

COUNTESS CASSINI'S NEXT APPEAL TO SOCIETY



Hopes to Break Down Barriers Through Success on the Operatic Stage

Out of Paris the other day came a story that interested the civilized world. It concerned a young and pretty woman.

"Something of a sensation," the news dispatches stated, "was caused by the fashionable singing school conducted by Jean de Reszke because of the expulsion of one of his most promising pupils without explanation."

"It was learned that the expelled pupil was discovered to be the author of a series of anonymous letters addressed to M. de Reszke and attacking the character of Countess Marguerite Cassini, niece and adopted daughter of the former Russian ambassador at Washington."

"Ever since Count Cassini left America, the countess has lived in Paris, studying under Jean de Reszke, with a view to appearing in opera. She has made excellent progress and is almost ready to make her debut."

"It is said that jealousy her success was the only motive of the anonymous communications in which she was attacked. The countess was greatly distressed over the incident, as the writer of the letters was a supposed friend."

Back of the simple statement made above is an interesting story that has had its various chapters written in widely separate parts of the earth—and always with a dashing young girl as its central figure.

It hasn't been so many years since the Countess Cassini, niece and adopted daughter of the Russian ambassador, was regarded as the albatross of diplomatic circles. No one knew what she would do next.

When the ambassador was transferred to Madrid, the dashing, unconventional young countess, pushed out of the annals of Washington life. It was generally supposed that she had gone to the Spanish court with her uncle and foster father.

Many who thought so had their first enlightenment through the news dispatches telling of the flury Jean de Reszke's Paris school. It was not generally known that the countess was preparing for a career upon the operatic stage.

Why? was the question that sprang to hundreds of lips in social and diplomatic circles. Why should a young woman of such distinguished position and wealth wish to pass through the grinding stages of preparation for opera, unless with another object than that of the honors attained by the successful prima donna?

Who one imagines—not even herself, perhaps—that the Countess Cassini will become a new Melba, Tetrazini or Mary Garden.

But, it is whispered in Paris, one may possess sufficient talent, lifted into high operatic possibilities by artistic training, to attain a commanding position on the stage, society may fall at her feet—and this, it is whispered again, is the secret motive that animates the young woman's operatic studies.

She wishes to conquer the society that has been rather coldly disposed to her throughout her career in diplomatic circles, her newest attack upon its stronghold is to be made from the operatic stage.

"Few women have been so generally discussed and talked about as she has been," is the tongue of gossip at the Countess Cassini.

Gossip and "lady" with her when, at the age of fifteen years, she was the head of her mother's household in Pekin—she was then representing his country at the court of the Flowery Kingdom. Her beauty and accomplishments, in addition to the romance of being so young a hostess, should have made her a leader, even at that age—and she was pre-eminence in social diplomatic circles.

It was, however, that the wives of other diplomats had ideas of their own. They may or may not at their possessing legs have set in motion certain rumors and opinions regarding the household of the Russian ambassador at any rate, the Countess maid found an exceedingly frosty reception wherever she appeared.

All this might have been objected, of course, if the Russian ambassador, a widower of several years standing, had seen fit to take to himself another wife, an older woman, to be head of his household. That he was so thoroughly wrapped up in the duties of advanced and voluptuous charges whom he called his niece did not

strike the other women of the diplomatic service favorably.

Try as he would, Count Cassini could not remove the frosty barriers erected against his protégée. Diplomatic society in the Chinese capital was in an unfavorable frame of mind. So Count Cassini asked to be transferred, and was given the post in Paris.

"To the French capital the ambassador and the young girl went gladly. They believed that Paris society would deal more graciously with the dashing young woman; they opened wide the doors of the embassy, and with lavish hospitality entertained at some of the most brilliant functions of the year.

But the rumors that had gained credence in Pekin had preceded the fair Russian to the French capital, and she was treated coldly, not being accepted as "a lady of the diplomatic corps." Her position as "niece" in the ambassador's household did not seem to make the impression she and Count Cassini desired.

