

CT. PETERSBURG, June 15 .- Ask a Russian, no matter in what J a Russian, no matter in what quarter of the earth you may meet him, if he knows Wialsewa You are quite sure to get your answer in the light which comes into his eyes. His face will assume an expression of mingled longing and pleasure, and his voice will hum the weird strain of a gipsy song. If your Russian be rich, a soldier, and of a sentimental turn of mind he will probably offer you a considerable sum of money if you can lead him to the feet of the woman you have mentioned.

For Wialsewa, a few years ago a humble servant in the province of Warsaw, without known mother or father, is today the idol of Russia, the most famous of the gipsy singers who provide enjoyment for the gilded youth of the land of the czar in the restaurants of St. Petersburg and possessed of a thousand titled lovers. More than that, Wialsewa is the heroine of the Russo-Japanese war, and therein rests her popularity with the Russian soldier.

WIALSEWA'S CHARM.

To the ordinary foreigner in Russia the worship which great and small accord this gipsy singer is inexplicable. Jie sees in her nothing but the most talented of her class who sing to the ciners at the fashionable restaurants of the Russian capital. But Wialsown is more than this, for she has a charm which has made men offer fortunes to have her repeat a song. It is not in her graceful figure and pretty face.

in her golden dross, studded with stones, or in her dyed hair or even her beautiful voice. It is intangible, inde-+ ribable. But it is there. She is the port of woman one reads about in novcls but rarely meets in a lifetime. She has something magnetic in her eyes, her smile, her voice, something so firing that even other women say that they understand why men have flung all away for her.

WAS A SERVANT GIRL.

Ten years ago Wialsewa was a servant on a country estate in the province of Moscow. Nobody knows exnetly who her parents were. She had grown up in the village without either mother or father and, when 16 years old, went to serve at the house. The inhabitants were old-fashioned ladies, who used to teach the more capable girls of the village to sew. They took a fancy to Vera-as Wialsewa was then known-and liked her to sing to them in the evenings. She had a beautiful voice and sang the Russian folk songs.

One day a young officer came to see the ladies. His name was Wialsew and his regiment was in Petersburg. He fell in love with Vera and asked her if she would like to make a career as a singer in a gipsy chorus in Pet-ersburg. The girl, who felt restless in the manor, agreed. They went to the capital together and Wialsew paid for her to have singing lessons. Then he got her a gipsy chorus and asked his friends to supper in a certain res-taurant in the "isles." a part of Peters-burg given up to pleasure, where night is turned into day and fortunes spent and made in a very short time. When a fashionable young man wants to en-tertain his friends he invites them to a private room in one of these resand his regiment was in Petersburg. capital together and Wialsew paid for her to have singing lessons. Then he got her a gipsy chorus and asked his friends to supper in a certain res-burg given up to pleasure, where night is turned into day and fortunes spent and made in a very short time. When a fashionable young man wants to en-tertain his friends he invites them to a private room in one of these res-taurants and engages the services of a kipsy chorus for several hundred doi-lars. The best singer in the chorus—

FROM BARE-FOOTED SERVANT TO IDOL OF ALL RUSSIA. Wialsewa, Most Famous of the Gipsy Singers Who Infest the Gilded Restaurants of St. Petersburg, Has A Thousand Titled Adorers and Sings in a Corsage Loaded With Precious Stones-Went to the Front in Russian-Japanese War and Nursed and Sang to the Wounded in Manchuria Hospitals.



generally a woman—sings the solos and the others join in the refrain, playing on a special kind of guitar, only used in Russia. The effect of their beautiful love songs and ro-mances, written with Slavonic simplic-ity and set to wild, strangely sung mu-sic, is heightened by the champagne which forms the principal item of

NO SECLUSION FOR HER.

But her gipsy nature could not beat the monotonous life of Wialsew's coun-try house and she was soon in Peters burg again. Some say that he then followed her and married her; others

