

Capt. Cloman, our new American nilitary attache and his bride, ' have been scouring Mayfair in search of a house. They want to get settled at once as Mrs. Cloman, who is probably bet ter known in America by her origina name, Mrs. Clements, is anxious to try her powers over here as a hostess. She is to be presented at one of the early courts and her gown for the occasion is coming from Paris. Her husband made the acquaintance of the king when he presented his credentials on his arrival the captain was excessively nervous before the interview, but his majesty, who is always keenly interested in Americans and America, soon put him at case, and completed his conquest by



ARTISTS ON HER BEAUTY. Parisian artists have been raving over this lady's beauty, and she has received many requests from distin-suised artists to sit for her portrait. She has favored Jules Cayron, whose gallery of beautiful Americans is an interesting sight. It is said that Sar-gent is most desirous of depicting her. An awful rumor reaches me that some daring American girls who are to be presented to court intend trying to introduce some modification of the curtaey which is considered the only correct thing at such grand functions. I warn them that they will get them-selves into serious trouble if they ven-ture upon anything so a screigious. Everything pertaining to a presentation at court is governed by rules and regu-ARTISTS ON HER BEAUTY.

The New "Shahin Shaw" is Decidedly Unlike the Flattering Picture Given of Him in "Inspired" Dispatches to Europe-He is the Bane of the Country, and Fat and Pudge Faced—"Inside Information."

Special Correspondence. ONDON, Feb. 6.—On the marvelous Peacock Throne of Persia a new ruler is seated. Mohammed Ali Mizra, eldest son of the late shah, has inherited the grandlloquent title which means "king of kings." In all the prominent English newspapers have appeared eulogistic notices of the suc-cessor of Muzaffer ed Din, derived from sources inspired by Persian officialdom. He has been depicted as the embodi-ment of all the virtues that should make

But wives are a costly luxury, and per-haps the fact that he was in a chronic state of impecuniosity may have ac-counted for his harem being so scanilly stocked. He was often in sore straits to raise money. His favorite method was to promise titles, to be conferred when he ascended to the throne, for so much cash down, the higher the digitties pledged, of course, the bigger being the pay in advance. I have no doubt there are now a lot of people hanging around him at Teheran waiting for him to make good.' as the Americans say. "He has never been outside of Persia. He speaks no European language, and

ago, and was much impressed by what he saw of European institutions. There is little doubt that he would make a most capable sovereign. But the fact that he has a slave mother, while Mo-hammed All Mizra's was a princess of the Kadjar tribe, constituted an ob-stacle to his succession, though by no means an insurmountable one. Odd as it may seem, the proof he had given that he is a man of vigor and ability would count against him rather than in his favor. Heirs to the throne in Persia have a disagreeable way of seek-ing to obtain possession of the crown before it descends to them in the batu-ral course of events by starting a revolt or in some other way getting rid of their fathers. The more capable and ambitious the heir the more apt he is to anticipate the decease of his sire. Perhaps this consideration may have had something to do with the late shah's nomination of the most doclie of fig children as his helr instead of the abiest. ablest the truth were known it would probably be found, too, that Russian influence, which was predominant at the time, had not a little to do with the selection of Mohammed Ali Mizra as the shah's successor. Russian policy is opposed to the formation of a strong, stable government in Persia. It is Rus-sian policy to stimulate the rotting process in Persia-to accelerate nationprocess in Persia-to accelerate nation-al decay and disintegration in order that a plausible pretext may be pro-vided for stepping in and taking pos-session of the land, or at least a big silce of it. And this sort of game can be better played when there is a pup-pet on the throne than where there is a strong man seated on it. "At Tabriz, which is in the north of Persia, and near to the Russian fron-tier. Russian influence had free play ther. Russian influence had free play with the new shah and the Cossacks have afforded him many object lessons in her might and power. But the defeat of the Colossus of the north by Japan has greatly impaired her prestige in Persia. Her impoverishment by the war has damaged it still worse. She can no longer afford to spend money there to promote her own aims. The oriental is always on the side that pays oriental is always on the side that pays best, and as Russia no longer pays her influence in Persia is rapidly wan-Tabriz is about 300 miles from Te heran, where the shah lives, but be-cause of the wretched substitute for cause of the wretched substitute for roads-mere camel tracks-and the mountains that have to be crossed it takes fully two weeks to perform the journey between the two cities. And that is the reason why the crown prince is always required to reside at Tabriz. It makes it the more difficult for him to seize the crown before he is entitled to it. At the same time it is eminently desirable that the crown prince should be at hand when the shah dies, so us to be able to take his seat on the throne as soon as, it becomes vacant. Other-wise when he arrives on the scene ho is apt to find that somebody else has got there ahead of him, and then it becomes a case of might makes right, with possession in favor of the usurper. It was doubless to minimize as far as possible all risks of a struggle taking place for the throne that the shah sum-moned the crown prince to Teheran when he found that his end was ap-proaching. roads-mere camel tracks-and the proaching "CAPABLE" CHARACTERISTICS. "If the new shah possesses the cha acteristics of a capable ruler he h heretofore most carefully conceal-them. But whether he turns out heretofore most carefully concealed hupppet or davelops unsuspected abil-ty will really make little difference, so far as the desinles of Persia are concerned. Though nominally an au-torat, whose will is supreme law, the shah, unless he be one of those rare master solvits who, with high moral aims combines a powerful intellect, an inflexible will and theless energy, can really accomplish very little. And such a man, by his efforts at reforms would _roouse against him such a swarm of unscriptuluous enemies that the odds are overwhelming he would be assassinated before he had more than the throne. The domination of the striptuluous of justice is in their hands. It is sup-pored to be based on the Koran and a fantacic book called Shara, which is mare like a collection of proverbs than a matter of buying and selling. Tho yeardict generally goes to the party to a suft who can pay the highest predict generally goes to the party of a suft who can pay the highest inquittons system carried that in some (Continued on page fourteen.) concealed them.

