

sittings. This is the first time , the princess has taken an order from a commoner, and it goes without saying Mr. Astor will pay a colossal figure for the honor. The princess is ensible a woman to refuse check for her work any more than her nlece, Princess Victoria of Schleswig-Holstein, would refuse five guineas for a blue Persian kitten from her well-known cattery. It is said by tist will be paid \$10,500 His friends assure me, it is not easy to turn Mr Astor's head but the signal honor of posing to a king's sis-ter has elated him considerably. Princess Louise is an extremely clever sculptor and at least two fine statue by her of her mother, Queen Victoria are to be seen in public places in in London.

Nothwithstanding his great intimacy with various members of King Ed-ward's family Mr. Astor is not very friendly with Edward himself

Mrs. John Jacob Astor and Mr. and Irs. Waldrof Astor were among those Mrs invited to Hever castle to meet the princess and her husband. The host's ion to publicity grows more in Without the castle walls not objection to soul is aware of what is going or within, while all dependents are that if the master discovers that speak outside it will mean instant dis missal. Everything is superbly done a this wonderful house, half castle, hal monastery, and with a state and monastery, and with a state and ceremony more dignified than at a and royal mansion. There are a dozen footwho wear powdered hair and the Astor liveries.

#### PET BEAR MAKES A HIT.

Every week fresh conquests are made in London society by Mr. Bru-guiere of whom I spoke in a recent letter. He made pots of money in the American section of the great fete at Olympia which was held in aid of the queen's pet charity, the Children's hospital in Great Ormonde street. Mr. Bruguiere collected with a little bea. which he called "Yankee Doodle found whose small body was draped flag with stars and stripes. The around queen, like most other people, fell a victim to the charms of "Yankee Doodle" and presented him with a sovereign (\$5) whereupon Mr. Bru-guiere told the bear to shake hands with her majestsy, to salute and so forth. The queen was delighted, but she though the little thing looked tired and told its master that she hoped he would not let him stay too long. Before her majesty left she exitracted a promise from Mr. Burguiere to come and visit her with "Yankee Doodle" one day at Buckingham palace in order that she might show his rat to the children of might show his pat to the children of the Prince of Wales.

### GORGEOUS HOUSE BOAT.

Notwithstanding our hopeiess weather crowds of people are making ex-cursions up the Thames with the sole object of seeing Alfred Vanderbilt's beautiful new house-toat. He may be said to have revived the interest in louse-boats which for years has been slowly dwindling, until latterly those who had such boats negarded them a white elephants. For protection against the elements, he has had a goodly portion of the immense deck covered with plate glass. Everywhere a with plate glass. Everywhere are masses of flowers. You can still small paint within measurable distance of it. Sut the boat looks beautifully spick and measurable distance of the second state of the second span. Lying at the foot of the terraces which are now all abloom it.

to many, who would otherwise have but little chance of getting into the glitter of the millionaire's set. Quick, erratic and highly-strung, Alfred Vanderblit always will have things done as the workmen say "in five minutes." There have been some "scenes" at his new river abode when on going down during the past weeks he found things still behind hand. "You can employ 1,000 workmen if you choose, but the house, grounds and boat must be fin ished when I want them," he was won to say, And they were.

## BUSINESS WOMAN.

"Why did Mrs. Frank Leslie assume a title?" That is what all her friends here are asking, because they know he and like her so much better by her ol-name. She has a whole host of friendname. She has a whole host of friend here and wherever you go you see her She looks as young as ever this seaso and quite as gorgeous, while her charm, never diminishes. Somebody told mo the other day that she knew more about buying paper for printing pur-poses than any man. She always has lots of business on hand when over tere on her usual summer holiday and those who deal with her say she is the most astute person possible. Even men quite willingly admit she has an extra-

ordinary amount of business capacity HOUSE CONCERT RIVALRY.

