

THE WEDDING

AT

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DAME WINDSOR'S,

AND

WHAT WAS SAID ABOUT IT BY
RELATIONS AND FRIENDS,

AND BY THE

BOYS OF ST. STEPHEN'S SCHOOL.

LONDON: A. RITCHIE, 15, WINE OFFICE COURT, FLEET STREET.

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15, WINE OFFICE COURT, FLEET STREET, LONDON.

was when I first saw the vessel.”

The Wedding at Dame Windsor's.

WHAT RELATIONS SAID ABOUT IT.

DAME WINDSOR is a widow, a little over fifty, of ample fortune, and possessor of several spacious houses. Her husband, good soul, who was universally respected, died suddenly, to the deep regret of every one, and left her with a family of nine children, five of which are daughters, two of them being unmarried. Her eldest daughter, who was greatly esteemed, on account of her comeliness and graces, was united, some years since, to a fine German, who lives in a thriving hotel in Berlin, the sign of which has been completely altered from the "King William" to the "Kaiser," and which change of style is expected, at an early period, when the present landlord, who is an old man, dies, to prove highly advantageous to the new occupier.

Two other daughters, Alice and Helen, are also

married to Germans, whose incomes, although liberal, are not equal to that of the former, nor are their future promotions in life anything so promising.

Mrs. Windsor's eldest son, who has a large yearly income in his own right in some tin mines, which were profitably worked during the young man's minority by his prudent father, inherited a considerable fortune when he came of age. This lucky fellow was married, about eight years since, to a handsome Danish lady, which event gave great satisfaction at the time, as the young girl came from an old stock, and was mighty winning in her behaviour both to rich and poor. Teddy, for that is the young man's name, is likewise heir to three rich domains, and will be more looked up to when he comes into that ancient property. He has seen much of the world, having gone round it with observant guides, and has picked up varied knowledge. Few men, it is said, can better understand a genuine cigar, and his experience of fire-engines is also great, as he rarely fails to enjoy a run upon them, with some smart mates, when a big blaze illumines the town where he lives.

Now, one evening, Mrs. Windsor, who was desirous

getting her single children off her hands, being
with her eldest unmarried daughter, Louise, at
their own house in the north, at a place called Bahl
forrell, she spake motherly unto the lass regarding
her affections towards a young man of those parts,
who had beguiled the damsel's heart, and whose
visits had been much encouraged by the glad dame.
At mention thereof, the innocent girl coloured up,
and hid her blushing face on her mother's bosom,
whereat the maternal dame kindly hinted that her
child was quite free to marry the honest Gael, if such
were her real wishes, and she graciously gave her
consent to the match. The whole of the family, at
home and abroad, were at once made acquainted with
the proposed wedding, the news of which was ill
received by some of them, because of their very high
estate. The brother-in-law at Berlin, thought, for
his part, that the young lass would do better by be-
coming the wife of one of his kinsmen, especially as
his own expectations of a rise were very great; how-
ever, he would not strongly urge against the wedding,
if such were the wish of the two people, and Mrs.
Windsor approved of the same.

Teddy thought the choice of a more distinguished partner advisable, but, lighting a fresh Havannah, said ma might advise about the matter as she pleased; so he left them, to look after his horses and to attend to his book at the club.

Alf, on being spoken to about it, didn't see why Louie shouldn't marry who she liked, provided he was really a proper fellow, and likely to make a kind husband, as he was sure Archy would, and he hoped when the couple put out to sea, the sails of matrimony would swell with many a pleasant gale.

Leo said he preferred a match of the kind, and thought mother would be more liked by everybody for letting Master Lorne come into the family, who he was sure, would make his sister happy, and what else had they to care about.

Little Beatry almost jumped for joy, and said she was so glad ma would let Louie have Archie; it would be so nice to have them living in England, and she would not lose her, but be able to go often to their new house.

Cousin George, who is blind, got some one to write a note for him, which he sent from abroad, bearing

bedabbled-out Hanover stamp. In it he was rather
 cold about the affair; but as he had lately lost a
 crown, and was vexed, considering himself cruelly
 imposed upon by friends who, he thought, should
 have treated him better, Mrs. Windsor and her family
 set down his disfavour to Louie's wedding to bad
 temper, so they took no heed of his cold words.

Another cousin George—he of Cambridge—hap-
 pened to drop in while the affair was being talked
 over, with his red coat rather splashed, for he had just
 been seeing his soldiers do their work in the Park.
 On being spoken to about the suit, he gave it his
 hearty approval, and thought it high time such silly
 notions of shutting out certain people from the family
 were done away with. He had kicked against such a
 foolish rule himself, and in defying people's remarks
 had found no reason to repent of his course; and
 why shouldn't Louie be as happy with a Scotch
 swain as with any foreign fellow with a sounding
 name that meant nothing. He knew the boy, and
 liked his good sense, which would always carry him
 well through the world, and prove creditable to
 Louie.

Aunt Augusta was too infirm to come, but she wrote, saying that in her young days such things were deemed shocking. However, as times are so altered now, she would not dream of hindering the new idea, the more so as her niece, Mrs. Windsor, had determined on setting the change.

WHAT THE FAMILY ADVISERS SAID
ABOUT IT.

Mrs. WINDSOR, who is a model of household order, would not seriously move about her daughter's pro-posed wedding without consulting certain family advisers, whose opinions thereon should finally decide her how to act. She therefore bade some men of good repute and knowledge to come down to her dwelling on an island at the edge of the sea, where they might confer with her and advise on the matter that pressed upon her heart.