expressing a desire to meet Mrs, Clo

VISITS SICK CHILDREN.

During her brief stay abroad with her mother the Duchess of Mariborough bernight for bright of Mariborough her mother the Duchess of Mariborough was telegraphed for from Blenheim palace, where her second little boy, Lord Ivor Spencer Churchill, was laid up with measles. She started imme-diately for London, and on arrival dis-covered there was no regular train that hight for Woodstock. She engaged a "special" to convey her there. Lord lyor was better when she arrived and is now nearly quite well again. The is now heatly quite well again. The duchess remained at the palace for hearly three days, spending all her time in the child's nursery. I am told it was quite pathetic to hear the man-ner in which the small patient and his brother, Blandford, besought her not to leave them. to leave them.

She is now at Sunderland house, which is to be her headquarters inwhich is to be her headquarters in-definitely. Some one or other of her relatives will be with her constantly so has to give no chance for scandal-mongers to gossip. Her position is for the moment a most difficult and dell-cate one, and it is wise to guard it with all precautions. And she means to. She is beginning to go out a little and has again commenced to give her patronage to philanthropic and artistic patronage to philanthropic and artistic

FINE RECEPTIONS.

FINE RECEPTIONS. Finds who have been staying in Paris tell me that Mrs. Cornelius Van-derbil's receptions there are very in-interesting, with the cosmopolitan ele-ment predominating. Her new house ment predominating. Her new house her Les Invalides, is full of beautiful things. The doors and the cellings have been painted by Horace Vernet and the tapestifes are from Versailles, while the cationets are stocked with such Historic treasures as only millionaires can af-ford. Gladys Vanderbilt is a great at-the which style favored by so many of the siris who go in for picturesque dreasing. Lord and Lady Wolcom.

dreasing. Lord and Lady Wolverton and Mr. and Lady Mary Ward, who are going for a six weeks' trip through the Unit-el States, starting in a fortriight or so, belong to the "king's set." Lady Wol-verton is a daughter of Georgina Lady Dudley and is a sister of the present peer of that lik. She is not so good-looking as her mother, who was one of the famous Monerieff beauties, and bough within measurable distance of And famous Moncrieff beauties, and bough within measurable distance of her sixieth birthday, is still in that entourage which includes Consuelo Duchess of Manchester, Lady de Grey and Lady Savile. Lady Wolverton will, however, impress you with her gowns, for she is smart in the extreme.

KISSED THE BRIDE.

RISED THE BRIDE. Lady Mary Ward is quite young and tride of six months. She is the saget of the Countens of Gostord, the open's bedchamber won-ne of the queen's bedchamber won-the wonten's bedchamber won-wonten's bedchamber won-the wonten's bedchamber won-wonten's bedchamber won-the wonten's bedchamber won-wonten's bedchamber won-wonten's bedchamber won-wonten's bedchamber won-wonten's second the won-second second second second second second second second second second the won-won- At one of the second courts Mrs.

at court is governed by rules and regu-lations which, like the laws of the Medes and Persians, alter not. The length of the train, the dimensions of the vell, just how low the dress is to be cut, the number of steps to be taken in crossing the presence chamber tare all determined by cast iron conven-tion and have to be strictly adhered to. King Edward is the most genial of sovereigns, but in the matter of court etiquette he is adamantine.