#### Latterly Mrs. Mackay spends very litle time in England each seaso ew weeks at the outside is all sh deigns to give us of her presence. Sh regards it as a bounden duty to com over and give at least one gorgeous concert after the order of that which

Mr. Astor organizes at his house in the same quarter. There has always been a certain rivalry between Mrs Mackey and Mr. Astor as to who shal secure the greater number of stars. O all the American millionaires they are he only two who spend \$25,000 each upon these wonderful entertainments which are the talk of London for weeks after they take place. Some people say that Mrs. Mackay would never come to London now were it not to give he annual concert and to hold her own with Mr. Astor! This does not mean that Mrs. Mackay is not on the best o terms with her neighbor and country man. Far from it. But still there is the human inclination to crow, so to speak, over the other. Kubellk is one of those who will figure on Mrs. Mac kay's program this week.

## GAY AMERICANS.

Numbers of smart American women who would have spent these weeks in London have flown to Paris' because of the cold and wet. Mrs. lould and her daughter. Marjorie, are there. They had intended to make London thei headquarters, and do a great deal o entertaining, but they both got chills and the moment they were well enough to travel they dis ppeared. Mrs. Stuy-

resant Fish is another who had intend ed to have a gay time here, but she too, abandoned the idea owing to the She has had no end of parties in Paris and a number of her friends crossed over one morring last week for a dinner party and came back next day. It was, they said, well worth the trouble and the expense, everything was so beautifully done. Several other rich Americans are giving parties in gay city and insist on their frie joining them. Among others is Mrs. Ames Van Wart, who is a well known hostess. When these people issue invinostess. When these people issue invi-tations they usually send with them first class return tickets MARY.

appointed to stand on a hillock near the castle, and guard against future robbers of both the gardener's hens and the sovereign's ancestral portraits Although the cost was estimated at \$200, an excessive sum for a state overburdened with armaments-Co burg's army counts nearly 1,500-the reckless proposal was agreed to There-upon began that career of extrava-gance which ended in the constitutional crisis referred to. A second gen darme was provided to gaurd the ducal palace of Rosenau; and the unpatriotic landtag passed without dissent an en timate of \$11 for wholly, unnecessary

dener. The landtag or parliament of Coburg, which consists of 11 citizens

lected on a democratic franchise, re-

solved thereupon that a gendarme be

Bankruptcy or a foreign loan would soon have been the only alternatives had not Coburg in its hour of peril produced a few sturdy patriots. A few months ago, the president of the months ago, the president of the min-istry of state, -neouraged by past im-munity in extravagance, introduced a bill to provide the Kallenberg gen-darme with a horse. He was faced at once by a solid phalanx of friends of peace, retrenchment and reform, "The ducal security and digrify" said the ducal security and dignity," said the minister-president, "require guarding by a mounted satellite." This spectous mixed metaphor did not impose on the friends of thrift, They resolved to wake Saxe-Coburg and Gotha up to its threatened perils.

ECONOMY DEMANDED.

They began an agitation which soon embraced the whole land. The horse they thundered from a dozen plat-forms, is not only needless extrava-gance but a piece of incendiary millwith Saxe-Meiningen, and other ambli-tious states within the German contious states within the German con-federation. The agitation succeeded The aroused nation demanded econom and the landtag rejected the bill. The budget was successfully balanced without appealing to the Rothschilds; and

of Great Britain and Ireland, being great empires, there arise crises aged under thirty and having more en-tertaining thoughts, paid little atten-tion to the brooding crisis. Rumor which rend the state in twain, set principle against principle, party against party, and brother against ascribed to him a secret desire for conomy, learned from his predecessor brother. Viewed from afar by citizens Albert, Duke of Edinburgh, whose in-born hatred of extravagance had been of populous states, these crises seem trivial and unworthy. The citizens of fortified by a Caledonian title. But Berlin, for instance, smile condescendninisters were obdurate "The hor: they declared, "is no longer a question of finance or public safety. It is a ingly at the politics of Schwarzburg-Sonderhausen and Waldeck-Pyrmont mestion of principle and honor; and and hint that a duchy five miles long f the landtag refuses it, we 15 broad can have no politics more esign. exalted than the problem of paint or no paint for the arms above the Rathaus door. But even superior Ber-lin sighed a sigh of relief on learning A cunning manoeuver nearly gained

