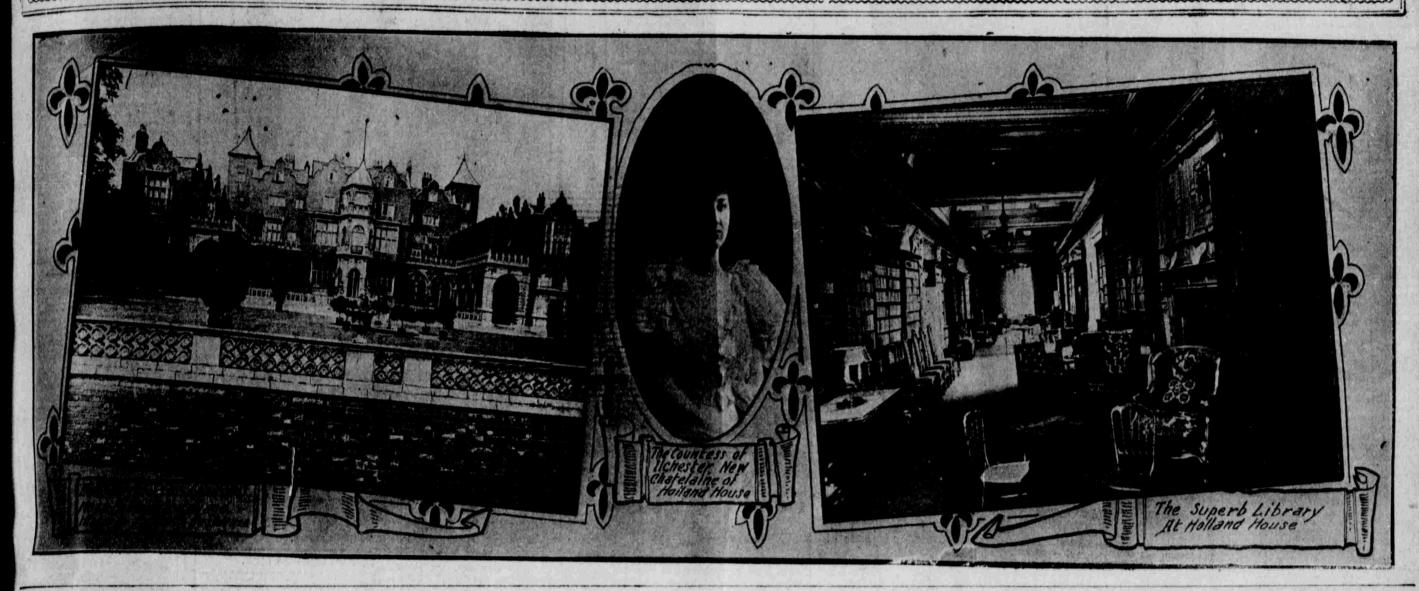
The Saturday "News" Special Foreign



STARTLING STORY; STOLEN MILLIONS

wiss City of Basle Sued for \$20,000,000 Taken in Alleged Robbery.

OUNDATIONS OF FORTUNES.

moved by Poisoning and Other Forms of Shocking Murder.

ERNE, Switzerland, Oct. 26 .- Ever ince the star of Madame Humert rose and set, an undentable glamor has attached to the fabus "heritage," and to its mythical bundred millions." The notorious herese has found numerous imitators, and now there has arisen in Switzerland a case which, in some of its features, is scarcely less puzzling than that of the once irresistible "Coffry

ecial Correspondence.

FOUNDED ON FACT. In one respect the Swiss inventor,

ither by dint of finer quality or better lick, has altogether outclassed Madime, seeing that his fable—if fable it be . (Continued on page eighteen.)

—has by long persistence come to acquire some of the status of "romance founded on fact," and has become almost venerable by a tradition of 66 years of litigation. Viewed with the cold eye of suspicion, one may almost wonder whether this amazing story from Switzerland does not really throw some light upon the Humbert fraud, reducing it to the grade of a merely clever adaptation.

er adaptation.