CONSULLO'S HOUSE.

Consuelo, Duchess of Manchester, is trying to let her house in Grosvenor square for the season. Her doctors will not allow her to spend any time in town for the next four or five months. After she has concluded her stay at Biarritz for the king's visit, she is or-dered to Cauterets, a notable health re-sort, beautifully situated in the Pyresilicate of soda, and are said to be beneficial for all chest and throat trou-bles. When the court was more trou-

bles. When the court was moving this week from Sandringham to Windsor castle, the king left Norfolk a few hours in advance of the other members nours in advance of the other members of the family so as to give him some time during which he could lanch and have a chat with the duchess. After driving to Buckingham palace, where he had to give audiences and transact other business, he entered a cab and went direct to Grosvenor square, no one recognizing him on the way, thus maintaining the privacy desired. His

maintaining the privacy desired. Hi-majesty remained with his old friend for over two hours and then drove di-rect to Paddington station to take a train for Windsor.

LADY MARY.

INCREASE IN MEXICO'S COMMERCE.

The preliminary returns of the foreign trade of Mexico for the fiscal year ended June 30 have been reported on by the British minister at Mexi-City, in reference to which the London Fnancial Times summarizes as follows:

The imports amounted to \$107,397. 000, as against \$78,597,000 in the preceding period, or an increase of nearly 24 per cent. The chief features of the import trade are the great advance in minerals and the great ex-ransion of America's proportion of business. Both are attributable to one

ransion of America's proportion of business. Both are attributable to one cause—the exceptional shipments of gold coins minted in Philadelphia needed for the establishment of the gold standard. Even allowing for those bullion consignments the United States' share in the import trace is, naturally, still the largest, and follow-ing come Germany, Great Britain, and France. Between ourselves 271 Germany there is only a difference of \$225,700, but it is regrettable that during the past year we have had to rank below our energetic rival. The exports amounted to \$131,850,000, as compared with \$101,476,000, or an increase of over 30 per cent, this enor-mous gain being also due to shipments of precious metals, mainly of silver, to counterbalance the gold imports. These buillion exports represent 58 per cent of the total. If the traffic in builion, etc., he excluded it will be found that, roughly speaking, Mexi-can trade has been marking time dur-ing the period under review.

ment of all the virtues that should make him an ideal autocrat-brainy, well educated, martial, devoted to his people, and so on. Doubtless the substance of

and so on. Doubiless the substance of it has been cabled to America. All the more interesting, therefore is a true account of the personality of this new sovereign of the once mighty peo-ple whose armies subdued the wealth of Croesus, the pride of Babylon, and the civilization of Egypt. Such an ac-count I am able to give, thanks to an interview which I was fortunate in ob-taining from M. Eustache de Lorey, who was three years an attache of the French legation at Teheran, and who is now resident in London. That M. de Lorey made good use of the opportuni-

how resident in London. That M. de Lorey made good use of the opportuni-ties afforded him by his official position is evident, for since his return he has become a recognized authority on all that relates to Persia, and he is now enthat relates to Persia, and he is now en-gaged on an important book dealing with the country. Incidentally he is one of the few men in England who have met and conversed with the shah. In the report of the interview which fol-lows, the questions put to a diplo-matist by your correspondent nave been eliminated to save space.

tradesman in whom sedentary habits, had produced premature obesity. No amount of gorgeous raiment and glit-tering jewelry could confer an air of dignity upon him. His features show no indication of strong qualities of any sort, good or bad. Outwardly he bears no resemblance to his father, who was a distinguished-looking man. AN AWKWARD LOOK.

"In my conversations with him, which "In my conversations with him, which were, of course, merely formal and car-ried on through an interpreter, he ap-peared awkward and constrained. But appearances are proverbially deceptive. He may turn out to be a much m re capable man than he looks. As the crown prince he had little chance to show what is in him. Regard for his succession requires that the heir to the crown in Persia should keep himself much in the background so as to case much in the background so as to cast no shadow on the throne.

"It is a point in his favor that he is fond of hunting and frequently went after bears in the mountains of Azer-baldjan. In the gardens of this palace at Tabriz he could be seen frequenty practising marksmanship on small birds or sheating at annuas and name on the

The has never been outside of Persia. He speaks uo European language, and of education in the European sense he has had none. Azerbaidjan, over which he ruled as crown prince, is a Turkish province of Persia, whose inhabitants are of a much inferior type to the true Perslaus. It is unfortunate for him that his lot was cast so long among them and that he was so much under the influence of their priesthood. The them and that he was so much under the influence of their priesthood. The priests are the bane of Persla, but those of Azerbaldian are the worst of the lot. They are fanatical followers of Islam, narrow minded aut bigoted, and op-posed to everything in the nature of modern reforms, which of necessity would diminish their powers. The law of the Medes and Persians was long ago swept away by the devotees of the prophet. The inspiring monothelism of Zoroaster, the ancient religion of Per-sia, survives now in its purity only among those Persian emigrants, the Parsees who largely control the finances of Bombay. of Bombay,

NEW SHAH, ELDEST SON.