them the victory. They employed a certain Professor Dr. von Saalefeld to compile a historical treatise in favor that the constitutional crisis which reof the horse project. The professor donned his spectacles, and after week, of rooting among dusty archives, dis-covered that in 1455 A. D., some rufcently led Saxe-Coburg and Gotha to the verge of civil war had ended with-out bloodshed. On the precipitous pine-clad hill of fanly conspirators raided Altenburg castle and kidnapped two young princes, sons of the Elector of Saxony fianly Kallenberg, to the northwest of Coburg city, there rears its head a picturesque The ministry seized on this discover

and handsomely furnished castle. the property of the reigning duke. Kallen-berg Castle is seldom tenanted. As a rule, it is left to the care of 50 liveried announced to the landtag, "depends u/on the gendarme being mounted; otherwise we are "risking a duchy servants, who wait with impatience for their sovercign's rare arrivals, and the harvest of 10 pfennig pieces then reaped in the form of tips.

## only one son, not two, but that only augments the peril of his being car-STOLE A HEN. ried off before the eyes of the helples what would be the feelings of loyal In 1906 occurred an event rare in Coburg's modern annals. An ill-dis-posed person stole a hen kept in the courtyard by the duke's third gar-

Coburgers, asked ministers, if Coburg was deprived of its heir and hope?

shall

### ECONOMY VS LOYALTY.

The safety of the ducal house."

But the disloyal landtag refused Economy it argued was an even loftier principle than loyalty to a ducal house. Dr. yon Saalefeld now discovered that Dr., yon satisfield now discovered that only thirty years ago an attempt had been made to kidnap a German prince. "The nation," reforted a member of the anti-horse party, "will stand for its, duke. A monarch guarded by trusty subjects' arms has no need for hoofs." The bill was a second time re-ioted jected.

But Coburg's constitutional expe dients are not easily exhausted. In crises threatening the existence of th duchy, there may be convoked an Ex traordinary landtag, a deliberative or-gan of exceptional powers, which is to the ordinary landtag what the French National Assembly was to the States-General of Versailles. This august body came together with the ceremony befitting so the ceremony befitting solemn an occasion. It declared at one that only specialists were worthy to treat the equine problem; and it ap pointed a special commission. In this commission for days raged a contro-versy big with destiny. The pro-horse faction with undiminished confidence resumed the attack.

### REVELATION WAS A BOMB.

"If the horse were granted," argued their leader, Deputy Schlottermuelle convincingly, "the young duke might live more often at Kallenherg, much to the advantage of the local storekeep

The deputy for Kallenberg, who had been opposing the was promptly gained over by this argument promptly gained over by this argument, and the pro-horseites prepared prema-turely to celebrate their victory. Their hopes were dashed to the ground by an unexpected intervention. "The prohorseites support this vote on the ground of public security," said Expertwitness Muther. "That is unfounded The gendarme really wants the horse to ride into town and currycomb the Wachtmeister's horse." This revelation was a bomb. There

the gendarme of Kallenberg resumed ensued a furious debate, reproaches and

voted the commission by a darme, large majority, "is to gain the respect of the public, and not to degrade him-self into the position of a horsecleaner.