threw jewels at her feet that she might repeat one of her songs. SHE GOES TO THE FRONT. In the midst of all this success the Russo-Japanese war broke out. Th-singer's husband was ordered to the front. For a few weeks she stayed behind in St. Petersburg, where the festivities of the "Isles" were as bril. In the midst of all this success the Russo-Japanese war broke out. The singer's husband was ordered to the front. For a few weeks she stayed behind in St. Petersburg, where the festivities of the "Isles" were as bril-llant as ever, in spite of serious de-feats to the Russian forces in Man-churia. Suddenly Vera Wialsewa di.-appeared. She was on her way to the seat of war. Some of her admirers immediately overtook her, ordered a magnificent train to be fitted up for her and declared they would accompan, followed her and married her; others that they had already been married for some time. He settled all his for-time upon her and begged her to leave the restaurants. She refused and he went back to the provinces. But not for long; for him, as for so many others she acted like a magnet. He could not keep away from her, though she still sang at supper parties and even in the public dining rooms of fashionable restaurants. Poets com-posed verses for her, begging, as a fa-musicians feit honored if she accepted a song composed by them. People and wounded soldiers. She went to the hospitals and sang to the men there, that Foreigners, who did not know the ways At of Russia, used to ask on seeing her

GOLD FOR THE SOLDIERS

Wialsewa retained for herself but lit-tle, if any, of the gold that poured in on her. The bulk of it went to the soldlers and she returned from the was far poorer than she started. The en-thusiasm with which she was greeted on her return to Europe was as great as the joy with which they had hailed her in Manchuria.

She went on giving concerts for the victims of the war, and it is no exaggeration to say that she collected millions for this purpose.

LEFT A WIDOW.

LEFT A WIDOW. Her husband died from the effects of a wound received in the war, but left her a large fortune. Wialsewa cannot her a large fortune. Wialsewa cannot her a large fortune. Wialsewa cannot town to town, singing with her gloss of forming the chief attraction at some grand ducal entertainment. She has dyed her halr the fashionable color and wears dresses of golden tis-the same as when, dressed in gloss costume, she astonished the support army would marry her if she would have them. Yet there are hundreds so pretty singers in Russia, who have not a fourth of the success which has fal-le to her lot. People declare she will die a beggar and that is very likely, for be is as open-handed as a woman can be possessing the Bohemian incapabili-ty of thinking of the morrow.

WHEN SHE IS AT HER BEST.

WHEN SHE IS AT HER BEST. Those who have heard her in the con-cert hall only know half her charm. She is at her best after supper, when the glasses have been filled and emptied many times. Pushing her chair a little from the table, she takes her guitar and sings the gipsy songs she knows without end. There is not only melody and the softest of the beautiful Russlan words in them; there is something else. —the untamable wildness of the Rus-slan heart and the longing of the Slav nature that can never be satisfied and can only find expression in some of the most beautiful romances the world has ever produced.

STORIES TOLD ABOUT HER.

Many stories are told of Wialsewa andly stories are told of Wialsewa-of the hearts she has broken, of the acts of kindness she has done. Once when her train was standing at some wretched Siberian station somebody asked if she was not afraid to sleep with the doors unfastened and the win-dows opened during the hot northern summer summer.

"There are bands of bandits and rob-bers here who would do murder for a ruble, let alone for your jewels," he remarked. But Wlalsewa only laughed

"They know I am their friend," she said. "and a wanderer like them

How many soldiers she comforted in How many soldiers she comforted in the field hospitals, how many gave her keepsakes for those left at home, how much trouble she took to deliven last messages from dying lips—are not wit, ten on paper. But from the tales ca-hears from rich and poor of her bou-ty and kindness and the blessings that the humble heap upon her head one knows that they are recorded on the strange, emotional heart of Russia and understands something of the reason for the beautiful gipsy's charm. And Wfalsewa, with her slim, grace-

for the beautiful gpsy's charm. And Whalsewa, with her slim, graco-ful lines and her dark eyes, with her soft Russian tongue and her indescrib-able smile, came nobody knows whence, a nameless waif of a half-starved vil-lage and, one short decade ago, washed up dishes on a farm. SERGIUS VOLKHOVSKY.

Alfred Vanderbilt Cut By London Society

Special Correspondence.

ONDON, June 13 .- Alfred Van- 1 derbilt's divorce came upon us here as a surprise. Most people were under the impression

that the French woman who so constantly occupies the box seat of his coach was his wife. When it was discovered who she really was there was a general stampede. The French woman knows how to dress. The last time I saw her she was wearing a drab linen gown with inlets of Irish crochet of the same color. Her wrap was a directoire coat of drab cloth faultiessly cut and adorned with dull gold buttons. She wore a golden brown hat with big fawn and brown wings and a biscuit colored veil. She never ceases to talk even when Vanderbilt is leading his prancing greys through the densest traffic.

WEARS HER PICTURE.

He still wears a picture of his former wife in a locket on his watchchain the reverse side of which is filled by a likeness of his child. Similar photographs are all over his flat.