"The new shah is the eldest son of his father, but there is no law in Persia which vests the succession in the eldest matist by your correspondent have been eliminated to save space. MISSION TO TABRIZ. "While at Teheran with the French legation," said M. de Lorey, "I was once sent on a mission to Tabriz, the capital of the province of Azerbaidian.



(Continued on page fourteen.)

NOT UNEXPECTED. In a moment all was confusion and excitement mingled with a strong dose of curiosity, for your Parisian of the boulevard is nothing if not curious. Captain Muzard of the Thirty-fifth in-fantry, who happened to be passing, sprang forward and selzed the woman's wrist, whilat a detective inspector, who had for some days been accompany-ing the minister at a respectful dis-tance on his walks-M. Meriou had al-ready received threatening letters from his assailant-rushed up and took her in charge. M. Meriou and his com-panion jumped into a passing cab and disappeared; the promenaders, after expanion jumped into a passing cab and disappeared; the promenaders, after ex-citedly discussing this latest boulevard sensation, gradually passed on in their turn, and the boulevard des Italiens resumed its wonted aspect.

NOT UNEXPECTED.

AN OLD SCORE.

AN OLD SCORE. Meanwhile the woman had been tak-en to the nearest commissariat of po-lice. There she gave her name as Jeanne Marguerite Dallemagne, other-wise known as Mme. Azay, and readi-ly admitted that the person at whom she had shot was M. Meriou. "We have an old account to settle," she explained. Such was, brieffy narrated, M. Meriou's final public appearance, so to speak, at the close of his political, and on the threshold of his diplomatic career. A few days later he quietly demantad A few days later he quietly departed for Peru. He did not appear against his aggressor, and Mme. Dallemagne was consequently released soon afterwards.

The incident, thus hushed up, was the dramatic climax of a love story, the first chaper of which was written fourteen years ago. It was the supreme vengeance of a woman who, maddened by real or fancied wrongs, makes a last desperate attempt to appeal to the verof her fellow citizens by means the Assize court.

TOLD IN A BOOK.

TOLD IN A BOOK. The story has already been told in a book which appeared a few months ago, written by a political antagonist of M. Meriou. There cannot be a shadow of doubt that the book, Son Excellence Monsieur Meriou, written by M. Andre Gaucher and prefaced by articles from the pen of M. Henri Rochefort and M. Jules Delahaye, was an attempt to blast the reputation of the then minis-ter of finance. Circumstantially and in detail, the author recounts M. Mer-lou's life largely by the ald of privat correspondence and avowedly with the

i in detail, the author recounts M. Mer-lou's life largely by the aid of privat correspondence and avowedly with the object of forcing the minister to seek redress in the law court. The atneck failed of its object, for M. Merlou did-not sue the author for libel. The rea-son is clear and twofold. If the charges in the book are true-and M. Andre Gaucher states that he can produce documentary proofs-then no court could whitewash the man against whom they are brought. On the other hand, silence is the best defense, for the un-deniable political blas of the author is such as to shock the feelings of an im-partial reader, and so the charges lose much of their gravity. In spite of Panama memories, it is hard to believe that French politicians and ministers have so completely coliterated the landmarks of morality that the knave can no longer be distinguished from the honest man. Yet such the author would have us to believe. With this re-servation, we may draw upon M. Anhonest man. Yet such the author would have us to believe. With this re-scrvation, we may draw upon M. An-dre Gaucher's book for an outline of the story which began as a romance in the ninctles and so nearly terminated in a tragedy on the Boulevard des Ital-ien's a week or two ago.

A CLEVER GASCON.

A CLEVER GASCON. Piorre Meriou west born at Denguin in the Easses Pyrenees in the year 1849, the son of a peasent farmer and one of a family of twolve children. He is, therefore, a Gascon, a race famous for intrigue and persuasive eloquence. Pierre was the elever one of the family is studied at the lycee or public school of Pau, and before he was twenty was a medical student at the faculty of Paris. His dream was to become a sreat doctor and at the same time a wealthy one. He worked hard, made rapid progress and was looked on with such favor by one of the most famous of the professors that it was whispered he had marked out young