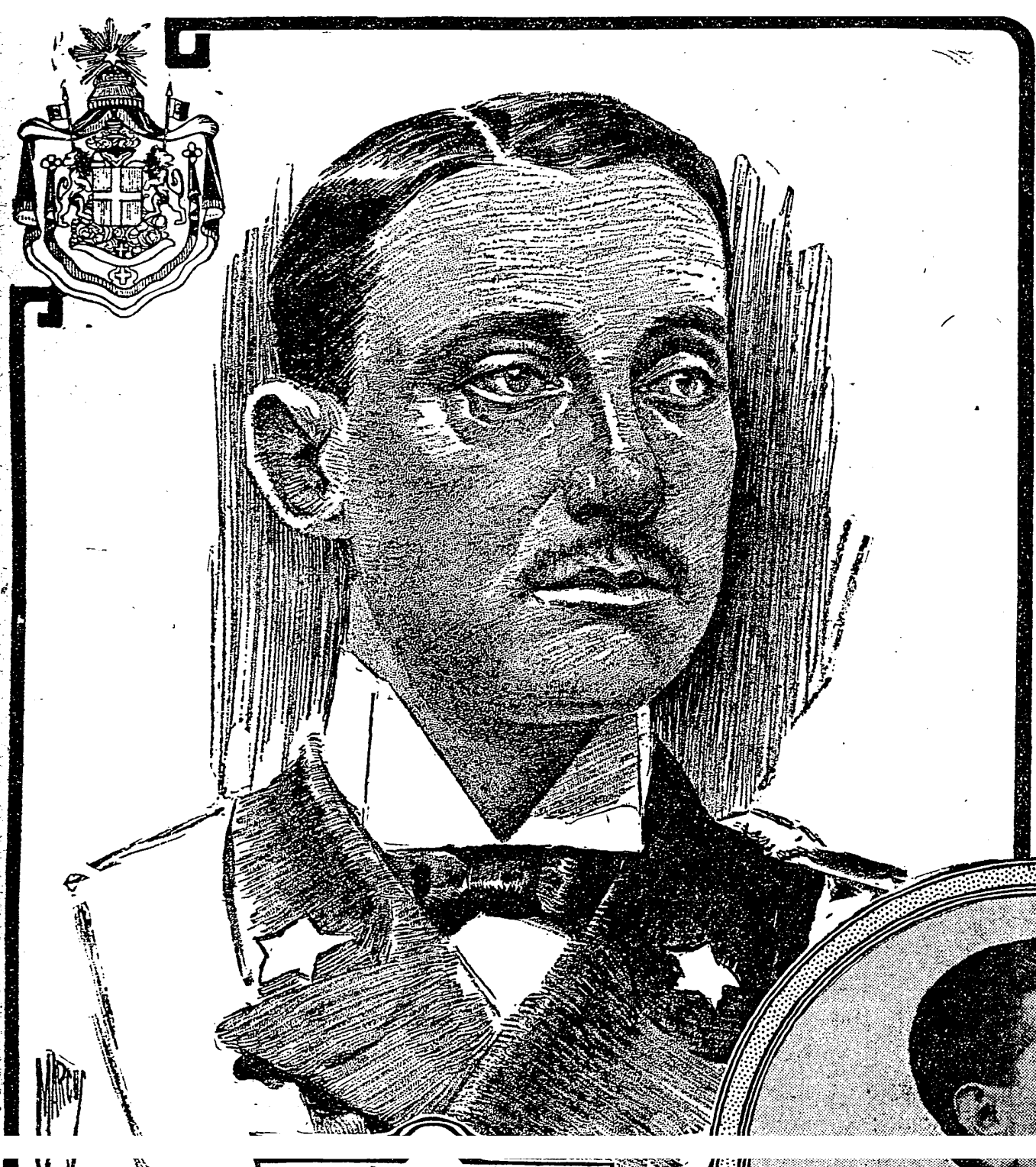


THE ROMANCE OF A DUKE AND AN AMERICAN GIRL



DUKE of the ABRUZZI

cupping a place on the throne she would be placed above the reach of any such treatment as she had received in Italy.



Nor, no matter what arrangement Senator Elkins might make with the Duke, would the Duchess enjoy the free control of her personal fortune.

