



OSBORNE HOUSE, PRESENTED BY EDWARD VII. TO HIS SUBJECTS.

WHERE QUEEN VICTORIA DIED.

Osborne House, which Edward presented to the British Nation. Famous Osborne House, one of the favorite residences of the late Queen Victoria, which was presented to the British nation by King Edward VII. on Coronation day, is one of the most magnificent of the several homes of English royalty. The gift is peculiarly gratifying to the British public, as Osborne is sacred to the memory of the late Queen and will ever be inseparably connected with incidents in the life of that beloved sovereign.

As it will be necessary for King Edward to spend a considerable part of the year in London and in its neighborhood, at Windsor, and having also strong home ties in the county of Norfolk, he felt that he would be unable to make adequate use of Osborne House as a royal residence, and he therefore, offered the property as a gift to the nation. It is the King's desire that the house be devoted to national purposes and converted into a convalescent home for officers of the army and navy whose health has been impaired in the service of their country.

It was at Osborne House, Isle of Wight, that Queen Victoria died, January 22, 1901. It is situated in Whippingham Parish, not far from Cowes. The house can only be reached by crossing the ferry to East Cowes and ascending a steep hill, the view from every part of which is a delightful one—woodland, valley, town, river and sea being visible. Queen Victoria used to spend most of the winter months at Osborne, which was her favorite residence next to Balmoral, Scotland. She liked Windsor Castle little, and Buckingham Palace, London, least of all. While the Queen was at Osborne the grounds were jealously guarded, but when she was absent visitors were allowed to inspect them. The gardens, with their terraces, their myrtle and rose trees, and their many rare exotics, are among the finest in the south of England. The climate of the Isle of Wight is considerably warmer than that of the mainland, and every visitor to that "Garden of England," as it is called, will have remarked the luxuriant manner in which flowers grow there.

LED AN EVENTFUL LIFE.

Charles L. Fair, who, with his wife, was killed near Paris. The automobile accident at a little French village, 50 miles from Paris, in which Mr. and Mrs. Charles L. Fair, of San Francisco and Paris, were killed, closed two eventful lives. The name of Charles L. Fair has been much before the public since before his majority, and the name of his wife, a



CHARLES L. FAIR.

former actress, was not unknown before her marriage. It might perhaps be said of them that Fair's most important act was in being born the son of a millionaire, or rather of a prospective millionaire, and that among the most notable of his wife's achievements was her marriage to young Fair. Charles L. Fair was born in Virginia City, Nev., 35 years ago, when the father, James G. Fair, the bonanza king, was on the eve of tapping the enormous wealth hidden in the Comstock lode. He was one of four children, of whom two, Mrs. Herman Oelrichs and

Mrs. William K. Vanderbilt, Jr., survive. The eldest son, James, died a decade ago. In San Francisco young Fair's free use of money gained him a large following and he ran the gamut of dissipation.

One day there blew into San Francisco a theatrical troupe, the most beautiful of whose members was a girl who called herself Maud Nelson. She had other stage names. Her right name was Caroline D. Smith and she was the daughter of William Smith, of New Market, N. J., who drove a wagon for a tallor named Rogers. When her father married for a second time Caroline packed up her belongings and faced the world for a living, ultimately becoming an actress. When as Maud Nelson she reached San Francisco she attracted the attention of young Fair and they were finally married.

Of course the marriage offended Mr. Fair and the other members of the



MRS. CHARLES L. FAIR.

family. The bride was persona non grata and always remained so. Yet she effected some change in her husband, and he was able to satisfy the executors of his mother's will—under which he was to receive \$500,000 if he remained sober two years—that he had lived up to its conditions.

It is needless here to enter into the history of the contest over the will of the late Senator Fair, in which the three children took part as also did a certain Mrs. Nettie Craven, who claimed to be the widow of the dead millionaire Senator. A few months ago the will contest was decided and each of the then three surviving children received between \$7,000,000 and \$8,000,000.

Fair had one fad that developed into a passion and ultimately led to his tragic end. He was an automobile fiend. He owned the first automobile on the Pacific Coast and was an enthusiastic speed breaker. When he and his wife left San Francisco last May for Paris it was for the purpose of buying an automobile faster than the one he owned, although the latter was capable of making 72 miles an hour. In Paris he bought another machine and it was while riding in this that death came to him and his wife. According to the story of the tragedy the automobile was traveling at the rate of 62 miles an hour when one of the tires burst. The machine turned a somersault and Mr. and Mrs. Fair were buried beneath it, their heads being crushed in. The chauffeur accompanying them was dangerously injured.

A singular coincidence of the accident is that several years ago John W. Mackay, Jr., son of Senator Fair's old partner, John W. Mackay, who died recently, was also killed near Paris by a fall from a horse. Senator Fair's other partners in the Comstock lode were Flood and O'Brien. They were known as the "big four."

Major Also a Minor.

Major Gantz, of Fairfield, Iowa, is 36 years old, weighs thirty pounds and is eighteen inches high.

The Roman Emperors.

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