SHE MADE A HIT.

Miss Iselln, daughter of C. Oliver Iselin of New York, caused almost as much excitement at the Derby as the win of the outsider. She is certainly stunning and struck the king "all of a heap." His majesty adll considers himself the best judge of women and horses in England. It was Mrs. Anthony Drexel who presented Miss Ise-In to Edward, The favor of a presentation to his majesty in this unconversional manner is nearly unique. I believe Miss Iselin is the first American girl to receive it. She never turned a hair as she bowed low to the sovereign. The conversation turned on horses and yachts and the New York belie's information on both subjects amazed the king. His parting remark to her was, "I hope we shall meet soon again," and her reply was, "I am sure I shall do my best to make it soon." at which his majesty laughed heartily.

MISS REID'S PRESENTS.

So enormously large is the number of wedding presents already received by Jean Reid that she looks positively harassed over her attempts to cope with the correspondence entailed in acknowledging them. Her parents, fearing she would be quite worn out by the time her wedding day arrived en-gaged a secretary for her last week and now things are going smoother. Jean is made to spend most week ends out of London for although the Reids

adignantly deny that their daughter is not strong her friends are thoroughly aware she is far from robust, and that London in the season literally "does"

The bride-elect and the queen The bride-elect and the queen of Spain used to be great chums before ber majesty's marriage and they have kept up the friendship. Some of Miss Reid's most recent gifts are those sent by Victoria Eugenic. One is an antique gold tea-tray most beautifully jeweled. Another is a miniature of the little prince of the Asturias set in diamonds. Some time ago Jean Reid asked the queen for a picture of the baby prince queen for a picture of the baby princ

Alfonso has forwarded to John Ward a Jair of gold spurs of historio in-terest. At a date not yet fixed the pros-pective Luide and bridegroom will visit their Spanish majesties at Madrid.

UNLUCKY THIRTEEN.

UNLUCKY THIRTEEN. The number "13" has at last proved too much for Mrs. John Jacob Astor. Although she is by no means super-stitious the remarkable series of dis-asters that followed her from the time she noved into 13 Brook street has unnerved her and she has moved to Mrs. Adalf's house in Curzon street. The American matron had to pay handsomely for the house she has he-serted. The agents who let it would not let her off one farthing and she also had to be responsible for no end of breakages committed by the serv-ants. "Never in my life was I so thankful to get out of a spot and to the day of my death." she has been tell-ing ber friends, "I will never again be induced to have anything to do with authouse its marked with this number. I believe implicitly if I were to have stayed in the house another week some dhe calamlity would have overtaken me and I may never have got out of it alive."

ROASTS SOCIETY.

ROASTS SOCIETY. It is only as a bird of passage that Mrs. Bradley Martin has been in Lon-don in the last five months. She is due all Chesterfield gardens next week from abroad but she has been telling her friends that she means to do no big entertaining this season. They say she has baken a strong dislike to society in general which she declared is un-grateful, unappreciative and super-ficial. To her own immediate circle she will give a few parties and after that she will retire to Balmaacan for the autumn and winter.

that she will retire to Balmaacan for that she will retire to Balmaacan for the sutumn and winter. "I have given up all ambition to shine as a bostess in London," she has been explaining. "The most foolish person in the world is the one who spends money lavishly on society. You may beggar yourself for English peo-ple and when they meet you on the continent or claswhere. If the spirit moves them, they will actually forget to bew to you." There is a certain set in London who accept hospitality right and left, but never dream of returning it. These people consider that in giv-ing the hale of their presence they are doing all that can be expected of them. Against this particular clique Mas. Bradley Martin intends to wage

Many admire her determination though few of them have the courage to take up her attitude. No woman is arousing more interest here at the moment than Mrs. James Henry Smith. She has discarded her widow's weeds and is looking festive and comely. If her own words are to be believed she never intends to re-marry. Nevertheless people who know her best say when the right man comes she will accept him so quickly that it will take his breath away. Suitors by the dozen are hanging around her.

she will accept him so quickly that it will take his breath away. Suitors by the dozen are hanging around her. Lord Herbert Vane Tempest, a brother of Lord, Londonderry and a great friend of the Drexels, is one of the foremost in the running. It used to be said that he was in love with Mar-garcetta Drexel, Mrs. Smith's niece, but that young lady's father told him in polite language 'not to make a fool of himself.'' whereupon he transferred his affections to her aunt. Mrs. Smith's young daughter, Miss Stewart, is a veritable little mouse of a girl, very pretty and retiring. She is to have a jolly time for the rest of the season with her beloved cousin Mar-garcita Drexel to whom she is greatly devoted. Mrs. Smith has lately ex-pressed it that she has no wish that Anita should marry into the British arlstocracy, and that she does not care a straw whom the girl selects provided she is genuinely in love.

