

LETTER OF MARQUISE DE FONTENOY

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THE new Lord Chichester, head of the historic house of Pelham, is a soldier, differing in this respect from his father, who was one of the parson peers of the house of lords, and is, like him, a descendant of Oliver Cromwell, whose great granddaughter appears in the family pedigree as the wife of the second Lord Pelham. And at Stanmer park, the ancestral home of the head of the historic house of Pelham, Lord Chichester has among his treasures Cromwell's pocket bible, with a motto, "Qui cessat esse mellor, cessat esse bonus" (he who ceases to improve, ceases to be good), in the great lord protector's own handwriting. Needless to say that Stanmer park is situated in Sussex, between Lewes and Brighton, for the Pelhams have from time immemorial been identified with Sussex, the name of the county town, that is, Chichester, having been assumed by them, with the consent of the crown, as the title of their earldom.

The family was founded by Sir John de Pelham, a gallant Sussex knight of King Edward III., who, according to the claims of his descendants, distinguished himself at the battle of Poltiers by the capture of the king of France, for which exploit he received from his own sovereign as a badge of honor the heraldic devices of two round buckies, with broken thongs, which still adorn the Pelham arms. The assertion vouched for by Burke is, however, denied by Froissart in his "Chronicles," who ascribes the capture to the knight de Moéberle.

A Pelham represented the county of Sussex in parliament in the reign of King Henry IV., and Sir Thomas Pelham, after having been knighted by Queen Elizabeth, was one of the first batch of baronets created on the institution of the order by King James I. The Pelhams are all tall, handsome, high bred looking men, and the new earl, while he cannot be said to be as comely as his father and his uncle, is nevertheless, a presentable specimen of the English patrician. He is married to the daughter of Sir Thomas Buxton, a baronet, who, though he derives his wealth from beer, was one of the leaders of the total abstinence and evangelical movement until he went out to the antipodes to serve a term as governor of the most sport loving of all Australasian colonies. He came back in a different frame of mind. According to his former associates, he had become unregenerate, whereas, according to others, his views had been broadened by the life in the colonies. The fact of the matter was he had developed while out there a pronounced liking for horse racing, while he no longer advocates total abstinence, but merely moderation in drink, and has become celebrated for the excellence of his cellar.

Lord Edward Cecil, who has just been appointed to be the minister of war of Egypt, is the best looking and the most popular of all the sons of the late Lord Salisbury, and has distinguished himself in so many ways since he first received his commission in the Grenadier guards, in which he now holds the rank of colonel, that his promotion would have been even more rapid than it has been had he not been handicapped by being the son of one of England's most famous premiers. For it is always a handicap to a man of character to be the son of a celebrity.

Thus he deserves quite as much credit as Gen. Baden Powell, the inspector general of the cavalry of the British army, for the magnificent defense of Mafeking during the Boer war. Lord Kitchener is the authority for this assertion. He relates that shortly after reaching South Africa he came across a well known Dutchman, who was filling large contracts for provisioning the English army, and who told him that just before the war broke out he had received instructions to send a certain quantity of stores to Mafeking. While shipment was going forward Lord Edward Cecil called upon the contractor and asked for particulars of the stores. These being supplied to him, he inquired: "Could you send four times as much?" "Yes, if I had authority," replied the Dutchman.

"Very well," exclaimed Lord Edward, "you send four times as much as you have orders for, and I will give you my note of hand for the cost of the surplus quantity. If the government does not pay you, I will."

Considering the fact that Lord Edward's financial resources were restricted at that time to his pay as a major, and to his allowance of \$4,000 a year from his father, an undertaking to pay out of his private purse a sum of about \$80,000 or more was characteristically daring. The Dutchman considered that he was safe in dealing with the English prime minister's son. Mafeking was accordingly stocked a number of weeks before the war began with provisions and general stores for an amount four times greater than the military authorities in England or at the Cape had considered sufficient. That, according to Lord Kitchener, was the reason why Mafeking was able to hold out so long against the Boers, until relieved after a wearisome siege, in which Lord Edward acted as Baden Powell's second in command.

It must be borne in mind that at the time when Lord Edward gave the order there was no thought in the mind of the military authorities as to whether Mafeking would ever be called upon to stand a siege. Indeed, it was regarded by them as exceedingly doubtful whether the Boers would ever really go to the length of making war upon England.

Lord Edward was all through the Egyptian and Soudan campaigns, on the staff of Lord Kitchener, and formed part of Sir Rennell Rodd's special embassy to Emperor Menelik of Abyssinia. He is married to the daughter of Admiral Maxse, who was for so long the editor of the National Review, and as ardent radical as the late Lord Salisbury was a

One of the most interesting features of King Alfonso's visit to London a few weeks hence will be the presentation to him of an address by the Spanish and Portuguese Jewish community in London, a community composed entirely of the descendants of those Jews who were expelled from Spain 400 years ago, and who sought refuge in England. Many insist that the economic decline of Spain, and even the wane of her political grandeur as the principal colonial power of the world, dated from that moment, and was caused by the ill advised expulsion of the chosen race from the Spanish empire. And it may be regarded as a promise of increased prosperity that the Spanish crown and government are now encouraging the return of the Jews to Spain. Indeed, they meet with a warmer and more cordial welcome on the part of the great world at Madrid than in any other capital of Europe, or even of America. Thus, the rôle occupied for a number of years by Mme. Bauer, wife of the representative of Spain of the banking house of Rothschild, can only be compared to that of Lady Rothschild in London. Indeed, it was even better. For, whereas there are some old fashioned people who still hold aloof from these princes of finance in England, everybody in Madrid flocked to Mme. Bauer's entertainments, and she was welcomed everywhere.

Her husband, by the bye, was brother of that Mgr. Bauer who was lord high almoner and principal chaplain to Empress Eugénie when she was on the throne of France, presided at the religious portion of the ceremonies in connection with the opening of the Suez canal, and who after the fall of the empire divested himself of his bishopric in partibus, reverted to Judaism and to finance, and died a few years ago as a stock jobber and as the husband of a danseuse.

It will be difficult for some time to come to speak of the cordial relations subsisting between the reigning houses of England and of Prussia. For it is impossible not to have been struck by the marked manner in which Queen Alexandra, and, for the matter of that, King Edward as well, have been avoiding any meeting with the kaiser during their yachting cruises in the Mediterranean. Queen Alexandra left Lisbon only a few hours before her nephew, the kaiser, arrived, and identically the same thing happened a little afterwards at Gibraltar, where the kaiser must even have caught a glimpse of the smoke of the departing English royal yacht. Again the same thing happened at Port Mahon, and when the kaiser reached the latter place Queen Alexandra had just left for Marseilles.

Of course, in view of the attitude which Germany has taken with regard to Morocco, and which cannot but be disagreeable to England, as it is to France, a meeting between the emperor and his English uncle and aunt might prove a trifle awkward, and this is why they have been avoiding one another in such a marked fashion.