

Two or three simple statements of fact—in a want ad—may change and enlarge the whole outlook for you!

PART TWO

FIFTY-SIXTH YEAR

The Saturday "News" Special Foreign Service.

BRIDE OF ASTOR KING'S HOSTESS

Cliveden Being Overhauled for an Expected Visit From His Majesty.

LADY MARY'S BREEZY GOSSIP.

Duchess of Marlborough Summoned to Benheim on Account of the Illness of Her Boys.

Special Correspondence.

ONDON, Feb. 6.—Cliveden, the most picturesquely situated and beautiful of all the private residences on the Thames, which William Waldorf Astor bought of the late Duke of Westminster, is now undergoing extensive structural alterations. An army of workmen is busy tearing parts of the historic old mansion to pieces. It will be remembered that Astor presented the place to his son after his marriage to the charming American divorcee, Mrs. Shaw. The new hostess is ambitious. She wants to entertain the king. She confided as much to the king's brother, the Duke of Connaught, when the Connaughts were her guests at Cliveden. And the duke promised to do his best to get her wish gratified at least to the extent of receiving a week-end visit from his majesty. That was an honor never accorded Astor senior, during all the years that he resided at Cliveden. But beauty combined with wealth is likely to succeed where wealth alone failed, so in the remodelled Cliveden there will be a suite of rooms sacred to royalty, such as are found in several of the palatial private residences where the king and members of the royal family are frequently entertained.

IN SEARCH OF HOME.

Capt. Cloman, our new American military attaché 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 better known in America by her original name, Mrs. Clematis, 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 their country, put him at ease, and completed his conquest by expressing a desire to meet Mrs. Cloman.

VISITS TO CHILDREN.

During her brief stay abroad with her mother the Duchess of Marlborough was telegraphed from Benheim palace, where her second little boy, Lord Ivor Spencer Churchill, was laid up with measles. She started immediately for London, and on arrival discovered that he was not so ill as she had been told. She engaged a "special" to convey her there. Lord Ivor was better when she arrived and it is nearly quite well again. The duchess remained, and she means for nearly three days, spending all her time in the child's nursery. I am told it was quite pathetic to hear the man who is the small patient and his brother, Blandford, besought her not to leave them.

She is now at Sunderland house, which is to be her headquarters in London. Some of her other relatives will be with her constantly so as to give no chance for scandal-mongers to gossip. Her position is for one, and it is not so difficult and delicate as it is generally supposed to be. She is beginning to go out a little and has again commenced to give her patronage to philanthropic and artistic movements.

FINE RECEPTIONS.

Friends who have been staying in Paris tell me that Mrs. Cornelia Vanderbilt's reception there was very interesting, with the cosmopolitan element predominating. Her new house, which she has just bought, is full of beautiful things. The doorknobs and the ceilings have been painted by Horace Lormet, and the tapestries are from Versailles, while the furniture is of the most exquisite. The Duchess of Marlborough, Lady de Grey, Lady Weymouth, and Lady Weymouth, press you with her gowns, for she is smart in the extreme.

KISSED THE BRIDE.

Lady Mary Ward is quite young and daughter of six months. She is the one of the queen's bedchamber women. Her majesty, though she was in Paris for her father, King Christian IX, after the wedding and in the Duchess of Marlborough, Lady de Grey, and Lady Weymouth, press you with her gowns, for she is smart in the extreme.



Persia's Royal Puppet as "King of Kings."

The New "Shahian 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."

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ONDON, Feb. 6.—On the marvelous Peacock Throne of Persia a new ruler is seated. Mohammed Ali Mirza, eldest son of the late shah, has inherited the grandiloquent title which means "king of kings." In all the prominent English newspapers have appeared eulogistic notices of the successor of Muzaffer ed Din, derived from sources inspired by Persian officialdom. He has been depicted as the embodiment of all the virtues that should make him an ideal autocrat—brave, well educated, martial, devoted to his people, and so on. Doubtless the substance of it has been cabled to America.

CONSUL'S HOUSE.

Consuelo, Duchess of Manchester, is trying to let her new 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 ordered to Caunterets, a notable health resort, beautifully situated in the Pyrenees. The waters contain sulphur and iron, and are said to be beneficial for all chest and throat troubles. 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 of the family so as to give him some time during which he could lunch and have a chat with the duchess. After driving to Buckingham palace, where he had to give audience 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 majesty remained with his children for over two hours and then drove direct 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 Mexico City, in reference to which the London Financial Times summarizes as follows: The imports amounted to \$107,397,000, as against \$78,547,900 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 extension of America's exportation of business. Both are attributable to one cause—the exceptional shipments of gold coins minted in Philadelphia headed for the establishment of the gold standard. Even allowing for these bullion consignments the United States' share in the import trade is, naturally, still the largest, and following come Germany, Great Britain, and France. Between ourselves and Germany there is only a difference of \$23,700, but it is regrettable that during the past year we have had to rank below our energetic rival. The exports amounted to \$131,350,000, as compared with \$101,476,000, or an increase of over 30 per cent, this enormous gain being also due to shipments of precious metals, mainly of silver, to counterbalance the gold imports. These bullion exports represent 58 per cent of the total. If the traffic in bullion, etc., be excluded it will be found that the trade is actually increasing. Mexican trade has been making time during the period under review.