MUST CULTIVATE GAITS.

Paris arbiters of fashion have dis-covered that there is such a thing as a directoire face. In other words the face must be in keeping with this lat-est of revivals of dress. All the smart women on the other side of the chan-nel are now, therefore, cultivating the special cost of countenance supposed to be correct for the slit skirt. To add to my lady's difficulties she must also cultivate a new walk. The worst also cultivate a new walk. The worst of the whole matter is that she nust have one galt for her tallor-made from 10 to 1 in the morning and a totally different strut for her directoire gown from 1 until half past 6. LADY MARY.



REFUSE SUBSTITUTES.

Was a Fiddler at Four And Famous at Fourteen

Special Correspondence. ONDON, June 18 .--- When some

nice American college girl comes over to England for post-graduate course as the guest of the Society of American Women in England, on funds raised by the recent benefit concert under the American ambassador's auspices, she ought to send a wreath to Mischa Elman, whose free services chiefly contributed to make the concert a suc-

Probably, however, the young man doesn't much care about wreaths. Although at the age of 17 he is perhaps the greatest of violinists, he looks as little like the traditional musicianhe of long hair and poetic pallor-as he does like an infant prodigy. He has a jolly, big, round face; comfortable hands quite free from any reproach of being taper-fingered; short, wavy, thick brown hair of the stand-up-on-end kind; broad shoulders, deep chest, and a pair of legs evident-ly made to stand on and not merely for the support of trousers.

HEALTHY YOUNGSTER.

He abominated knickerbockers and Ston collars, and went into long trous-rs at the first possible moment, re-using utterly to be an infant phenomrusing utterly to be an infant phenom-enon, and wishing to be looked on as a grown-up man who had no use for pretty ways and delicate health, but wanted three big meals and lots of hearty out-door fun, just as if he were not a service

As Elman makes his first trip to

As Elman makes his first trip to America this autumn, and as he is so different from the ordinary run of "wunderkinder," it seemed likely that it would be of interest to American readers to get some stories of the boy's earliest manifestations of genius, and to this end Daniel Mayer, who is to musicians in England pretty much what Charles Frohman is to actors in America, was persuaded to produce Elman's father, for purposes of cate-chism. The senior Elman is not yet fully inured to drawing-rooms, and Elman's father, for purposes of cate-chism. The senior Elman is not yet fully inured to drawing-rooms, and has only lately begun to realize that London's conventions of dress are worth bothering with, but no one can talk with him long without realizing that he is a good, sound father, who doesn't propose to be a hanger-on, and who would be quite capable of admin-istering a spanking if he thought duty demanded it.

IN HIS INFANTILE DAYS.

Although so much has been written about Mischa Elman, it has been mostly in the way of comment and praise, and almost nothing has been known of the boy's beginning as a mu-sician. The story as extricated from the senior Elman with some help from an interpreter, proves uncom-monly interesting. When Mischa was born, the father was a Jewish village school master in

the little Russian town of Talnoje down near Odessa. He had some fame in the village as a violinist, and Mme Elman was the daughter of a violinist. "We used to notice," said M. El-man, "that when Mischa was 18 months old, I could always stop him from crying by playing to him on my fiddle. He used to sit up motionless, fiddle. He used to sit up motionless, and seemed to be fascinated by the music. When he was four, he wantand seemed to be fascinated by the music. When he was four, he want-ed to have my violin. Of course, I was afraid he would break it, but he got his mother to let him have it one day when I was away, and what did he do but begin to move his fingers up and down the strings, grinning when-eyer he got the right notes of the scale. I caught him at it one day, and decided to get him a quarter-violin. I thought he would be happy, but he only looked at it and said it was not a fiddle at all, and as soon as my back was turned, he tore off the strings and smashed the wood into little bits. We were very poor, and I was angry, He said he wanted a real fiddle and would not have anything else. PLAYED AFTER 'TWO DAYS

PLAYED AFTER TWO DAYS.

