of Saxe-Coburg.

Now the Princess Beatrice Infanta Eulalia, Aunt of the King of Spain and Wife of Prince Antoine, from Whom She Is Separated.

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On November 20 last he announced that he had become an Italian citizen and that he had renounced his rank as an "Infante" or royal prince of Spain, his Spanish citizenship and all his privileges in Spain. King Alfonso, retorted to this defiance with an official order on December 1 depriving the Prince of his royal rank and privileges in Spain.

Then the Prince Antoine came out with an astonishingly frank statement in the leading Italian newspaper, the Giornale d'Italia, in which he charged a villainous plot against him.

"The real object of the successive acts against me by the King of Spain," said the Prince, "was that the court wanted to take possession of my fortune in order to pay heavy debts."

"I have been accused of prodigality. I think they should ask my nephew, the King of Spain, if the 40,000,000 pesetas (about \$8,000,000) he takes yearly as his civil list is too little to satisfy the debts he makes. The Premier of Spain, a friend of mine, might speak on this subject about his credits to the King amounting to 30,000,000 pesetas (about \$6,000,000)."

The Prince then made the astonishing charge that his daughter-in-law, Princess Beatrice, sister of the Queen of Rumania, was back of the plot.

"I was watched constantly," he says, "and intercepted correspondence prevented me from withdrawing money from banks. King Alfonso's promises were not fulfilled, and my convictions were confirmed that Spanish officials were playing a comedy. The real object was that the court wanted to take possession of my fortune in order to pay heavy debts."

Princess Beatrice, beautiful wife of Prince Alfonso, who exercises great influence over the King and intrigues against her father-in-law.

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Prince Antoine's Accusations Against His Own Daughter-in-Law, King Alfonso and Other Members of the Spanish Court Read Like Some Mediaeval Story of Intrigue in the Days of the Borgias, So Vividly Recalled by This Famous Picture, "A Poisoned Glass of Wine with the Borgias," by John Collier, R. A.



Prince Antoine of Bourbon-Orleans, Who Makes the Surprising Accusations Against King Alfonso.



Queen Victoria of Spain, Who Banished Her Cousin, Princess Beatrice from Court, According to Prince Antoine's Story.

into a waiting motor car and was whisked across the Portuguese frontier. At Lisbon, his old friend Albornoz, posing as a motion picture impresario, took me as his valet and secured berths on a Dutch steamship for Italy.

"What have you to say to the statement that you have given away a priceless family necklace?" asked the interviewer boldly.

"Oh," said the Prince, "I can explain that simply. That was the necklace of 218 pearls which belonged to my ancestor, King Louis Philippe's grandmother. Of the pearls, 109 passed to me by inheritance. I used to lend them to my lady companion for her personal adornment with the understanding she would put them back in the family safe. When we

finally parted four years ago, I saw the case in the safe and I believed the pearls were there. This Summer I opened the case and, behold, the pearls were gone!"

Prince Antoine's insinuation that King Alfonso of Spain has obtained \$6,000,000 from public funds for his personal extravagance has raised a storm in Spain. It has long been known that he had a habit of running after nearly every pretty face he saw, and that his expenditures were inordinate.

It is known that Queen Victoria has lately been seriously displeased with King Alfonso and that she omitted to accompany him on a recent visit to Paris, where he found no difficulty in amusing himself without her.

In connection with the startling charges of Prince Antoine against King Alfonso must be taken in consideration the peculiar record of the Prince. For about twenty years he has been noted in Paris and other places for his extravagances and dissipation.

Indeed, it is reported that instead of having escaped from King Alfonso, as he asserts, he has really been kidnapped by a coterie of adventurers of both sexes, who hold him in their power and are living on his immense fortune.

His wife, the Infanta Eulalia, who has been separated from him for twelve years, has complained bitterly of his conduct.

"My husband lives to-day with another woman," she said recently to a correspondent, "in a house in Paris within a few yards of where I am living. We cannot be divorced, because there is no divorce in Spain."

The Infanta is a woman of more advanced ideas than are customary in royal families. She published a peculiar book entitled "The Thread of Life," in which she asserted the right of every woman to obtain a divorce when she could not agree with her husband. King Alfonso, as an official representative of established religion, would not permit such a view to be advanced by a member of his family drawing her income from the royal revenues.

The King ordered his aunt to retract her views and cease to publish books on pain of being cut off from the royal family. She refused at first and her income was in fact stopped. After six months she came to an agreement with the King and agreed to withdraw her book from circulation. Her income, of which she was greatly in need, was then resumed.

The Princess Beatrice, the English Daughter-in-Law of Prince Antoine, Who Accuses Her of Conspiring with King Alfonso to Deprive Him of His Fortune and His Liberty.

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