It was largely because of this second disappointment that Count Cassini again sought a transfer, and this time was sent to represent his government at Washington.

Both the count and the young woman hoped that in the breezy capital of the new world's greatest nation they would enter upon a new and commanding social career, with no searchlights turned on the disappointments and heartburnings of the past.

"At this time," said a writer in describing the latest addition to Washington's diplomatic circles, "Marguerite Cassini is a little globe of molten brightness and exquisite loveliness. Her eyes are large and soulful, her face the most expressive and characteristic feature of her face. An abundance of glistening curls crown her Greek-mocked head and fall in short ringlets about her brow and throat.

"Her skin is wonderfully white and smooth for one with such dark eyes and hair, the only bit of brilliant coloring about her face being her full lips, which are deep crimson."

"She is an accomplished athlete, being an active member of several sporting clubs; she is an enthusiastic horse-woman and driver, handling the reins with as much ease as she takes a fence on the back of a hunter. She has won several championship cups on the golf links, is fond of wheel riding and likes sports of all kinds."

When the young woman arrived in Washington, however, she found that her social aspirations were not fore-ordained to a flowery bed of roses. There were more than rose leaves crumpling the couch; there were thorns of an unmistakable character.

The wives of several European diplomats, headed by the Baroness von Hengelmüller, wife of the ambassador representing Austria-Hungary, refused to acknowledge Marguerite Cassini as the ambassador's niece in the ambassador's household and she was a pretty temper in the diplomatic respect at Washington.

Perhaps most newsworthy readers remember the site that the young Russian woman, caused during President McKinley's administration by her determination to assert her position. The czar had conferred upon her the hereditary title of countess, and as the head of the ambassador's household, would give her at all public functions the rank and precedence of an ambassador's wife.

This was unusual and contrary to the usages of the courts of Europe, it was said; at any rate, the diplomatic corps in Washington declined to abide by it. A meeting of the ambassadors was called for the purpose of settling the matter.

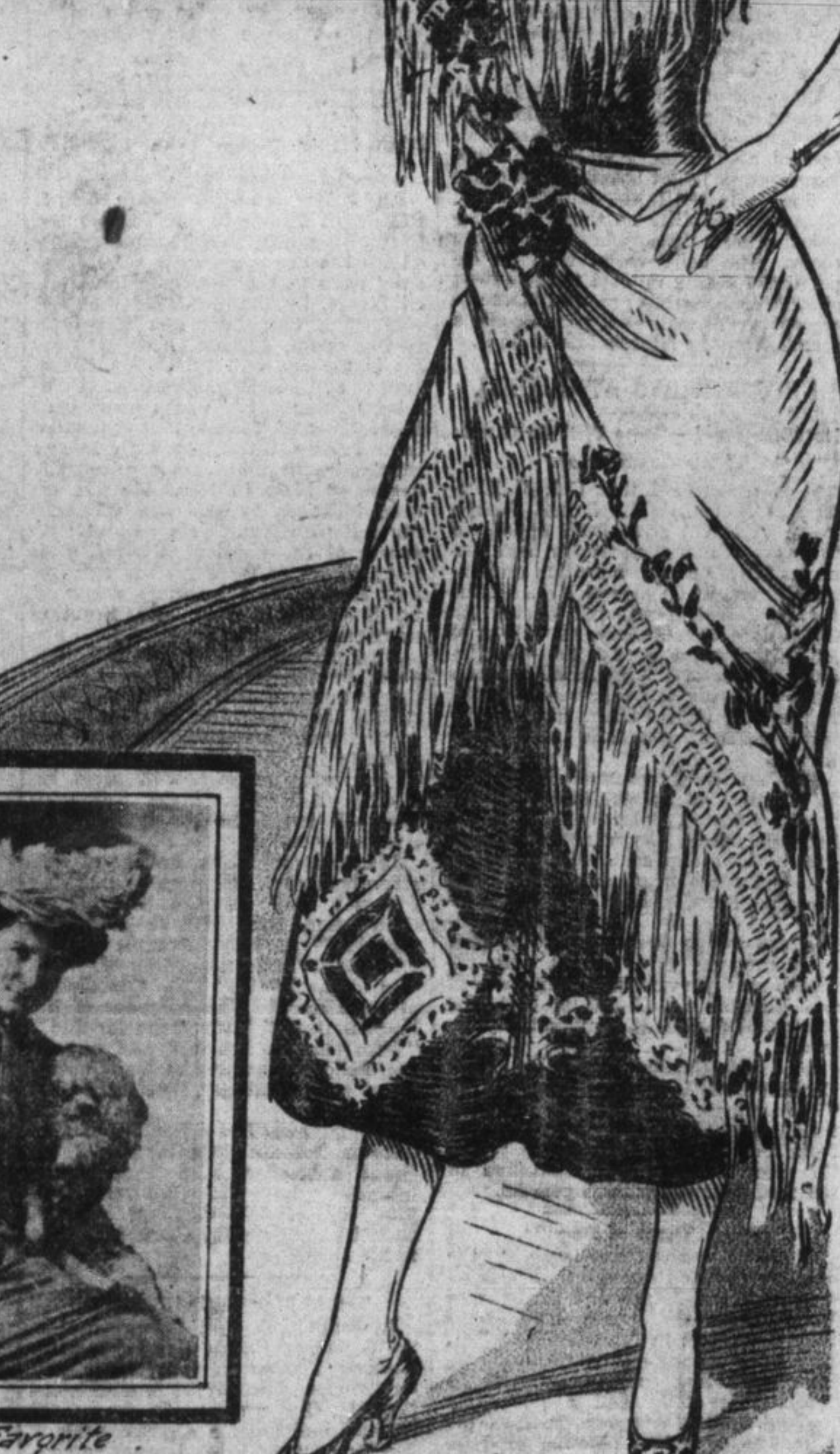
It was gone about in this way: Lord Pauncefote, dean of the corps, issued invitations for a dinner party, with Count Cassini and the countess among the guests.

