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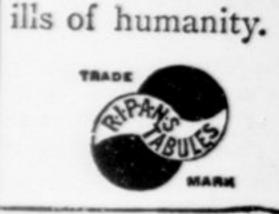
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mie Spence, a well-known charwas one day driving cattle

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"As happy as a queen!" How keenly do we realize the incongruity of this time-worn and rather pleasant exhistories were recorded in their sad, hopeless hearts when they bowed as the of arms. most abject of slaves to the decrees and customs, perhaps centuries old, of their royal race, and to the cold, pompous etiquette of their courts. How they simple life of the common-born of the earth in their lonely and somber magnificence.

There are few stories more sadly interesting than that of the wife of Charles II., of Spain, Marie Louise, niece of Louis XIV., and granddaughter Charles I. of England, a fair girl forced to marry a man whom she had never seen, but whom she knew too well as Like all unhappy princesses of France, doomed to marry Spanish kings, she regarded her destiny with dread and Sorel was the son of Charles VII. So the flatterers and favorites of Chrisst of McAllister's Hotel, Lambton aversion. Transferred from the gay court and intellectual life of France, Fontainebleau and then escorted to the Spanish frontier where the sad-hearted bride was to meet her couriers. Charles II. in his impatience to see the young queen went to meet her at Quintanapalla, a wretched village of a few peasant huts, and he decided to have Louise saw him arrive from the balcony of the hovel where she was resting. Prepared as she was, she was shocked at the sight.

Charles II. was born in the days of his father's deepest humiliation, and when the cadaverous, proud, but gentle-hearted monarch was in a dying state. His appearance is thus described b yan English ambassador: "The king's ankles and knees swell, his eyes bag, the lids are as red as scarlet, and the rest of his face is a greenish-yellow; the whole crown of his head bald."

This was the man who rushed up the steps leading to the room in which sat the miserable and trembling Louise.

After her solemn entry into Madrid, the young queen began the life she was destined to lead to the end of her brief existence; a life combining the jealous seclusion of the harem, the lugubrious monotony of the cloister Louis XVI. she was the most beauti and the iron tyranny of Spanish etiquette. The gloomy, desolate palace at Madrid was a sorry contrast to her former free, happy life. The unfortunate queen found small comfort in the company of the king, who adored her; if the devotion of an idiot was worth anything, no woman ever had to watch over the unhappy woman. He more of sucn.

Her married life lasted ten years. and after her sudden and tragic death deeper into a melancholy lethargy. Not long after her death, the strange longing came upon him, so distinctive of the last days of nearly every member of the Austrian house of Spain. He, the last decrepit relic of a great race, would descend into their mausoleum. and by the light of torches all the coffins in the dark vault of the Pantheon were opened for him in order. When the coffin of Marie Louise was opened and he saw the form and still charming features of her who had brightened his dark life and brain for awhile, tears streamed from his eyes and he fell with outstretched arms on the bier, crying; "Before a year is past will come and join you."

Surely this visit of the last descend ant, of the house of Austria to the Pantheon, this king stealing in and out among the coffins, is one of the most pathetic in history. It was the last review of the whole departed grandeur of their race-the fiery courage of Charles the Bold, the imperious spirit of Charles the V., and the scheming brain of Philip II. ended here.

Nor was the life of Queen Marie, who married Charles VII. of France, of the happiest. The young queen had an affectionate and versatile character selfish woman, Christina, proved not and bore a great love for the king, but the great queen whom Gustavus Adamid the pomp and magnificence of olphus hoped to leave as his successor their court life she carried a heavy to the crown of Sweden. It had been

favorites with a strange facility.

The dog, unknown to him, preference sometimes to one and some- of conduct she displayed proved her to butcher's about the line of governing herself. into a butcher's shop, and ran times to another, according to the be incapable of governing herself.

