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THE AMERICAN GIRL.

AND MRS. WILCOX PREFERS HER TO THE IMPORTED BELLE.

A Multitude of Virtues-Early Flirting-The Reign of Belledom-Chaperoning Young Ladies an Admirable Custom-Sweetest and of Proudest Wives and Most Devoted of Mothers. (Copyrighted, 1887.)

A foreign-born gentleman who had travelled the earth over told me that American girls were in every respect the most charming and agreeable in the world.

naturally he considered them inferior to foreign-born gentlemen. They annoyed him by talking trade, and as for their habits he referred me to the condition of public stairways and conveyances of travel. "It is declared that the Englishman

his umbrella," he said; "well, the American ought never to go over to portal unaccompanied by his cuspadore, for the sake of dressed, the most original women in the

That was his opinion. Having never travelled far into foreign lands I am only able to compare our own girls with the few imported belles whom I have met, and I must confess my preference for the native

The American girl has a multitude of virtues, and a few faults. Where so many brilliant qualities send forth their splendor of light some shadows must naturally fall. "Old country" parents regard female children often as incumbrances, always as

inferior possessions. Girls are taught to stand in awe of their brothers, and to regard men generally as superior beings. Not so the American girl. As soon as she is born she rules the

Brothers are made to stand aside as pages, or to run as courtiers to this new queen. The American small girl hurries through her childhood as fast as the years will permit, eager to enjoy the privileges she sees accorded her older sister. She is inclined to be pert and critical of her elders, and

very frequently needs repressing during this period. She stares boldly at strangers, comments upon their peculiarities, and giggles audibly as they pass by. She learns better manners, however, as she grows old-One of the first phrases which fasten itself upon her impressionable mind is mamma's assertion, that "she is a perfect little

flirt." As the assertion is accompanied by a smile she early conceives the idea that to be a perfect little flirt is a most desirable accomplishment. At fourteen she is immature in body, but precocious in mind, and she begins to think about beaux.

She does not entertain ideals of marriage. save in a vague way, she is in no haste to become a wife.

It is her reign of belledom she longs to see inaugurated. Unlike her foreign sister, freedom and pleasure signify the years of girlhood lying between the school-room and

During that period she expects to enjoy all the delights of liberty in the land of the free and the home of the brave. Her expectations are generally realized. She is allowed to walk, and talk and drive and dance with youths of her own age, and her very independence is her protection.

Because she is expected to be prudent she is prudent. She is like the young bird, pushed to the edge of the nest and left alone and told to fly.

It is expected to maintain its equilibrium in the intoxicating air, and it seldom

The American girl seldom loses her head, or meets with disaster as the result of her freedom of action. She who does would have been as liable to meet it in the guise of a tutor or priestly confessor, had she been never so carefully guarded in court circles

or nunnery. Of this phase of the American girl the foreign-born gentleman differed with me. He believed her as most charming crea ture, but the very freedom and liberty of action which had rendered her charming he

He liked her easy manners, admired her bright conversation and perfect deportment, but he regretted the circumstances to which

she owed her sang froid. He thought her situation full of dangers, which she could not in every instance be

wise or strong enough to resist. He cited various instances where, entirely unknown to the parents, he had made the acquaintance of unchaperoned young ladies on railroad trains, or during their visits to

school-mates in neighboring towns. "No man would like to think his wife had ever been guilty of such indiscretions," he said, "yet no man is quite sure that any American girl he meets in society may not

have indulged in some foolish flirtation escapade, so great is the liberty allowed young ladies in this country." As I was aware that the speaker had made strenuous efforts to obtain an Ameri-

can girl for his wife, his arguments failed to carry the conviction with me they otherwise

might have done. Still, I must admit that the growing custom of chaperoning young ladies is an admirable one. I have talked with several married ladies upon this subject who have said: "I am glad no chaperone was considered necessary when I was a girl; yet I

would not allow my daughter to go about as unprotected as I used to go for any consideration." The American girl is not an ideal daughter. As a rule she is something of a tyrant in her home, and inclined to rebuke her parents if they displease her in any way. She has been reared to regard herself of foremost importance, and she expects every-

thing and everybody to conform to her wishes. Once taught respect to her elders she becomes the most devoted of daughters. At a sea-shore resort last summer a young lady who was deemed one of the belles was constantly scolding her doting mother for the most trivial things, as we have heard a cross nurse scold a refractory child. Had she heard the comments of disgusted listeners she might have been surprised at the esti-

mation in which her belleship was held. The American girl craves conquest as much as any general who ever marshalled his forces for battle. She enjoys playing with dangers, and possesses a spirit of independence which is worthy of her Pilgrim

Her head is level and her heart is warm, and, when once her affections are won, she makes the truest and proudest of wives, and the most devoted of mothers.

