

THE LIFE OF AN ENGLISH COUNTESS.

LADY JERSEY AND HER ROMANTIC HISTORY.

A writer in a late number of Belgravia gives a pleasant sketch of the life of the late Dowager Countess of Jersey—long a leader of fashion in England, the friend of Byron, and the heiress of immense wealth.

Independently of her beauty, she obtained great celebrity by having become heiress to the immense fortune of Mr. Child, the banker, her maternal grandfather.

It appears Mr. Child had many crotchets, foremost of which was his hatred of the nobility. When talking of his property he was in the habit of saying that no aristocrat should ever touch one penny of it.

Mr. Child, being thus suddenly stopped in his pursuit when his daughter was almost in the grasp, was exasperated beyond measure.

On Mr. Child's death Lady Sarah Fane became possessed of a yearly income of fifty thousand pounds, in addition to the property which her father's bank.

Possessing beauty, and riches, it may easily be imagined that Lady Sarah Fane had many admirers, and that candidates for marriage presented themselves in numbers.

In the matter of dress Lady Jersey's taste was exquisite, and the *toilet ensemble* in such perfect harmony as never to look like a studied affect.

Besides her mother tongue she spoke only French, which she spoke fluently and habitually to her children.

Her own private parties were given than other people's, and her balls the most brilliant of the season.

Two generations of politicians, all personal friends of the Countess of Jersey, who passed away before she herself ended her earthly career.

She alone, with her husband constantly by her side, could with propriety offer an asylum to Lord Byron when every other door was closed against him.

Neither Lord nor Lady Jersey interfered with the unhappy man, whose state of mind was at that time bordering on insanity.

When the scandal about Carlton House was freely commented on, the young Countess of Jersey refused to appear at a court presided over by George the Fourth.

Before misfortune visited the family—the time from which my personal observation dates—the whole estate was a real Eden, owing to Lady Jersey's princely liberality.

The Countess owned like her husband an open book, she never harbored the least suspicion against others; consequently, while priding herself on the capital management of her household, she little dreamt that her health was rapidly declining.

There, in her maturer years, a second generation of politicians visited her, and valued her friendship as much as her predecessors had done.

Some one was playing a march, when the Prince, mistaking it for his favorite dance, gallantly engaged Lady Jersey.

The Countess did not excel in music; nor, it is true, did she excel, did she excel, in any accomplishment. Her was an active but restless mind, which did not incline towards study.

Although the Countess was devotedly attached to all her children, her solicitude was chiefly directed towards her daughters, regarding whose health she was in constant communication with Sir Henry Hallford, the *Asclepius* of the time.

Her education of the Ladies Villiers was chiefly entrusted to foreigners; in addition to whom they had also some English masters, both laymen and divines.

It was the custom of Lord and Lady Jersey to sit at night in the library surrounded by their children, their guests, and a whole array of portraits were full length, and in magnificent frames.

Far away from these gorgeous pictures, hidden by projecting bookshelves, in a dark corner a little portrait which, although possessing the attributes of "fat, fair, and forty," forms a melancholy contrast to those magnificent portraits.

Like all women in a conspicuous position, Lady Jersey was much envied by many of her own sex, who accused her of conceit and pride, though the former became with her almost a virtue.

Owing to Lady Jersey's unbounded charity, they were no really poor people at the village of Middleton.

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