While thus the landtag buzzed with eloquence, the press and public were not mute. Industrious men, inspired by Dr. von Saalefeld, sought for literary and historical precedents for mounted gendarmes. When a frivolous critic laughed at the whole controversy, he got from Dr. Blenne the dignified reply: The horse is not unworthy of constitutional crisis. Horses have played a great role in history. Who has not heard of Bucephilus, horse of Horses the great Alexander Troy fell to a horse of wood; and it was the phantom white steed of their hero Skobeleff which led the thrice-baffled Russian ver the redoubts of Plevna. The Fe uvian Incas regarded the horses of Pizarro as gods. In religion, mytholo gy and literature, there are to mention only a few-the White Horse of Revelation, Pegasus, and the Rosinante o Don Quixote." "To the horse," wrote schoolmaster named Kneip, whose name suggests beer and duelling stu 'Phidias' and ' Praxiteles, reare ents graven images." Both pro-horse an anti-horse party used much such im Both pro-horse and gery, but the issue hung in doubt, and fter a breathing-time it was resumed by the landtag with redoubled fury

PRONOUNCED DEADLOCK.

At the next session the anti-horse ites quoted Prince Buelow's encomium "Old-Prusian thrift."

"Yes," retorted the pro-horseites, "but he has a deficit of \$125,000,006." "Then let Coburg set example to im-perial Germany," replied the anti-horseites, "and not make a deficit of \$50 over a useiess horse.

The extraordinary landtag waver ed. In a more progressive state the anti-horseltes would have been bulled or bought by their foes. But though a Coburg legislator will thankfully drink your champagne, eat your ter-rapin, and win your money at poker, his voting conscience is inflexible. The deadlock seemed eternal. It stayed the country's law-making; even the Coburg army, officially known in Bes-Coburg army, officially known in Ber in as the Second battalion Ninety-fifth (Sixth of Thuringia) In fantry regiment, threatened to be em prolled, to the loss of discipline, and deadly peril of the state in case of for-eign invasion. The army was involved owing to the fact that Coburg raises no cavalry. . The anti-horseites. while mainly arguing against extravagence, reasoned that a mounted gendarme meant breaking this rule, and declared that cavalry was a survival of feudal-ism unworthy of a medern state "Modern military theorists," they argued, "are very doubtful as to the value of cavalry in war, and in peace cav-airy is a menace to the industrious people and no terror to evil-doers. If the gendarme cannot run quicker on foot than a drink-soddon burglar he is not physically fit to curb a high-spirited horse

#### EXCITEMENT IN TOWN.

This anti-horse syllogism seemed con clusive. Pro-horse deputies banged on their desks and forsook the landtag building in bad humor. Excitement eigned in the town. It spread to the twin capital Gotha, where Herr Arnold Thiele took a referendum as to what course Gotha should pursue if the Coburg factions came to blows. Ministers again threatened resignation. But at this moment a prophet arose in Israel. He was a professor at Jena

(Continued on page fourteen.)

ing his own flesh and blood succeed to the proudest dukedom in Great Britain than he does about all his millions has become worried by the various untoward results of the disagreement be-tween his daughter and the ducal sonin-law, and has set to work to bring them together again. He says this "separation nonsense," as he calls it, has gone far enough.

It is an up-hill job, for the duke and duchess have proved obdurate so far. The duke is angry at his wife's come. continued friendship for Lord Alexan der Thynne, brother of Lord Bath, who is her faithful cavalier servente when ever she appears in public, while th

duchess has even more cause for resent ment in the way the duke has lavished Vanderbilt money on a lady w well known in New York society. Eac of the pair undoubtedly hates the sight of the other, and there is little likeli-hood that they can ever be forced to do much more than tolerate each other. But it is predicted here that by the time society focusses in London for the next season the duchess will have re-entered Blenheim palace, the na-tion's magnificent gift to the first duke of Marlborough; and the duke have re-entered Sunderland house. K. Vanderbilt's magnificent gift to hi daughter Consuelo.

### FATHER MAKES THREATS.

In the first place, the duchess' fath er threatened to cut down her allow ance unless she took back the duk and, at least outwardly, gave up the friendships to which the duke objects. That plan, however, hasn't made much impression, for the duchess' credit with the tradesmen is good, and she knows she would not be suffered to get heavily into debt.

