

The Prince and the American Senator's Daughter; Louis of Savoy No Half Hearted Wooer

ALTHOUGH theoretically America is not supposed to wax enthusiastic over princes, who among us is ready to deny that Louis of Savoy is a gallant fellow, a prince in every sense of the word, comely, with the looks and manner of a thoroughbred, competent in his profession, which is that of a sailor, and known far and wide as a singularly fearless and successful explorer and a modest record breaker in polar navigation? In undisputed possession of this satisfactory combination, he is worthy to become the husband of any American girl, and that he has chosen one of them for his life companion has not in any way detracted from the good opinion in which he was held long before he made up his mind that life without Miss Katherine Elkins would be too empty to be endured.

His only fault seems to be that he is a prince, a royal prince at that. Were he a nobleman of far lesser degree or even of bourgeois origin he would be accepted readily enough on his merits, but because he happens to be a member of one of the oldest and proudest reigning families in Europe, the grandson, son and nephew of men and women who have been crowned as sovereigns and is related closely to most of the reigning houses it is quite a different matter.

That Prince Louis' proposition to furnish the house of Savoy with a princess who is noble only in the literal American sense has been met with the most active opposition in practically all the courts of Europe is a matter of record. From the first it has been an exceedingly uncomfortable affair for his family, and the Italian nation has not shown its traditional sympathy in such matters. From the first no Italian has been able to see how the transformation of an American girl into a royal Italian princess, with the right of succession to the Italian throne, could be accomplished.

A Doleful Precedent.

There is no precedent to be taken as a guide unless the somewhat similar experience of Prince Louis' father and mother can be made to serve. It is not an experience that commends itself to the intelligent American girl. The prince's mother, a most estimable woman, was not of royal birth, al-

though she belonged to a family noble on both sides. Prince Amadeus was very much in love with her and determined to marry her in spite of the remonstrances of his family. Although the bride was a singularly beautiful, wonderfully clever and altogether fascinating woman, who before her marriage had been a welcome guest at all the great houses in the kingdom, she was treated very badly by the court ladies after the wedding. They refused absolutely to accord to her the homage due to the daughter-in-law of the king, and her life at court was made unendurable. It was on that account, rather than for any other reason, that

her indignant husband accepted the position of king of Spain when it was offered to him in 1870. The ill-treated young couple fancied that as king and queen of Spain they would not be subject to the indignities which they were made to suffer in their native Italy. That was the mistake of their lives. It was only another case of stepping out of the frying pan into the fire. In Madrid the young queen was boycotted even more cruelly than she had been in Florence, Milan and Turin. This organized social persecution was carried so far that the unhappy lady was unable to find any Spanish woman of the requisite

rank who was willing to act as her grand mistress of the robes or even as maid of honor. The grandezza appeared to be ready to accord to King Amadeus all the respect due to royalty, but they declined to extend a like courtesy to his wife. In time the situation became unbearable. All Spaniards of high degree seemed bent on ignoring the poor queen, and the journals were filled with lampoons satirizing her. The young king was so infuriated by this treatment of his wife that he abdicated the throne and returned to Italy only a few days after the birth of the Duke of the Abruzzi. The sensitive and gentle woman was

so overcome by the treatment she had received that she died soon after reaching home.

That sad and dolefully suggestive leaf from history would seem to be sufficient to cause any American girl to pause on the threshold. There is abundant evidence that it has had a deterrent effect in the case of Miss Elkins and her parents. Those who are acquainted with the senior senator from West Virginia are loath to believe that he could be influenced in any way to be a party to a transaction so antagonistic to his good judgment. In many ways he has made it plain that he is not at all dazzled by the prospec-

tive royal alliance. He has made no secret of his liking for the young man who is anxious to become his son-in-law, but he has been equally frank to say that he should like him even better as a plain American citizen.