Should the Rumored Marriage Take Place Between Prince Louis of Italy and Miss Elkins, Will the Bridegroom Renounce His Titles to Insure His Bride's Happiness?

By A VETERAN DIPLOMAT.

PRINCE LOUIS of Italy's application to the Naval Department at Rome for furlough next month, coupled with his request to King Victor Emmanuel for permission to leave Italy in order to visit England, has naturally served to revive all the rumors concerning his alleged engagement to Miss Katherine Elkins, and it is reported that the visit to England will be extended to the United States, for the purpose of making the final arrangements for an early wedding.

to the union, that he should abandon his status, his titles, and his prerogatives as a Prince of the blood and descend to the rank of an ordinary noble, so as to be able to wed his American bride on a footing of equality.

Renunciation of Royalty. There is only one condition upon which the Senator and Mrs. Elkins should permit their daughter to wed Prince Louis of Savoy, that is to say, if they wish for her happiness—namely, they should insist that, like Prince Frederick of Schleswig-Holstein, he should renounce his membership and standing as a member of the reigning house of Italy and as a Prince of the blood, should abandon his place in the line of succession to the throne, and should descend to the rank of a mere ordinary Italian noble, obtaining from his cousin, King Victor Emmanuel, the title of Count or Marquis, or even of a non-royal Duke.

Reason for Silence. There is only one explanation of this extraordinary silence on the part of those chiefly concerned in the engagement, already an accomplished fact—namely, the pronounced opposition of a member of the reigning house of Italy and of the other sovereign families of Europe to the match.

This was what the present King of Sweden's sailor brother Oscar did when he fell in love with and married Miss Ebba Munk, who was maid of honor to his mother, the now widowed Queen Sophia, and a daughter of one of the oldest houses of the proud Swedish aristocracy.

There is plenty of precedent, therefore, for Louis of Savoy in the matter. If he is so deeply infatuated with Miss Katherine Elkins he will find it no sacrifice to surrender for her sake his place in the line of succession to the throne, and his rights, prerogatives, and honors as a Prince of the blood, contenting himself with his rank in the navy and his fame as an explorer.

It is doubtful whether Miss Elkins and her relatives—or, rather, I should say, the people who wish to see her wed Prince Louis of Savoy—have any notion of the humiliations, the slights, and the "misères" of every kind that await her in the event of her becoming the wife of the Duke of the Abruzzi without his having followed the example of Prince Oscar of Sweden and of Prince Frederick of Schleswig-Holstein in descending to the status of a noble for her sake. It betrays a complete ignorance of the conditions which pre-

vail in Rome, and also in the other capitals of monarchical Europe, to imagine for one moment that Miss Elkins, as the wife of Prince Louis of Savoy, would be treated on a footing of equality or as a Princess of the blood by the members of his family or by any of the foreign reigning houses, either in their own countries or when visiting Rome. She would always be made to feel that she was not in the manner born, and that she was in their eyes an intruder and a parvenue.

Americans and Royalty. Were Miss Elkins to come among them as the wife of a mere noble they would welcome her with that same friendliness that they have manifested toward certain other American women who have married into old Roman nobility.

Spain before she had sufficiently recovered her health and strength to travel in midwinter that she died almost immediately after reaching Italy.

Her father, the Prince de la Cisterna, it is true, was a mere Italian noble, though one of ancient lineage, and it was precisely because this singularly beautiful, wonderfully clever, and altogether fascinating woman was so badly treated by the great ladies of Florence, Milan, and of Turin, who refused to accord to her the homage due to the daughter-in-law of the King, that her husband, Amadeus, accepted the offer of the throne of Spain in 1870, glad to get his wife away from the affronts and humiliations with which she was beset both by day and by night in his father's dominions.

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QUEEN MARGHERITA OF ITALY

brought up from their earliest life among surroundings that would lead them to regard any such match as a mesalliance, deplorable from a dynastic and from a political point of view.

Thorny Road of Princesses. To begin with, Princesses of the blood—and in that category I include the full-fledged wives of royal and imperial Princes—are subjected to an amount of discipline and constraint of which few people in this country have any conception.