So the next step was one that gives promise of much more effectiveness-namely, enlistment of royal aid. Partly as a result of their sympathy for Mr Vanderbilt and partly because of th court traditions against separated ing their great social influence to hea-in the form of a boycott. They posttively refuse to meet either the duke or duchess until they settle their mat rimonial differences.

A few nights ago the queen was to be guest of honor at a dinner party given by William George Cavendish-Bentinck, a cousin of the Duke of Portland, whose American wife was Miss Elizabeth Livingston of Staatsburg New York. Consuelo was to be one of the party, but when she heard of the queen intimated to her host that she could not meet the duchess. "I don't want to be hard on the poor thing." her majesty is reported to hav said, "but I really cannot countenance either her or her husband so long as they live apart."

PUTTING SCREWS ON DUKE.

But perhaps the most effective part of the scheme is that of putting the screws on the duke, who has received an allowance of \$50,060 a year hitherto That is only from his father-in-law. a pittance on which to keep up such a place as Blenheim. To do it in fitting style requires from \$125,000 to \$150,000 year, So now when the \$50,000 i threatened the duke is thoroughly alarmed, especially as the new taxation proposed for England bears with especial force on ground landlords, and i likely to leave some of the great landowners as poor in dollars as they are rich in acres. The duke has even been telling his sorrows at a political He says he positively

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know how he is going to live if things

not been running smoothly at Blen-heim. Like so many of his class the duke lacks business capacity. Though by no means extravagant, money slips through his fingers. His wife has more business in her little finger than he has in his entire bedy. While at Blenheim, everything went swimmingly simply because she ruled the roost. She is a splendid manager, a first rate organizer, and one of those women who can save out of any in-

# LIVING ON HOPES.

Although recently the duchess has taken all the expenses of the children off the duke's shoulders-as both boys practically live with her, Lord Ivor Churchill doing so entirely-their father does not seem much benefited financially by the concession. The duke is said to be living in the hope that Mr. Vanderbilt will not let Blenheim It was a costly job putting eriorate. t in repair when his daughter became its mistress, and the duke is said to be banking on the belief that Mr. Vanderbilt will find it cheaper to keep things going than to pay for another complete renovation when his grandson, the little Marquis of Blandford, suc-

reeds to the dukedom. In spite of the royal boycott, the duchess' position has improved a little this season. People who turned up this season. People who turned up the whites of their eyes when she was mentioned last year are now glad accept her invitations, and the rece the recent ball she gave at Sunderland House was undoubtedly one of the most brilliant functions that has ever taken place in London. Royalty and the American ambassador and Mrs. Whitelaw Reid and their daughter were absent, of course, but there were a lot of peopl

who are seen at smart functions. She owes whatever position she has to her mother-in-law, Lady Blanford, who has stood right by her since separation. No other member of the duke's family will have anything to do with the duchess, but his mother condders that her daughter-in-law is deserving of sympathy and her stanchness is the most remarkable thing in the annals of matrimonial quarrels.

#### MOTHER-IN-LAW'S HISTORY

No doubt Lady Blanford's own history has much to do with this. She is a daughter of the famous first Duchess of Abercorn-"the mother of the peerage"-and she was forced by his conduct to divorce the duke's father before he succeeded to the title. She never became Duchss of Marlborough and is still known by the title now borne by her little grandson. Consuelo is immensely appreciative of Lady Blanford's efforts on her bohalf and,

they are perpetually together and as devoted as mother and daughter. It is only by careful management that the duckess is able to live on per brilliant party she gave in June was paid for out of a balance she had on hand at the end of the financial year. Although her jewels are of fabulous worth they are nearly all presents from her parents and relations. She buys no new ones and though per-fectly dressed and in the best of tasto she never spends more than \$150 on a dress and never more than \$25 on a hat. She has been known to wear frock a dozen times in a season and not infrequently has one re-made. A not infrequently has one re-made. A dozen hats in all meet her requirements during three months. only person on whom the The

(Continued on page fourteen.)