The case has just been heard before the civil tribunal of first instance of the City of Basie, of which the muncipality was sued by a certain Herr Weber, of Munchenstein for the sum of \$20,000,

His case is that in 1832, one Johann Peter Thomann, a planter in Lujan, South America, died, leaving a fortune of the immense sum named. By a will properly drawn and executed, he left the whole amount, in the absence of direct descendants, to collateral relatives in the two half cantons of Basle. This will the alleged was duly forwarded. by the South American authorities to Basic, as also was the money-all in gold, and packed in 13 huge chests, which are stated to have been stored in the cellars of the municipal buildings. Herr Weber claims that his wife is the direct descendant of one of the original "collaterals."

BECOMES MARVELOUS.

It is at this point that the marvelous begins to appear. Without mincing matters, the astounding charge is matters, the astounding charge is made, not only that the councillors of the 1832 period suppressed the will and divided among themselves the whole of the treasure, which became the bases upon which were built some of the largest fortunes in the canton, but that poison and other forms of murder were used for getting rid of persons capable of throwing light upon the facts.

As might be expected the case of the municipal council is that a fable story beginning



CLEMENCEAU, THE FRENCHMAN OF THE HOUR.

All France is watching M. Clemenceau, the new premier, whose enemies se him with planning to lift thetorch of war by his unmasked intention ining absolute centrol of the cabinet and aiming at a distatorship in thich he will administer the finances of the nevy and army departments ith a view to subjecting the German emperor to a "diplomatic castigation" it the builying which Cremencesu's adherents assert France has suffered the bands of Germany in the past,

New Glories For London's Famous Mansion.

Young Countess of lichester Planning to Make Holland House Once More the Mecca of England's Fashionable and Intellectual World-A Private Palace Where Once Gathered the Most Notable Men and Women of Their Times.

daughters are famous.

ing eagerly forward to a revival of the glories and hospitalities of Holland House, the most famous of London's historic mansions. Its new chatelaine, the reigning Countess of Hehester, whose husband succeeded to position to take the leading place among the great hostesses of the day. She is an Irish lass, the only daughter of the Marquis and Marchioness of is | Londonderry, and possessed of all the charm and vivacity for which Erin's

HOLLAND HOUSE HISTORY. The history of Holland House, for a hundred years from the middle of the 18th century, is almost the history of the British nation. It is of special interest to the United States, for two of its occupants in different years were William Penn, founder of Pennsylvania, and Gen. Fairfax, who gave so many Illustrious Virginian descendants to the United States. Its history deals with kings and queens and princes of the church, of politics, art and literature Romance, culminating in elopement and in marriage weaves its way through. Deadly duels have a place in it and ghost stories find a niche there. The greatest mystery of London soclety, concerning a woman, now a princess, had its day here. Here it was that the "great" Lady Holland had her salon, where congregated the wits of Europe. Here her amiable husband entertained the poets, authors and artists of his day. Here statesmen gathered and held their councils and to the

the universe. 300 YEARS OLD.

men and women of wealth, position and

celebrity it was almost the center of

Holland House was built in 1607, shortly after the death of Queen Eliza beth, but it only began to be celebrated on the advent of Addison, who married the widow of Lord Holland, the first of the Hollands to own it. It was built by Sir John Cope, who willed it to his daughter Isabella. The land belonged to the De Veres, and was bought from them just before the Earl of Oxford's head was chopped off and his property seized by the crown. Isabella married Sir Henry Rich. 'He was a younger son of the first Earl of Warwick by the latter's marriage with Penelope, daughter of Queen Elizabeth's favorite, the Earl of Essex. She was the "Stella" of Sir Phillo Sidney. Sir Henry was one of the leading courtiers of his time. He tried to negotiate a marriage for King Charles with the Infanta of Spain, but the lady refused. However, for his good intentions, he was made a baron and took the title of Lord Kensington from the location of his wife's property. He was soon afterward raised to an earldom and, taking the title of Earl of Holland, the house was christened Holland House, On his father's death, he became also Earl of , Warwick.

He champloned the cause of King Charles in the civil war, and when parliament had gained the upper hand, was arrested and lodged in the Tower of London. He secured his release and headed a plot on behalf of the dethroned monarch. For that he was beheaded. The commonwealth seized his property and Holland House became the headquarters of Cromwell's army, Gen. Fairfax resided there, and a huge staff of his officers turned the beautiful rooms into military offices, while Cromwell's bodyguard and several regiments attached to headquarters camped in the At the restoration the property was

Holland and Warwick. She did not live there however. From that time I may go to hell." the title early this year, is a brilliant woman and ambitious of social distinction. With Holland House at her disposal, and ample means, she is in a posal, and ample means, she is in a possible to the possible ants was William Penn. He lived there raised to the peerage, he took the extinct title of Earl of Holland.