Then certain prudent chiefs assembled at her house, and, after listening to her words, they counselled her thereon. An elder, named Hatherley, deeply versed in the law, spoke of the practices of times past, and declared that no statute in the books of the laws of the land hindered the marriage; but rather, he thought, were it to be contracted between the persons proposed, it would bring felicity to them, and

command favour with all people. A councillor named Gladstone next gave utterance, and would have waxed into a flow of artful words, but that the occasion needed only his mind to be declared in simple speech. The virtues of Mrs. Windsor's daughter, he said, claimed the best of husbands, and that maternal solicitude and sagacity which had caused those manifold virtues and graces to bud and ripen, were the surest guarantees that a match so wisely arranged should continue auspicious to the end. No legal prohibition against it existed, and Mrs. Windsor, by sanctioning the same, would complete her daughter's happiness, and revive her own popularity. The chief, Granville, with rare gentleness of tongue and manner, said he knew the laddie well, and had marked his shrewdness and good parts. He felt assured that if Mrs. Windsor desired him for a son-in-law, no loss of dignity or respect towards her would follow on that account; indeed, by grafting so honourable a branch to her own ancient stock, everyone would be pleased, and regard her more affectionately.

After several others had all likewise spoken, one

Mister Lowe, who is keeper of the treasure-chest, battered to the same purpose. Besides, he said, the pair will need a little money wherewith to keep house honestly, and I will speak to my good master, Mister Bull, who will not in the least begrudge to give them the few thousands that I shall name, so that they may lack nought to support their state decently and reflect his honour.

WHAT WAS SAID BY DECENT CITIZENS
AND SOME CHURLS.

THE intended wedding, being well bruited abroad, was in all men's mouths, who spake of it one to the other, wishing Dame Windsor's daughter abundant joy to the end of her days.

In the highway which is called Parliament-street, in the City of Westminster, a citizen thereof, and a man of much substance, meeting one of his fellows, also of ample means, being a tradesman of the West End, bade him good day, and pointed out to him certain M.P.'s who were driving to the House to speechify and to say "Aye" for a proposed yearly grant to Miss Windsor, the young lady about to be married. He then talked of the matter, assured that the Members would with one consent agree to the moderate dotation, for that the damsel deserved the same, and that they would the more heartily bestow

because her mother had wisely set aside a perverse
 will on her child's behalf.

"Yea, and a right thing, too," answered the
 pretstener, "for the swain is reported well worthy of
 a fair a bride; besides, 'tis a good sign when custom,
 founded in pride, loses its force, having only age to
 commend it. As well preserve a dung-heap on a
 highway, because it was made by Cæsar's horse.
 Away with nuisances, say I, whether they encumber
 a land or weigh heavily upon man. By-the-bye, it is
 rumoured that Mrs. Windsor is coming more amongst
 us; and I'm sure that her wonted face will bring
 sunshine to us again, and waken shouts that had well-
 nigh died away."

When these men of quality had parted, a labourer,
 tending to his work along the flags, overtook another,
 whose pipe gave forth a cloud wreathing behind over
 his shoulder. Then the former asked for a light, and
 they two went on, forgetting care in their smoking,
 and filling the wind with the smell of their tobacco.

"It gives me joy, mate, to see thee journeying to
 do job. Is it for long?"

"Nay, only for a week, to make gas-piping for the

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flare that will light the shops at night, when the grand wedding comes off."

"Of Mrs. Windsor's daughter?"

"Yes! and rarely for better purpose did fiery stars turn the dark streets into day, to amuse the crowds, than will the glowing ciphers kindled everywhere on that coming occasion. Why, I'll burn a tallow-wick myself to tell the world that another ban is blotted from the earth."

"Eh! they're going to vote her a round sum to-night at the House yonder, and I only wish that all the money they gave went to as good a use. It's quite time that husbands for Dame Windsor's single daughters were found at home, without hunting for them in the land of sour krout."

"But one Taylor is going to pitch in against the grant."

"He ain't got the pluck; and if he had he'd be laughed down, as he ought to. Let him slip into real abuses, and he's my man; but as for going agin that, why he's as mischievous as the brawlers who pretend to be working men; but who filch their living from simpletons by spouting."

"At any rate Dame Windsor has touched the right key in this instance, which pleases everybody. Only she should begin to come out more, to enliven some folks a bit, and set some trade moving."

Here the men ceased to discourse, having come to a place where their feet should turn opposite ways.

Thus the whole populace talked of the marriage, and rejoiced much that Dame Windsor esteemed her daughter's welfare beyond the tyrannous whim of fashion.

But certain obscure Odgerites, noisy and churlish fellows, whom few men heeded, strove to stir up the multitude against the reasonable dowry that John Bull, in the largeness of his heart, was bent upon giving to the bride. These disturbers lifted up their voices in pot-houses, while they swilled with the hire they juggled from the pockets of the simple; yet their ravings were not regarded by peaceable folks, who revered Dame Windsor the more for her sound wit and love for her daughter, in that she might marry the man of her own choice, and one of her own country.

So the brawlers, whose tongues were as brands,

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sank into limbo, and there was mirth throughout the land, the rich and the poor loyally beseeching a life-long blessing on the wedding of Dame Windsor's daughter.

J. COEN, Printer, 15, Wine-Office-Court, Fleet-street, London.