

CLEVER MARGOT TENNANT

The leader of London society to-day the woman most talked of and envied and admired, is neither titled nor very beautiful; she does not possess wealth to distinguish her above her contemporaries and she achieved her place as a leader when she was scarcely 21.

This unusual young woman is Mrs. Asquith, much better known by her maiden name of Tennant, for Miss Margot Tennant was easily recognized in the heroine of that book of short-lived celebrity, "Dodo," when it appeared some years ago and created a mild sensation.

"Dodo" undoubtedly made Miss Tennant's name known far and wide, but for all that it ludicrously misrepresented her and failed to do justice to the true abilities of this really remarkable young woman in whose name can be put forward several claims to consideration. First and foremost, Mrs. Asquith was one of the very few women outside the circle of his own nearest feminine relatives to whom Gladstone gave a truly beautiful friendship and devotion.

She was perhaps the only woman with the exception of his wife and daughters, with whom he loved to talk, whom he admitted to his library while he worked and to whose opinions and ideas he listened with pleasure and respect. She was always treated far more like a daughter than a guest at Hawarden, both by the great man and his wife, and all the more interesting is this association when one considers not only the vast disparity between their ages, but between this grave statesman and the most frivolous young lady in London society.

However that may be, Miss Margot Tennant was invariably pointed out to strangers as the protegee of the grand old man, and as the woman who dared fly in the face of all the most sacred traditions on which the British maiden modeled her deportment. The British matron held up her hands in horror and fought for her old prerogatives but Miss Tennant won the day and gained a social freedom for the young people of her sex and position that had never been known before in London society. For a number of seasons she fairly held the reins in her own hands, and fearful was the end predicted for her by the gossips. She was the creator of semi-mystic, semi-literary society called the "Souls," and, with Mr. Arthur Balfour as her lieutenant in the movement, she gathered some of the best minds in England about her.

In time the newspapers came to seriously chronicle the doings of Miss Margot Tennant as they would those of the queen and the prime minister, and when the irate conservatives in society were at end of all patience with this gay, clever, sarcastic little Phillistine, she overturned all their predictions by giving her hand in marriage to one of the ablest and most serious young politicians, Mr. Asquith. As if to prove the infinite variety of her talents, Mrs. Asquith settled down at once to the duties of wifehood and motherhood and showed as marked a capacity for these graver callings as for the lightest frivolities.

Gossiping dowagers, who predicted dire misery for whomsoever she might marry, have been amazed to see her assume a stately position as a matron in society. To be bidden to her days at home, to her literary luncheons or to her dinners is to be more honored than to receive the invitation of a duchess. To her gladly come the great men and the most brilliant and beautiful women of the time, and her home is a center for the learned, the witty and the famous. Yet her own accomplishments are few. She speaks several languages and is widely read, but that is all. As the eleventh child of Sir Charles Tennant she received a goodly portion at her marriage, but no great fortune. In a roomful of beautiful women she is almost insignificant. Her husband will probably never be prime minister and he is far from a millionaire, and yet Mrs. Asquith is by right of her wit, her quick sympathy, her courage and her candor the woman in London who commands a position duchesses might envy and wield an influence that few princesses know.

BRIGHT HEARTS.

There are souls in the world who have the gift of finding joy everywhere, and of leaving it behind them when they go. Joy gushes from under their fingers like jets of light. Their influence is an inevitable gladdening of the heart. It seems as if a shadow of God's own gift had passed upon them. They give light without meaning to shine. These bright hearts have a great work to do for God.

EXCUSABLE.

Smith—Yes, I saw your son in the city. He's making a name for himself.
Farmer Slaughenaupt—Sho! So the old name ain't good enuff? Wa-al, I don't know ez I kin blame him much, considerin'.

MORE EFFECTIVE.

Fond Mother—If that young man should take advantage of you and try to kiss you, what would you do?
Dutiful daughter—I should remind him that I had a mother whom I love very dearly.
Fond Mother, after reflection—I think, dear, you had better remind him that you have a father.

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STORY ABOUT DREYFUS.

THIS CELEBRATED CASE MAY CAUSE A GREAT WAR.

History of the Trial and Punishment of the French Officer Who is to be Re-Tried—Others in the Case.

For years the sale of information of French military plans by officers in confidential positions has been suspected. Military secrets have become known repeatedly, and the greatest trouble is that they have become known to Germany, between which country and France the score of Alsace and Lorraine is still unsettled. Many efforts were made to detect the traitor, but without result. In the fall of 1894, Col. Henry, who has just confessed and killed himself, notified the Minister of War that certain documents had been sold to foreign powers. He declined to disclose his informant's name. All that he could say was that his informant was a trustworthy person.