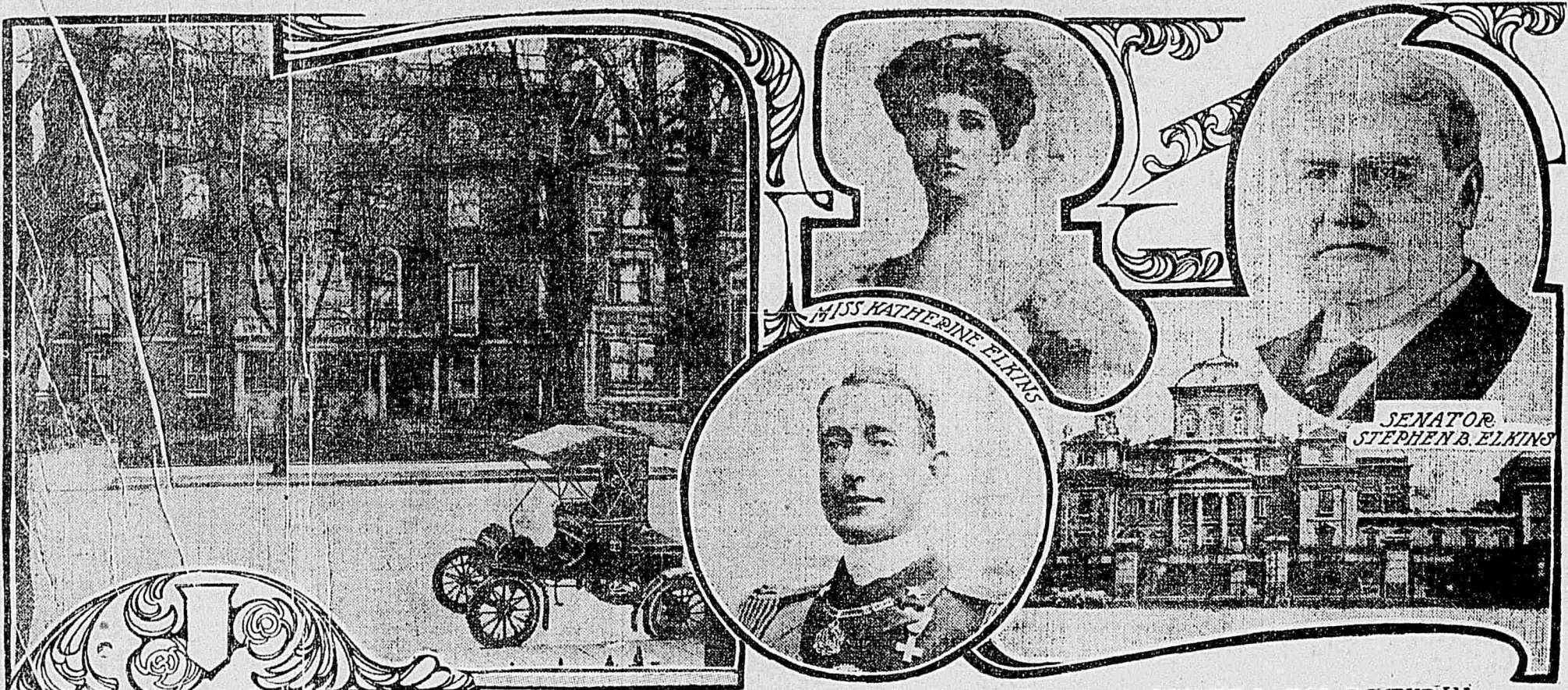
An Intolerable Position.

Unless the consent of the Italian royal family is given without reservation the position of any American woman married to one of its members would be intolerable in Italy. It might be infinitely worse than that of Prince Louis' charming mother. In that case King Victor Emmanuel gave his consent to the match and afterward be-

came devoted to his daughter-in-law. Miss Elkins as the wife of a prince of Savoy would be brought in more or less close contact with a large circle of female relatives who would have it within their power to make it exceedingly disagreeable for her at the Italian court. One of these would be the aged Duchess of Genoa, mother of Queen Margherita, sister of the late King George of Saxony.

There is nothing at all mercenary in the talk of marriage settlements. Prince Louis is a man of wealth, a member of one of the richest families in Europe and has been regarded for a long time as one of the most eligible men in the matrimonial market. There is scarcely a royal princess on the continent whom he might not have had for the asking. He has had many an opportunity to better his fortunes to an extent even beyond that afforded by the Elkins alliance. He has made it plain that he wants the daughter and not the millions of her father. It is a sad commentary on modern progress if some satisfactory way cannot be discovered to bring about a union of these honorable young creatures now separated only by the artificial barriers which rank imposes.

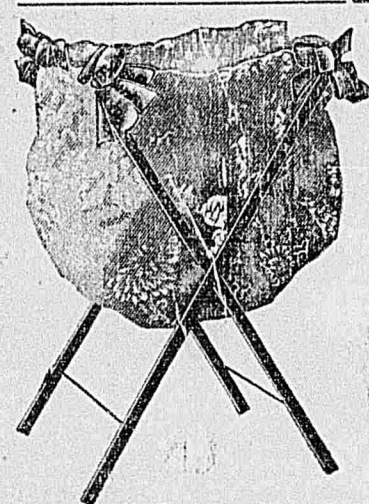
Prince Louis of Savoy has shown himself to be a man of infinite resources. The undertaking in which he is now engaged with all the energy of his splendid manhood is the struggle of his life, but his past achievements point alluringly to success. If he cannot succeed in overcoming the very natural distaste of the house of Savoy for what it must always regard as a misalliance, there remains another way out of the maze if he be here enough to take it. In 1864 Prince Frederick of Schleswig-Holstein, brother of the present German emperor's father, became a suitor for the hand of Miss Mary Esther Lee of New York city. Her family wouldn't listen to any suggestion of a morganatic alliance and declared that in order to obtain its consent the lover would have to abandon his prerogatives as a prince of the blood and descend to the rank of an ordinary nobleman. The prince accepted the terms and won his American bride. The union was a very happy one, and the pair were welcomed in the highest social circles in Europe. Why cannot Prince Louis follow that example? Katherine Elkins is worth it. GEORGE H. PICARD.