There was a fascination in her li with a leg of mutton; whereupon forces they brought to support his There was a fascination in her lively butcher issued forth; whereupon forces they brought to support his intelligent and earnest conversation butcher issued forth and collared cause. Agnes won and held the intelligent and earnest conversation that might have won confidence, but demanding if that was his dog. king's admiration by her gaiety, her that might have won confidence, but replied Is replied Is not be soon convinced her subjects by her aw," replied Jamie, slyly eyeing laughing, merry moods and her polishlaughing, merry moods and her polishlaughing merry m

sense of the services she had rendered that, uncertain as the wind, she was to apathy as regards state affairs; she ad- of the moment was worth. vised and encouraged him, and, indeed, The coronation of Christina took

its appurtenances to Agnes Sorel, nam- one jot of her programme diminished. ing the place "Manoir de Beaute." She won the dislike of the Swedes by ation was most gloomy, and it is not him. much wonder that her strong, fine To console herself for her uncongenof character won his confidence and even- ial surroundings, Christina determintually his deepest love. It is not ed to become the patroness of learning, most repulsive in appearance and with in the ruins of the Castle of Chinon side over the most brilliant court in mental qualities little above idiocy. were shown the subterranean vaults Europe as well as the most learned that lent their shadows to these secret one. Famous singers, dancers, and interviews.

intense became his hatred of her that tine who swayed her by humoring her she in time exiled herself from the follies, was Count Magnus de la Gardie, court to reside at the "Manoir de whom she sent on a special embassy the young creatures were immured in Beaute," where she died in 1449. Her to Paris, and caused such costly arthe somber and monotonous palace-life body was carried with great pomp and rangements to be made that Oxenstiof Spain. Marie Louise made more ceremony to the College Church of erne thought it right to remonstrate than one pathetic appeal to her uncle Notre Dame; her heart was taken to with her. The finances were greatly sicians, Edinburgh, Scotland. Of-and Residence, opposite Temperance in vain. She was married by a provided by a p the Abbey of Jumiege. So ended the embarrassed by the continuance of war in vain. She was married by proxy at who left her simple village home for the Besides the large sum he was to remagnificence and circumstance and ceive for the expenses of his embassy, court she conferred upon her favorite a Contains . . The happiest days of Marie Antoi

nette were passed at Little Trianon. When playing the part of a dairy-maid at her little farm, the queen exclaimed: "God be praised. I am no longer a sovereign." At this time the affairs the marriage take place there. Marie of the nation were becoming more tumultuous; the people who were starving in the streets had reached the pitch of indignation and fury.

"We have no bread in Paris," they said; "let us seek the baker at Ver-

A little company of them traveled five leagues on foot to Versailles, reaching the palace at daybreak. Louis XVI. received them with his usual kindness and in response to their clamorings gave them an order for pro-

In 1790, the royal family left Trianon and traversed Paris, amid insults and threats. As the mob crowded about them, Marie Antoinette appealed to them: "See, see, we are stifling." "We will stifle you in another way

cried the maddened rabble. "Why do you insult me?" asked the queen of a young woman, bolder than the rest. "You have caused the misfortunes of

a nation," replied the enthusiast. Marie Antoinette began in a storm her life which was to end amid a vic lent eruption. When she wedded ful princess in the world, "tall, slender and graceful-a true daughter of the Tyrol." At that time she was the idol of those who destroyed her. the last days of the beautiful queen were spent in that horrible prison, the Conciergerie. Under the pretext of giving her someone to whom she could make known her wants, they sent a spy was a cumning knave, Barassin by name, a thief and murderer by profession, who had spent fourteen years in irons in prison. Such was the honest by cholera, the king sank deeper and personage who acted as valet-de-chambre to the queen of France. Some days before her death the functionary was removed and a gendarme stationed in her room as a sentinel, who watched day and night at her side and from whom she was not separated, even at night when asleep upon her bed of rags,

except by a miserable tattered screen. To this end the daughter of the Roman emperor had come, before whom all Europe had bent the knee, upon whom every honor had been lavished. and for whom the world's treasures had

been opened. October 14, 1793, her trial began; she was accused of having plundered the French nation, of having engaged in criminal correspondence with foreign powers, of having 'aided in the flight of her husband, and of contriving recent massacres which had been perpetrated in different parts of France. The jury, after deliberating about an hour, returned the verdict-"guilty."

On Wednesday, October 16, this unfortunate victim of popular fury was conducted to the spot where Louis had previously suffered. The people who crowded the streets as she passed exhibited neither pity nor compunction, and she met her fate with utmost com-