The countess was assigned to a table place among the other young women present—a place to which no official significance could be made to attach.

Another dinner was given the following week by M. Cassinon, at the French embassy, at which the Pauncefote president was followed, then came a similar affair at the home of the German ambassador. That, if seemed, settled the matter so far as the diplomatic corps was concerned.

The young countess, not a little nettled, announced her intention of seeking recognition by President McKinley. She declared that at the state dinner to be given at the White House she proposed to rank next to Lady Pauncefote, and it was asserted that she hoped the Russian ambassador to go to the front—and make a personal plea at the White House for her.

When the time drew near for issuing the invitations, a curious condition of affairs presented itself. Lady Pauncefote, wife of the dean, was in court mourning and could not attend the White House dinner; the German ambassador had no wife; the wife of the



One of Her Favorite Photographs

Photo by Clinchard

Count Cassini, Formerly Russian Ambassador to Washington



Countess Marguerite Cassini

from Washington to Madrid the young woman did not accompany him. There were certain matters about which the Madrid court is reputed to be the strictest in Europe.

Instead she went to Paris and began studying for the operatic stage. Should she prove a great success she may yet have the world of society at her feet and score a sweet triumph over those who have turned the cold shoulder upon her in the past.

Health For All Children. Disease attacks the little ones through the digestive organs. Baby's Own Tablets are the best thing in the world for all stomach and bowel troubles of children. They act quickly and are absolutely safe. If necessary the Tablets can be crushed to a powder in water. Mrs. Wm. F. Gray, St. Elvans, P.E.I., says: "I know of nothing to equal Baby's Own Tablets for the cure of stomach and bowel troubles. I cannot speak too highly of this medicine and do not feel safe without a box of Tablets in the house." Sold by medicine dealers or by mail at 25c a box from The Dr. Williams' Medicine Co., Brockville, Ont.