This is what happened to Emperor and Empress Frederick when they were still Crown Prince and Crown Princess of Germany. They had incurred the ill will of Bismarck by their undisguised distaste for his despotic methods and by their liberal views and leanings, and accordingly he got even with them by inducing old Emperor William to assign to duty as aids de camp, as gentlemen in waiting on the Crown Prince, and as Chamberlains and ladies in waiting on the

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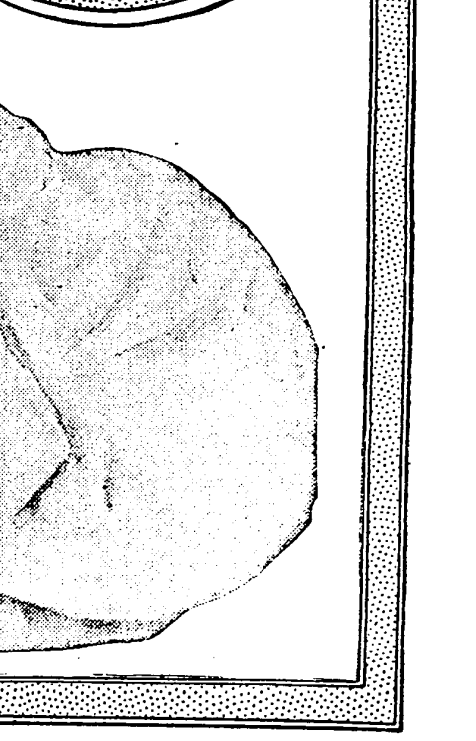
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Crown Princess people who were devoted to his own interests and policy. The Crown Prince and his wife, the latter a sister of King Edward, were perfectly aware that they had been in this fashion surrounded on every side by people who were not merely uncongenial but actual enemies and ready to report in a prejudiced light everything that they saw and heard to their patron, the Chancellor. But they could not help themselves.

Education of Royal Children. In the same way Prince Bismarck insisted upon selecting men offensive in every respect to the Crown Prince and Crown Princess as tutors and teachers of their sons, and this went on until in two instances the nominees of the Chancellor, notably a certain Capt. O'Dane, were discovered to be such blacklegs and such scoundrels that a scandal ensued and the Crown Prince and Crown Princess pleaded with success to be allowed at least some voice in the education of their boys.

Thus, were the American Duchess of the Abruzzi to have any children, she would be obliged to submit to the possibly friendly, but possibly, also, unfriendly, dictation of the King and Queen in the rearing of her offspring and in their bringing up. The youngsters would be amenable to their direction, not to hers. It is the King and Queen who would determine the choice of the children's medical attendants, and of their religious instructors, and the Duchess would not be permitted to take her children out of the kingdom, or even to any Italian Summer resort, without the consent of their Majesties.

The King and Queen would likewise have their say in the selection of the friends and acquaintances of the Duchess, and might, if they felt so disposed, forbid her from receiving this or that person, or from visiting some one else to whom they had taken exception. All this may sound exaggerated, and even incredible to American ears. But there are plenty of instances which could be cited in support thereof.



asylum for the insane, although it has been established since that she has never at any moment been crazy, but only misguided.

Case of Brotherly Affection. While of course we are no longer in the eighteenth century, when King Frederick William of Prussia had determined upon the decapitation of his son, afterward Frederick the Great, for a revolt against parental tyranny, was only prevented from putting his design into execution by the interference of the Austrian, the French, and the English Ambassadors, who went so far as to threaten war in case the Crown Prince was sent to the scaffold, yet it must not be forgotten that at the present moment an Austrian Archduke—namely, Louis Victor—has been kept in strict confinement in a remote mountain chateau near Salzburg for several years past, in the closest seclusion, by order of his brother, the Emperor, without any legal process whatsoever.

The youngest son of Grand Duke and Grand Duchess Vladimir has just been banished by the Czar to Siberia on account of his refusal to abandon his project of marrying a danseuse of the St. Petersburg opera; while another Grand Duke—namely, Nicholas Constantinovitch, brother of the Queen of Greece—spent thirty years of his life closely imprisoned in a Transcaucasian fortress without any legal process, but as a punishment for indiscretions of speech, correspondence, and behavior in connection with his infatuation for a Philadelphia woman, Mrs. Blackford alias "Fanny Lee."