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AN AWKWARD LOOK.

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

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 Azerbaïdjan, of which the crown prince is always appointed governor, and during my stay there of three months I had several audiences with him. Nature has not bestowed on him either a figure or physiognomy to match the imposing titles the 'Shadow of God on Earth' is one of them—which he has now assumed. He is a fat, pudgy-faced, double-chinned little man, with a close-cropped mustache, and now about 33 years of age. He looks more like a Turk than a Persian. In European attire he would pass muster very well for a prosperous tradesman in whom sedentary habits had produced premature obesity. No amount of gorgeous raiment and glittering 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.

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A STATESMAN'S BLIGHTED LIFE

Scandals in Private Career of M. Merlou, Led to Political Downfall.

GREAT WRONG TO A WOMAN.

Culminated in Attempt at His Assassination by Victim of His nefarious Conduct.

Special Correspondence.

PARIS, Feb. 6.—His excellency M. Merlou was scuffling along the Boulevard des Italiens recently with a woman on his arm. It was about 5 o'clock in the afternoon, just when the boulevard is most crowded. M. Merlou had, only a week or two before, been appointed to represent the French republic at Lima, and the minister, whose debut it is in the diplomatic career, was on the eve of quitting his beloved Paris, which had watched his upward struggle from medical student to doctor, from doctor to deputy, and from deputy to minister of finance in the short-lived Rouvier cabinet. It is his usual event for a French politician to accept a diplomatic post even after he has held a portfolio, but his retirement from active politics into the calm and dignified atmosphere of diplomacy is not generally a case of "seeking a fresh start," but rather a foretaste of superannuation. And generally, too, there is a motive at the bottom of it.

AT CLOSE RANGE.

M. Merlou and his companion had reached the angle which the rue de Grammont forms with the boulevard, when another woman dressed in gray costume and whose features were concealed by a thick veil, suddenly confronted them and, before any one could interfere, fired four shots in quick succession and almost straight blank at the minister. Taken entirely by surprise, M. Merlou did not attempt to flee or to defend himself, and it was doubtless solely owing to his constant nervousness that he was merely grazed by one of the bullets, whilst another pierced the lining of his overcoat.

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 Infantry, who happened to be passing, sprang forward and seized the woman's wrist, whilst a detective inspector, who had just been accompanied by the minister at a restaurant, advanced on his walk—M. Merlou had already received threatening letters from his assassin—rushed up and took her in charge. The woman, whose name was not given, jumped into a passing cab and disappeared; the promenade, after excitedly discussing this latest boulevard sensation, gradually passed on in their turn, and M. Merlou, desiring to resume his wonted aspect.

AN OLD SCORE.

Meanwhile the woman had been taken to the nearest commissariat of police. There she gave her name as Jeanne Marguerite Dallemagne, otherwise known as Mme. Azay, and readily admitted that the person at whom she had shot was M. Merlou. "We have an old account to settle," she explained. "Such was, briefly narrated, M. Merlou's final public appearance, so to speak, at the threshold of his political, and on the following day 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 chapter of which was written fourteen years ago, by the supreme vengeance of a woman who, maddened by real or fancied wrongs, makes a last desperate attempt to appeal to the verdict of her fellow citizens by means of the ASSASSIN'S COURTS.

TOLD IN A BOOK.

The story has already been told in a book which appeared a few months ago, written by the author of the account of M. Merlou. There cannot be a shadow of doubt that the book, Son Excellence Monsieur Merlou, written by M. Andre Gaucher, and published by the pen of M. Henri Rochefort, and Jules Dallemagne, was an attempt to blast the reputation of the then minister of finance. (Circumstantially and in detail, the author of the account of M. Merlou's life largely by the aid of private correspondence and avowedly with the object of forcing the minister to seek refuge in the law court. The attack failed in its object, for M. Merlou did not sue the author for libel. The reason is clear and twofold. If the charges in the book are true—and M. Andre Gaucher states that he can produce documentary proofs—the minister could whitewash the man against whom they are brought. On the other hand, silence is the best defense, for the undeniable political bias of the account is such as to shock the feelings of an impartial reader, and so the charges lose much of their gravity. In spite of Gaucher's statements that he can produce documentary proofs—the minister could whitewash the man against whom they are brought. On the other hand, silence is the best defense, for the undeniable political bias of the account is such as to shock the feelings of an impartial reader, and so the charges lose much of their gravity. In spite of Gaucher's statements that he can produce documentary proofs—the minister could whitewash the man against whom they are brought. On the other hand, silence is the best defense, for the undeniable political bias of the account is such as to shock the feelings of an impartial reader, and so the charges lose much of their gravity. 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