CHRISTMAS FURNITURE

In our specials next week we are showing several articles of furniture that will make appropriate gifts. These shown below are only a few taken from our large stock. Any article bought now will be held and delivered any time desired before Christmas.

YOUR CREDIT IS GOOD

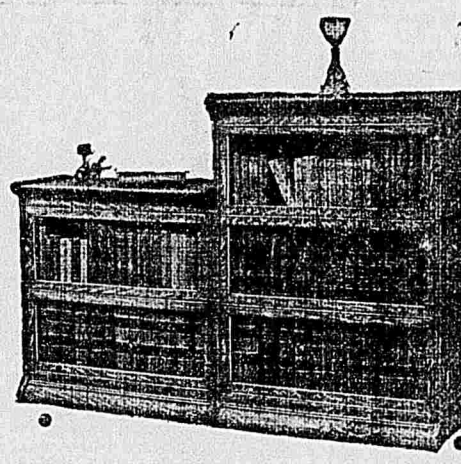


WORK BASKETS.

This is a special that every lady will want. It is 19 1/2 inches high and very strong; the metal legs are black and the bag is made of creton and comes in several colors. It is an excellent value. All next week for—

60c

These Specials Are On Sale All Next Week.



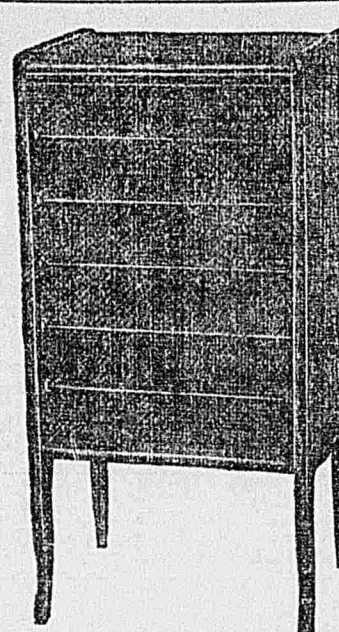
SECTIONAL CASES

Makes a very neat gift, and when you get the "Gunn" you know that you have the best. We show them in golden oak, mahogany and weathered oak.

SHIRT WAISTS BOXES.

We show a large line of these boxes and they are just the thing for women. Our special on these is one that is 28 inches long, 14 inches wide and 14 inches deep, lined inside with finished wood and the outside covered in either matting or green denim. All next week for—

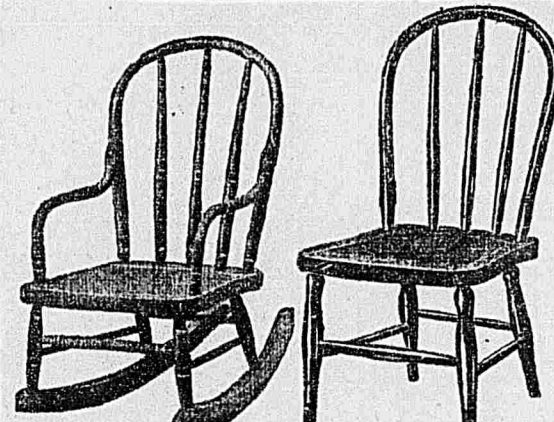
\$3.15



Music Cabinets.

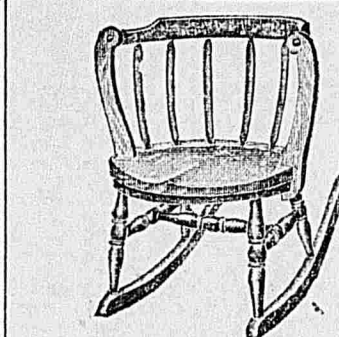
We want you to see this line we have as an inducement. Full sized cabinet. Has five shelves; mahogany finish; good and strong; also brass rod for curtains.

\$6.45



Childrens' CHAIRS & ROCKERS.

Are now in demand. Here is a chair and a rocker, just what the little ones want; of good size; red in color; very strong. On sale all next week.



This CHILD'S ROCKER is a beauty.

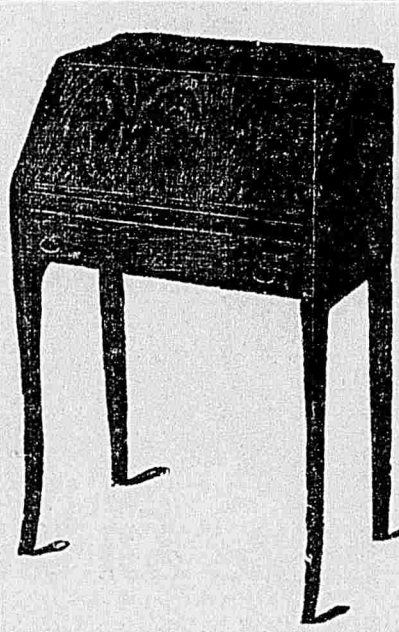
Solid oak, nicely finished and very strong. One of the best styles in child's rockers we have ever shown. On sale all next week.

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Ladies' DESKS.

Nothing so nice for ladies; full sized; mahogany finish; nice large drawer. A nice desk and a beauty for the money. All next week

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