The brilliant, pedantic, eccentric and blazoned abroad that the youthful Her brother's wife had brought to queen was the most learned princess the court among her maids of honor in Europe, if not the most accomplisha young and beautiful girl of some sev- ed woman of her times. But the hardy enteen years named Agnes Sorel. With Swedish nation, who had been proud of her beauty she had the sweetest spirit the military ascendancy which their the "Chronicle" is the on'y and "her eloquence was so much beyond country under countr tern Untario Newspaper in ed upon as a prodigy." Her wonderful intelligence and grace of conversa- time not a single printing press in tion as much as her beauty won for Sweden, or a bookseller's shop even in Agnes Sorel the favor of Charles VII., Stockholm. They were not slow to a man easily moved in his thoughts and discover that their queen, though reintentions, taking up and leaving his puted a classic scholar and able to discourse fluently on theology and philo-Besides being influenced by certain sophy, was as incapable of wisely gov-Edinburgh, accompanied by women, the king was politic and gave erning her country as the singularities women, the king was politic and some-

erring quadruped, "he was once ed conversation; besides possessing waywardness, restlessness of mind, and ed conversation; besides possessing waywardness, restlessness of mind, and waywardness of purpose, that no but he seems to be daein' for these qualities, she was the youngest want of steadiness of purpose, that no and fairest in court. She had a keen reliance could be pleased in he

the king by awakening him from his be trusted only for just what the mood

inspired all the energy which the young place in the cathedral of Upsala with king displayed. When the taxes were such magnificence as the simple Swedes not paid and the states general only had never before witnessed or dreamed AT TH. CHRONICLE PRINTING HOUSE, CARAFRAXA STREET gave subsidies on very hard conditions, of. The arrangements for the cerepression when reading of some of the it was Agnes Sorel who engaged her mony were planned by the queen, herearlier European queens. What tragic friend, Jacques Coeur, to make heavy self, with no regard for expense. Her advances to the extent of 10,000,000 senators murmured at the cost. owcrowns to recover Normandy by force ing to the almost bankrupt state of the exchequer, but with an imperious RATES The king presented a castle with all air, the young woman refused to have

Agnes took the name henceforth of proclaiming her aversion to them, and "Dame de Beaute." It was to this by the lack of interest she showed in must have longed for the free, happy, castle that Charles came to regain his the affairs of state. She cared not courage in the midst of the sadness to govern at all, and the admonitions and discouragements of his reign. Her and advice of her chancellor, Oxensvigorous resolution and firm judg- tierne, bored her excessively; yet she ment impelled the king towards strong appreciated the fidelity of this able and courageous measures. She came statesman and left the troublesome and into his life at a period when the situ- distasteful matters of state entirely to

> known precisely when the king first she invited to her court the most disloved this girl; their interviews have tinguished virtuosi and learned men remained a mystery. Not long since of her day; her ambition was to preactors were invited to enliven the The most persevering enemy of Agnes | court with their presence. Among grant of crown lands that provided him a great income. De la Gardie afterwards offended her so deeply that she instantly banished him forever from her court.

She had long tired of being queen, and as a profound secret, told the ambassador of her intended abdication. He endeavored to persuade her from it, but she replied that it were better for Sweden to have a king and that Its Local News is Complete. she have the freedom of private life. Christina arranged the ceremony of her abdication, which took place in the cathedral of Upsala in June, 1654,

"Arrayed in a white dress and the royal robes of purple velvet, with the crown on her head, the queen stood on lity involved her in pecuniary difficula dais under a canopy. She desired ties, and a vivid regret for the regal that someone would step forward and state which she had cast aside often take the crown from her head. No betrayed itself. In 1660 the death of one was willing. She repeated this re- Charles Gustavus induced her to request many times, and at last com- turn to Sweden with the view of remanded Baron Steinburg to do it. He suming her crown, but the Swedes gave obeyed and placed the crown on a her no favorable reception and refuscushion. Her attendants, at her command, then divested her of her robes, and she turned and bowed to the prince, wished him success in the management of the kingdom, and withdrew. The following day she left Upsala, exclaiming, "At last I am free and out of Sweden, where I ihope never to return."

The following year she abjured the Lutheran faith, and by this act, more than by all the follies of her reign, alienated the affections of the Swedes. She had turned aside every principle that Gustavus Adolphus had followed; she had now cast off their religion and they never forgave her.

had so longed for did not bring her died alone and unmourned at the age the contentment and enjoyment she of 63.

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had expected. Thoughtless prodigaed to confirm her revenues until she had signed a formal act of renunciation to all claim to the throne. She thought it prudent to return to Rome, and there her salons were frequented by the learned men of all countries who visited Italy.

Her indiscreet language having caused Alexander VII. to remonstrate with her, Christina was so deeply offended that she again turned her steps toward Sweden. So stringent and mortifying were the conditions of her residence in Sweden, sent her by the senators, that she indignantly rejected them and returned to Rome. There the unhappy ex-queen in self-imposed The freedom of private life which she exile remained until 1689, where she

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