A rigid surveillance was established over the employes of the War Department. Nothing was discovered. Subsequently a document, a memorandum of papers in the War Department, which was said to have been found in the waste paper basket of the German Embassy, was placed in the hands of the Minister of War. It was examined by experts in handwriting. Two of them thought that it had been written by Capt. Dreyfus. Three others thought it was an imitation. The only other evidence against Capt. Dreyfus was the statement of Commandant Du Paty de Clam, that when he had examined the prisoner he noticed facial movements that indicated guilt.

THE ACCUSATION.

Alfred Dreyfus was a captain attached to the Fourteenth Regiment of Artillery of France, and was detailed to duty at the Ministry of War in Paris. He was a Jew, and religious animosity early entered into the case. The specific charge against Captain Dreyfus was that he had sold to Germany for 500,000 francs, \$96,500, information regarding the French army. The proof offered was a letter without date or signature, said to be in the handwriting of the accused captain, containing a list of five other documents relating to secret details of the French service, and alleged to have been seen with it. This is the famous "bordereau." It was torn in four pieces when found. Translated into English, it read:—"Having no news from you, I do not know what to do. I send you in the meanwhile the condition of the forts. I also hand you the principal passages of the firing instructions. If you desire the rest, I shall have them copied. The document is precious. The instructions have been given only to officers of the general staff. I leave for the manoeuvres."

A MYSTERIOUS LETTER.

This document was the only direct proof. At the end of his trial, however, a mysterious letter was brought in, read by the judge, but not shown to the prisoner or his counsel. This mysterious letter, is one which Col. Henry now confesses forging. It is one of three letters said to have passed between Col. Schwarzkoppen, late German military attaché in Paris, and Col. Panizzardi, Italian military attaché there, containing allusion to military information, furnished by one "D." It reads as follows, and was alleged to have been sent by the German to the Italian military attaché:—"I have read that a deputy is going to make an interpellation on Dreyfus. If (here the letter is unintelligible) I shall say that never have I had relations with this Jew. That is understood. If you are asked, say the same, for nobody must ever know what has occurred with him."

All the while that Dreyfus was on trial on the charge of having sold secrets to the German Government, it was maintained by the government that France had not been betrayed to it. It is even said that Emperor William wrote to M. Casimir-Perier, giving his word of honor as a man that Dreyfus had not betrayed France for the German Government, adding that, if necessary, he would give "his word as an emperor, with all its consequen-

ces." The Germans denied all knowledge of the documents.

HIS PUNISHMENT.

The farcical secret trial of Dreyfus has been repeatedly described. He was kept in close confinement from the time of his arrest until his conviction, not even his wife being allowed to see him. On the morning of January 5, 1895, on the parade ground of the Ecole Militaire, this spectacle took place: Five thousand soldiers were drawn up, and back of them was massed a large proportion of the Parisian populace.

Between two armed guards marched a pale little man in full uniform and wearing glasses. At his side hung a sword and on his shoulders were the epaulets of a French officer. Stepping before him, a tall man in the uniform of a general officer, said:—"Alfred Dreyfus you are unworthy to carry arms. In the name of the soldier and the people of France, I degrade you, the soldierly first, the people afterward."

Then the regimental adjutant snatched the sword from Dreyfus' side, broke it across his knee, and flung the pieces to the ground. Next the buttons, the gold lace, and the epaulets of the captain's uniform were stripped off, and, while pale and trembling he asserted his innocence, Dreyfus was led about the square, black with people, the drums rolling and the Parisian mob crying "Death to the traitor!" In the hope that Dreyfus would commit suicide before being transported, every opportunity was given to him by his keepers, who left a loaded revolver near him. He made no attempt upon his life.

HIS IMPRISONMENT.

Dreyfus' imprisonment began in the fortress of the Ile de Re, off the coast of France but this was too near home, and he was taken to the Ile du Diable, off the coast of French Guiana. The group to which it belongs is a penal colony, desolate and full of malaria. In addition to being confined where the climate breeds death, the French Government, fearing attempts to rescue him might be made, built a steel cage around his hut in the middle of the island, at an expense of \$12,000. There he is watched night and day, asleep or awake.

Persistent efforts have been made to re-open the case. The Government has always held it to be a chose jugée, taking the ground that any revision was an impeachment of the honor of the army. The wife of Captain Dreyfus pleaded with the Czar of Russia, the Pope, Franz Josef of Austria, Emperor William and the King of Greece to intercede for her. They did, but without avail, for the French Chamber of Deputies refused to re-open the case. This pressure, however, had the effect of causing Gen. Mercier, the Minister of War, who was largely responsible for the bringing to trial of Dreyfus, to make some disclosures in regard to the secret court martial. Through the newspapers he described the letter which Colonel Henry now admits forging as proof conclusive of Dreyfus' guilt.