> The house had already become cele brated in the literary and political world, for in 1716, Addison married Charlotte, widow of the Earl of Holland and Warwick, seventh of his line and the last of the line of original owners of the property. Addison is be. lieved to have cajoled the widow into marriage by his beautiful writing. He wrote an imaginary story about her and himself, telling of his love, of their marriage and of their great happiness. He went to Holland House one evening and read the story to her. She was enchanted and Addison quickly asked her to turn it into a true story. But the enchantment soon vanished after the marriage. Dryden and Swift were notable visitors at Holland House, but despite their efforts, Addison drank himself to death because of his marital unhappiness.

It was at Holland House that Goldsmith wrote his "Vicar of Wakefield" and here came Milton's daughter to bring Addison proof of her birth. The moment she entered Addison's presence, he cried, "Never mind the proofs, madam, your face is convincing proof enough."

ROMANTIC ELOPEMENT.

It was when the Hon, Henry Fox had bought Holland House that the romance of an elopement occurred. Fox was smitten with Lady Georgina Caroline Gordon-Lehnox, daughter of the Duke of Richmond and Gordon. She returned his affection, but her family looked much higher and had a suitor whom they said she must marry. She was to meet this suitor on a certain day and her father ordered her to prepare an elaborate toilette on the day appointed: Instead, she cut off her eyebrows, and when her father saw her in this plight, he sent her to her room and dismissed the suitor for the time being. Lady Caroline took advantage of the full to elope with Fox in a chaise. They were driven to the Fleet Prison and there married. She ruled as mistress of Holland House and was very happy.

Charles James Fox, a son of Lord Holland and the celebrated statesman and opponent of Pitt, succeeded to Holland House, but it reached the zenith of its fame during the occupancy by Henry Richard Fox, third Earl of Hoiland, the nephew of Charles James Fox. He was a mild, amiable and scholarly man, absolutely ruled by his wife, who was the "great" Lady Holland. She gave another twirl of romance to the house by cloping with Lord Holland from her first husband, Sir Godfrey Webster. After the divorce, Lord Holland married her. She was Miss Elizabeth Vassal, a great heiress and a born politician. Without question, she was the greatest "grande dame" of her time and perhaps the greatest England has ever had. Her salon was famous the world over. All the wits of the period, the best known men and women in Europe gathered beneath her roof. Some adored her, others hated her, all feared her and bowed the knee before her. It was hard to gain the entree, much harder than to go to court. Lady Holland with her smiles or frowns could make or mar great and small slike. A famous Italian scientist

who hated her, said, "In the hereafter if Lady Holland goes to heaven, I pray

DISTINGUISHED VISITORS.

be found at Holland House at this period were: Wilberforce, the philanthropist, Prince Talleyrand, Lord Mel-He was succeeded in possession of Hol-land House by his son, the fourth and last earl, who died in 1859. His widow sold the reversion of the property to the Earl of Ilchester and in the Ilches-

ter family, it is likely to remain. The mystery of the house was during the time of the "great" Lady Hol-land. Among its inmates was a young lady always introduced as Miss Marie She was supposed to be a very relation and was treated by Lord and Lady Holland as their daughter -in fact, she was their adopted daugh-

ter. She was a very beautiful girl and quite the belle of London. The young and immensely wealthy Marquis of Bute proposed for her hand, but Lady Holland absolutely refused to tell him anything of her parentage and absurbly books of the match when he ruptly broke off th insisted on knowing. Lady Holland proved to be the one could keep a secret, for her ward's parentage has never been revealed. London society for years was on the tiptoe of excitement regarding the mystery, and it only died out after the young lady became a royal highness through her marriage to Prince Leichtenstein of a minor state in Germany. TRADITIONAL GHOST.

Of course, there is the traditional ghost at Holland House, but he only

haunts one room, known as the Gilt room, which was the old ballroom. The ghost is said to appear at midnight and walk from one end of the room to the other, holding his head in his hand. The ghost is said to be that Earl of Holland, who was beheaded by Cromwell. Holland House is a huge palace, mel-owed by age. It is built of brick

with stucco and stone dressings, and in shape resembles the letter "H." It shape resembles the letter has a tower and a mass of turrets, parapets, gables and mullioned win-dows. New sections and decorations have been added from time to time. The late Lord Hichester built a ball room to it, costing \$150,000.