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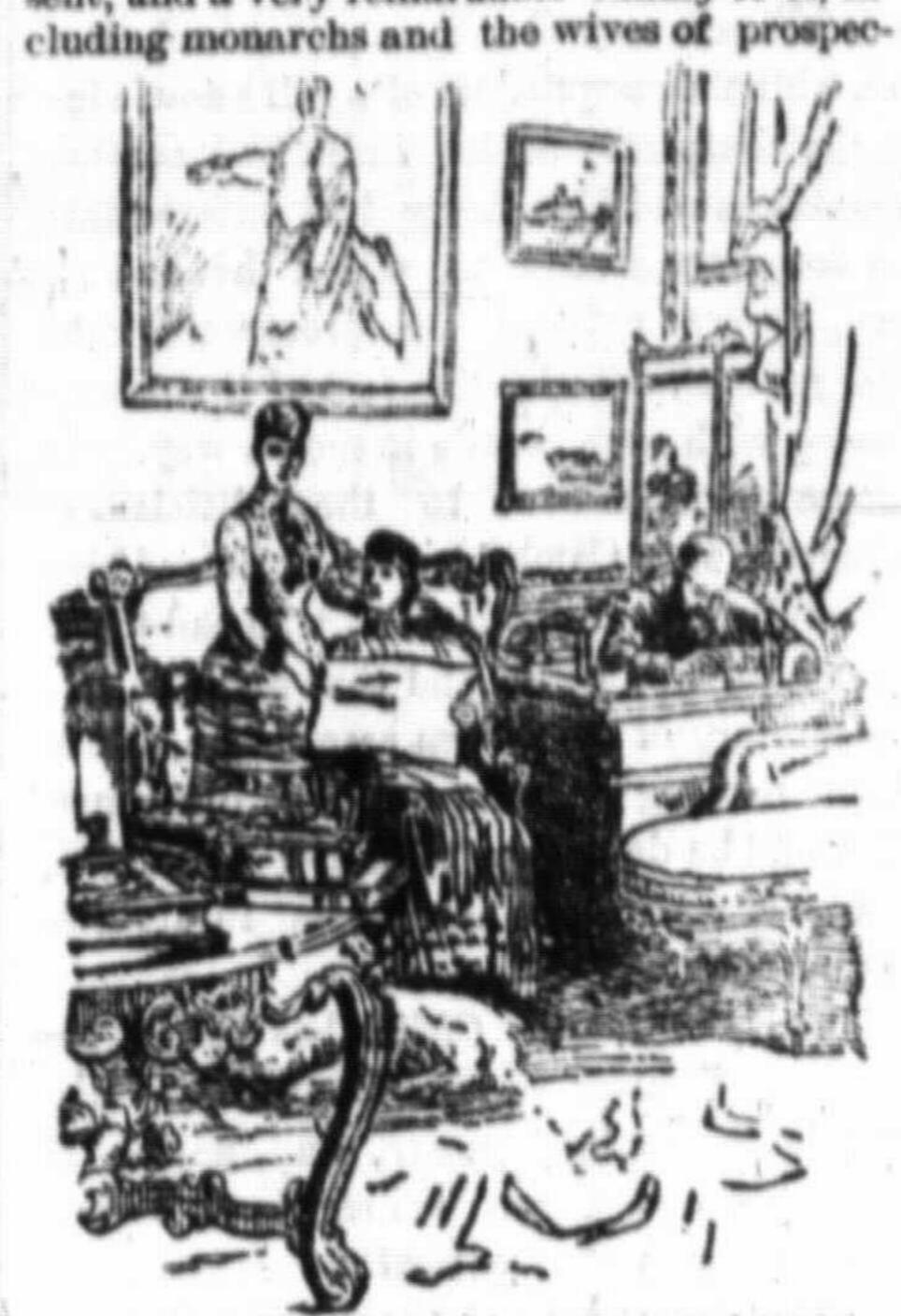
St. James' sale on December 15th.