Foolish Burglar. Westminister Gazette. A story, said to be new, of Balzac, is related by a French contemporary. A burglar gained admission to Balzac's house, and was soon at work by the secretaire in the novelist's chamber. Balzac was asleep at the time, but the movements of the intruder aroused him. The burglar, who was working most industriously, paused. A strident laugh arrested his operations, and he beheld by the moonlight the novelist sitting up in bed, his sides aching with laughter. "What is it that makes you merry?" demanded the burglar. "I laugh," replied the author of "Pere Goriot," "to think that you should come in the night without a lantern to search my secretaire for money, when I can never find any there in broad daylight."

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They are a great nerve strengthener and blood maker. In boxes, 25c., at Wade's drug store. Money back if not satisfactory.

Royalty On The Hill. When Andrew B. White was minister to Germany, he received some queer letters from Americans. Perhaps the funniest of all was a manditory epistle from an old lady living in the west, who inclosed in her letter four pieces of white linen, each six inches square. "We are going to have a fair in our church," she wrote, "and I am making an autograph quilt. I want you to get me the autographs of the emperor, the empress and the crown prince, and tell them to be very careful not to write too near the edge of the squares, as a seam has to be allowed for putting them together."

It is said to be unlucky for any one to put up an umbrella in a room—except an auctioneer.

State of Ohio, City of Toledo, I am a Lucas County. Frank J. Cheney makes oath that he is senior partner of the firm of F. J. Cheney & Co., doing business in the City of Toledo, County and State aforesaid, and that said firm will pay the sum of ONE HUNDRED DOLLARS for each and every case of Catarrh that cannot be cured by the use of Hall's Catarrh Cure.

FRANK J. CHENEY Sworn to before me and subscribed in my presence, this 6th day of December, A.D. 1886. (Seal) A. W. GLEASON, Notary Public.

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Synopsis of Canadian Northwest HOMESTEAD REGULATIONS.

ANY even-numbered section of Dominion Lands in Manitoba or the Northwest Provinces, excepting a section of 20 acres, may be homesteaded by any person the sole head of a family, or male over 18 years of age, to the extent of one-quarter section, or 160 acres, more or less.

Application for homestead entry must be made in person by the applicant at a Dominion Lands Agency or Sub-agency. Entry by proxy may, however, be made at an Agency on certain conditions by the father, mother, son, daughter, brother or sister of an intending homesteader.

An application for cancellation must be made in person. The applicant must be eligible for homesteaded entry.

DUTIES.—(1) At least six months' residence upon and cultivation of the land in each year during the term of three years.

(2) A homesteader may, if he so desires, perform the required residence duties by living on farming land owned solely by him, not less than eighty (80) acres in extent, in the vicinity of his homestead, joint ownership in land will not meet this requirement.

(3) If the father (or mother, if the father is deceased) of a homesteader has permanent residence on farming land situated wholly by him, not less than eighty (80) acres in extent, in the vicinity of the homestead, or upon a homestead entered for by him in the vicinity, such homesteader may perform his own residence duties by living with the father (or mother).

(4) The term "vicinity" in the two preceding paragraphs is defined as meaning not more than nine miles in a direct line.

SYNOPSIS OF CANADIAN NORTHWEST MINING REGULATIONS. COAL.—Coal mining rights may be leased for twenty-one years at an annual rental of \$1.00 an acre. Not more than 2,500 acres can be leased to one applicant. Royalty, five cents per ton.

QUARTZ.—A person eighteen years of age and over having made discovery may locate a claim 1,500 feet by 1,500 feet. Fee, \$5.00. At least \$100.00 must be expended on the claim each year, or paid to the Mining Recorder. When \$500.00 has been expended or paid and other requirements complied with the claim may be purchased at \$4.00 an acre.

PLACER MINING CLAIMS generally, 100 feet square. Entry fee, \$5.00. **DRIFTING.**—Two leases of five miles each of river may be issued to one applicant for a term of 20 years. Rental, \$10.00 a mile per annum. Royalty, 2¢ per cent after the output exceeds \$10,000.

W. W. CORY, Deputy of the Minister of the Interior.

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