The many sumptuous apartments of the house are filled with treasures in the way of pictures, vases, china, glass and other ware, tapestries, antiquities and relics of tremedous value. It is surrounded by terraced gardens for a full half mile in every direction. There is the Italian garden, the Japanese garden, the old English garden, the semi-tropleal garden and the modern garden. The rose-walk is a solid mile of roses of all colors and sizes. There are arbors planted and named after great statesmen or poets or writers. There is a beautiful garden stairway of rustic beauty built by Inigo Jones and a poet's floral corner dedicated to

The house is approached on each side by a driveway half a mile long shelt-red by oaks. There are a mile or two of lawns and then come fields and woods. Behind the house and well away from it are the stables, kitchen gardens and paddocks for horses, cows

Outside the great walls of the estate are closely built streets and terraces and crescents erected on land from time to time chopped off the estate. A statue of the third Lord Holland of the second creation, which formerly stood well within the grounds, is now in one of the principal streets, gaz-ing silently at the continual procession of omnibuses and cabs. And yet with all this land cut off and sold for building purposes, there are miles of gard-ens, fields and woodland within the walls, which thus make Holland House "country estate" within the city of London. MAYNARD EVANS.

SPAIN IS BUILDING AN UP-TO-DATE NAVY.

ONDON.-Spain is making rapid progress with the rebuilding of her navy. The expenditure of about \$70,060,000, authorized by the cortes last year is being laid out to covIt comprises eight 14,000-ton battle vessels. Haif the ships must be built in KING'S FRIEND struction now under way, a complete reorganization and equipment of ti. arsenals, docks and yards at Ferrol. Cadiz and Cartegena has been under taken. King Alfonso is an active par-tisan of the navy and gives every en-

couragement to that branch of the gov-

the Emperador Carlos V, a protected cruiser of 10,000 tons, three belted cruis

up-to-date as possible. Old style bulk head doors had been provided for, but

when the authorities found out about

the new method of closing water tight doors by electricity a change was promptly made. These power doors, known as the "Long Arm" system, are the invention of an American paval officer, and are installed on nearly all the

new ships of the United States navy.

The object is to make ships unsinkable by providing this means of closing all their important bulkheads in time of

emergency from an electrical central

According to the latest information,

Spain has in commission three second-class battleships, four armored cruisers, 33 second and third class cruisers, nine

sea-going gunboats, 30 river gunboats, five destroyers, 13 torpedo boats and 29

miscellaneous vessels. By the time the program now being carried out is com-pleted, she will have brought her navy

up to such formidable proportions that it will have to be considered as an im-

portant factor in the balance of Euro-

pean sea power.

ers, Cardinal Cisneros, Cataluna Princessa de Asturias, and the tected cruiser Reina Regenta. A

Among other vessels now building are

Incident Which Has Caused Coolness Between American Duchess and His Majesty.

tract which has just been signed in London for electrical power doors for the Reina Regenta, now nearing completion at Ferrol, shows that Spain intends to make her new warships as MONARCH MUST BOW FIRST.

Independence—General Gossip By Lady Mary.

Special Correspondence.

ONDON, Oct. 26 .- Consuela Duchess of Manchester, is back at her house in Grosvenor square; Although in the heart of the smartest part of London, as far as decorations are concerned, this is a commonplace residence. The hall door with its trumpery brasses prepares the guest for the very ordinary style within. The duchess, of course, has some lovely bits of furniture, but they are mixed up with quantities of indifferent modern articles which ruin the effect from an artistic standpoint.

For the last few months, there has



KING CARLOS NOT WANTED IN ROME.

Just as the vatican authorities had succeeded in warding off the intended visit of the Spanish sovereigns to Rome because of the long standing refusal of the church authorties to allow a Catholic sovereign or chief of state to visit the pope while the guest or visitor of the Italian King, information has reached Rome from Portugal that King Carlos intends to pay a visit soon to his royal relatives at the Quirinal palace. Vatican authorities lost no time in conveying an intimation to the Portuguese government that such a visit would prove dis-

agreeable to the church authorities. King Carlos' itinerary will be watched with interest.