THE CZAR IN DENMARK

Pictures of the Czar and His Family and the King and Queen of Denmark. The czar of Russia has lately laid aside his iron clad overcoat and put the fear of Nihilists from before his eyes while visiting his mamma-in-law the queen dowager of Denmark. The good old lady is now 70, and on

her last birthday she had all her family pre-

sent, and a very remarkable family it is, in-



tive monarchs from England, Greece and Russia. Indeed, the queen of Denmark is noted in Europe as the most successful matchmaker in history; for though her original rank was not high and Denmark is not even a second rate power, yet one of her daughters is the princess of Wales, while another is czarina of Russia. No royal personages in the world are more popular than those two ladies. The czarina is regarded by the Poles as their special protector, and even the Russian Nihilists admit a regret that she is officially their enemy, while the general affection felt for the Princess of Wales has long been noted. Princess Dagmar has had a rather sad history. She was engaged to the oldest son of the late czar and loved him so devotedly that when he died she begged the privilege of retiring from public life; but for reasons of state she was persuaded to marry the next heir, the present Czar Alexander. He was deeply attached to the Princess Marie Metzchersky, but gave such persons gave little promise of happiness; yet the czar and czarina are most devoted to each other, and their domestic life is singularly happy-when they are free from the dread of assassination. They were married in 1866, and have three sons and two daughters.

The czar enjoyed himself in Denmark like a boy let out of a hard school. He is quite an athlete, extremely fond of sports as well as of music, and is a skillful performer on the French horn. How happy such a man might be in a private station; but the life he actually leads in Russia is demonstrated (in spite of official lying) by these two little incidents: Baron Reutern, his aide-de-camp, slipped away from the imperial presence one day to enjoy a quiet cigar, and while smoking was surprised by the czar; the baron hastily thrust his hand behind him to hide the cigar, and the czar, thinking he was reaching for a pistol, and having his own in his hand, shot him dead! Some years ago a servant employed in the park unexpectedly met the czar, and in his awkwardness made some peculiar motion with his hand; a guard concealed in the shrubbery near by took this as a sign that he was a Nihilist assassin and shot him summarily. What must be the feelings of a man so suspicious of all who come near him? Ah, better is a dinner of bean soup in peace, tow linen and corduroy, than such constant dread, though with the richest viands, diamonds galore and a boiled shirt that buttons at the



THE CZAB AND HIS SONS.

Americans, in view of some events in their civil war, are inclined to feel friendly to Russia; and we might wish Alexander III all possible peace and happiness if we could only forget Poland and Siberia. But when we read the moderate manifesto of the Russian reformers, and know that many of them, for no crime but asking for more freedom, have been doomed to Siberia; and when we reflect how many thousand Polish patriots have dragged out lives of misery in that cold land, we must conclude that the equities forbid peace and comfort to such rulers. Many apologies are made for Siberia, and undoubtedly real criminals are sent there; but, thanks to the daring representatives of the press, the world now knows as much about that dreary region as we know of British America.

Irkutsk, capital of eastern Siberia, is 3,000 miles from Moscow, and is nominally the destination of political exiles; yet, in fact, many of them are sent nearly or quite 3,000 miles farther-to Verchoiausk, the coldest inhabited spot in the world, almost within hailing distance of the Arctic ocean, where the ground never thaws a yard deep in the hottest summers; where only two or three short lived vegetables can be grown; where the mercury often goes to 85 degs. below zero, and is never above zero from November to April! There these unfortunate men, most of whom are gentlemen of some culture and refinement, linger the dreary months away in yakoute huts; and such is the power of woman's love, many a devoted wife who might live at ease in Russia travels all those weary miles to live and die with an exiled husband. And it is proved beyond doubt that hundreds of these men are innocent of any crime, even of thinking treason, but are sent there by the connivance of enemics and officials; husbands exiled that their wives may be a prey to local despots, rivals in business or love, convicted by perjury, and not a few men of exceptional talents simply on suspicion and lest they might kecome dangerous. In the central and southern sections, where there are five months of mild weather in the year, escape is possible, and the records show that one-third of the colonist exiles escape from Torusk; but from the dreary "tundras" of the north there is no issue but in death. We need not, therefore, wonder that Nihilism is on the increase, and that, in hourly dread of death; the oppressor is as miserable as his victims.

Education is the leading of human souls to what is best, and making what is best out of them. -Ruskin.

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