PLAYED AFTER TWO DAYS. "He seemed to have such an extra-ordinary ear for music that I at last decided to save money and buy him another instrument, bigger than the one he had destroyed. The second day he had it, he rushed out into the street to meet me as I was coming home, and said. T can play your "Waltz Chiquot." That was the name of a little waltz I used to play. Of course I would not believe it, but he selzed me by the hand and dragged me into the house and sure enough, he played the waltz almost without a mistake, and in sur-prising rhythm. I could not believe my prising rhythm. I could not believe ears for it seemed incredible that a of 4 without instruction should be able to play a waitz on the violin after having had it only two days. We had a village orchestra of six, and I took him round to play with them. Instead of being frightened, he not only play ed this waltz much better than before but also another little waitz that before had heard me play. The trouble was that thereafter he always wanted to play with the orchestra. Of course, play with the orchestra. Of course, after that I began to teach him as well as I could.

INSTRUCTOR WAS PAINED.

INSTRUCTOR WAS PAINED. "When he was 4%. Princess Urusof, who was the great lady of the neigh-down of the land about us, heard about Mischa, and one and said he had been sent by the princess to give lessons to Mischa. When he found that his pupil was to be a dy-sear-old baby who could scarcely peaks he was very angry and went ady-start, the princess asked Mischa to come and play for her and how dur little orchestra along. But the result was much grief to me, for she at once wanted to adopt my little or, and pay for his musical education and bring him up as a gentleman. Her ind condition was that he should leave a Christian. To this I felt I could not

consent. Fortunately though, the princess was not altogether angry, and assisted us somewhat in taking the boy to Odessa, when he was 5½. He was taken to Miynarski, who was at the head of the conservatoire there. Mischa-was so excited that the first thing he did was to fall flat over the plano stool. He also informed Miynarski that he was 7 months old and that he had he was 7 months old, and that he had played the violin for five and a half years. He did not know at all what

ARRIVAL IN MANCHURIA. Her arrival in Manchurla was hailed

as if it were some victory over the Japanese. All the wealth she had gained on her way she immediately gave to be distributed among the sick and wounded soldiers. She want to

be was doing or saying." Soon afterward, Prof. Auer became interested in the boy, and as no Jews wre permitted to come to live in St. Petersburg except such as were born there, the professor had to get special permission from the czar in order that his protege might come to the Russian metropolis for the finishing of his mus-ical education — a point that was reached at the mature age of fourteen was After that, the boy set forth into the world and the rest is history.

QUEER SUPERSTITION.

The Elmans have a superstition that Mischa is bound to have some narrow escape on his way to America, for every big new chapter in his career has been thus opened. On his way to St Petersburg from Odessa, the third class ompartment was desperately crowder compartment was desperately crowded, and Elman, pere set forth at the first stopping place to see if he could not find another carriage. He at last ar-ranged for an empty compartment and hurried back to get the boy. But the little fellow was so sound asleep that he could not be awakened, and it seemed heast to leave him where he mere the he could not be awakened, and it seemed best to leave him where he was. Al-most immediately afterward there was a collision and the compartment that was to have been taken was smashed to bits

NEARLY SUFFOCATED.

The next step was when Mischa left St. Petersburg to make his debut in Berlin. The night before the concert, the gas in his hotel bedroom was only partially turned off, and the boy was so nearly suffocated that the doctors had to work on him till 11:30 the next morning to bring him sound. He was morning to bring him round. He was due to play before the critics at noon, and insisted on going, although he was scarcely able to stand. He arrived on-



day to find himself famous. The next event was his London debut, and on the way hither, he cut a great gash in his hand with glass. He in-sisted on playing, however, although his hand was much stitched and patch-ed, and although playing cost him much pain. Now his father wonders what will happen to him on the way to America. to America.

o America. Aside from his strange gift of being Aside from his strange gift of being able to interpret the great masters of music by a kind of instinct. Elman is a normal, hearty, healthy boy, of good habits, fond of bycycling, and with a keen taste for chess. Although he has habits, fond of bycycling, and with a keen taste for chess. Although he has hever studied the plano, he is a mor-than ordinarily good planist, playing apparently by instinct. He has writ-ten a good deal of music, too,and wants to be known as a composer some day. CURTIS BROWN.

If you will make inquiry it will be a revelation to you how many succumb to kidney or bladder troubles in one form or another. If the patient is not beyond medical aid, Foley's Kidney Cure will cure. It never disappoints. For sale by F. J. Hill Drug Co., "The Never Substi-



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