THOUGHT TO BE INNOCENT.

Last November, the excitement in Paris reached fever heat from the fact that M. Scheurer-Kestner, vice-president of the French Senate, had expressed his firm conviction of Dreyfus' innocence, and declared that his conviction was a judicial error. M. Scheurer-Kestner further declared that a rich and titled officer, well known in Paris society, had been requested to resign in consequence of the continued leaking of military secrets since the imprisonment of Dreyfus. He also declared that this officer was the author of the unsigned letter or bordereau which led to Dreyfus' condemnation.

This man was Count Ferdinand Walsin Esterhazy, formerly a major in the French infantry. Others took the matter up among them Mathieu Dreyfus a brother of the captain, and Paris was again stirred to the core. It was charged that Dreyfus, being of Hebrew extraction, the plot was concocted as a blackmailing scheme against him in 1893, when an anti-Semitic movement swept over Europe. Dreyfus and his wife both being wealthy, it was charged that the documents were forged in order to bleed him and his wife.

A beautiful adventuress also was said to have been used as go-between and a catspaw by the blackmailers. Her house was the resort of several French officers and foreign diplomats. It was alleged that Dreyfus had called at her house several times by invitation, and there a plan for the mobilization of troops in a clever imitation of his handwriting was produced. Captain Dreyfus, it was said, refused to pay the sum demanded, knowing it would be an admission of his guilt and would furnish grounds for further extortion.

ZOLA COMES INTO IT.

Esterhazy was subjected to a secret enquiry lasting several weeks, then was tried by court-martial and acquitted.

All the while Emile Zola had taken a great interest in the Dreyfus case, and at the close of the Esterhazy trial wrote his famous "J'accuse," an open letter to President Faure. It was published in the Aurora, and Zola and M. Perreux, the publisher, were arrested. They were tried last February at the Seine Assizes for criminally libeling the officers of the Esterhazy court martial, and incidentally the officers of the Dreyfus court martial. Each was sentenced to a year's imprisonment and a fine of 3,000 francs.

Zola appealed and the Court of Cassation annulled the verdict on technical grounds. The second trial took place in May, and the same sentence



as had been imposed upon Zola and Perreux at the Seine Assizes was found. Zola fled to Switzerland.

THE RETORT EFFECTUAL.

The French Ambassador of the day complained to a bright Englishwoman of high rank because her country failed to intervene in the Franco-Prussian war, ending his diatribe with the remark, "After all, it was to be expected. We used to think you were a nation of shop-keepers, and now we know you are. And we, said she, used to think the French a nation of soldiers, and now we know they are not."

CHANGED CIRCUMSTANCES.

They say that Mrs. Bondy throws on a great deal of agony since they became suddenly rich. Well, rather. That woman used to walk in her sleep. Now she gets up and rides a chainless bicycle or orders a carriage.

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NOT THE FLOATING KIND.

Briscoe—Did you ever cast your bread upon the waters?
Rogers—Yes, once.
Briscoe—And did it return after many days?
Rogers—No. It happened to be some my wife had baked, and it sank immediately.

A WEDDING PRESENT

Of practical importance would be a bottle of the only sure-pop corn cure—Putnam's Painless Corn Extractor—which can be had at any drug store. A continuation of the honeymoon and the removal of corns both assured by its use. Beware of imitations.

GOOD MEASURE.

What was the heaviest fee you ever got? asked the pert young lawyer of the Nestor of the bar.
A yearling calf and a load of pumpkins; aggregate weight a ton and a quarter.



FACTS IN ENTOMOLOGY.

You haven't any screen to your window.
No; but flies won't come in at the open window while they have that screen door to crawl up and down on.

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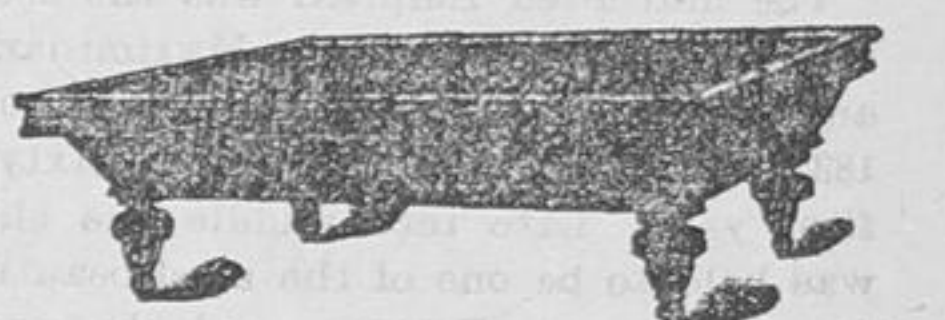
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