

CANVAS DUCHESS SOLD FOR 'BREAD AND BUTTER' NOW WITH ART TREASURES IN MEMORIAL HALL

Fairmount Park Commission Heeds Poverty Call of the Dowager of Sutherland, Who Once Ruled Fashionable Mayfair With High Hand

SARGENT PAINTING BOUGHT FOR A SONG WHEN FORTUNE EBBS AWAY FROM ARISTOCRAT

'Meddlesome Millie' Mourns Loss of 'Her Other Self,' but Still Is Philanthropic at Turn of Wheel of Fate. Funds Go to Aid Third Husband

A PORTRAIT of the Dowager Duchess of Sutherland is now in Memorial Hall, Fairmount Park, sold for "bread-and-butter" money by its beautiful original.

The painting, an exquisite bit of beauty from the hand of John Singer Sargent, was bought by the Fairmount Park Commission and will be placed on exhibition in a few days.

The few square feet of canvas is a tangible link between Philadelphia and the "Topsy-Turvy Land" into which many coroneted heads of England have been flung.

Lady Millicent Hawes, Dowager Duchess of Sutherland, once the mistress of kings and queens, found herself "terribly broke" a few months ago and sold her art treasures for cash that could be used for food, raiment and lodging.

Husband Once Greatest of Titled Landholders

She was the consort of a duke who was the greatest landowner in Europe next to the Czar of Russia.

For nearly thirty years she was mistress of Stafford House, a handsome residence in London.

Romance had smiled on her when she was still a schoolgirl. She married the fourth Duke of Sutherland in 1884 when she was seventeen years old.

As the Duke's widow, romance smiled again, ignoring the red glare of war into which she had plunged as a Red Cross worker.

Her second marriage was to a major in the British Army, but this matrimonial tie did not hold long. She is now the wife of Lieutenant Colonel George Ernest Hawes, a business man in Paris.

Lady Hawes, still rated as one of England's most beautiful women, was known as "Meddlesome Millie" to the ultra-fashionables of the British aristocracy.

She gained the nickname because of her vivid, wholesome interest in the factory and cottage workers on her dual husband's estates.

Her philanthropies made some titled women raise their eyebrows ever so slightly, but "Meddlesome Millie" merely laughed and worked harder for the workers she aided.

Today her interest in social problems bears fruit in the Potteries Cripples' Guild and the Scottish Home Indus-

Duchess Found Ample Time To Write Books and Plays

EVEN as a "grande dame" in the most exclusive social set of England, the Duchess of Sutherland, now Lady Millicent Hawes, found time to write books and stories.

In 1899 she published "One Hour and the Next." In 1902 fashionable London was poring over her "The Winds of the World: Seven Love Stories." She wrote a play, "The Conqueror," in 1905.

tries Association, of which she is president.

Fate and time have combined to strip this beautiful "Lady Bountiful" of most of her worldly goods. Many of her art treasures have flown to America, Philadelphia getting the portrait which she cherished most.

Fear of 13 Hoodoo Led to Her Romance

Lady Millicent Fanny St. Clair-Erskine Hawes, to give her full complement of names, was the eldest daughter of the fourth Earl of Rosslyn, and is a half-sister of the Countess of Warwick, herself a picturesque personality who has been entertained in this city.

Lady Millicent's schoolgirl romance, which led to her marriage with the Marquis of Stafford, later the Duke of Sutherland, had its origin in her mother's fear of thirteen at the table.

The Countess of Rosslyn, "Meddle-



Sargent's famous painting "The Duchess of Sutherland"

some Millie's" mother was entertaining in honor of her daughter Frances, later the Countess of Warwick. At the last moment the mother realized there would be thirteen guests at the table.

A quick summons brought Millicent from the playroom, where she had been romping. She was the only member of her sex not in "grand toilette" at the dinner.

It may have been chance, or it may have been the design of a match-making mother. But the winsome, pink-cheeked schoolgirl sat beside the young Marquis of Stafford. The heir to the vast Sutherland estates decided then and there he would share his fortunes with her.

A few weeks after that dinner the Marquis proposed. The wedding took place on Lady Millicent's seventeenth birthday. Eight years later her husband succeeded to the dukedom.

The Duchess not only had beauty, but she had brains. With the prestige of the great title she shared and with town houses and country estates at her command, she reached the pinnacle of England's social world.

Lent Son of King Cash to Build Royal Home

The London seat of the Sutherlands, Stafford House, had been built originally for the then Duke of York, the second son of George III, on money borrowed from the then Marquis of Stafford.

The splendid pile was erected near St. James' Palace, the ancient seat of England's kings, to which ambassadors still are accredited. The dual palace and the royal palace were separated only by "The Stable Yard."

A magnificent marble staircase swept upward from the main hall to the picture gallery, where masterpieces by Murillo, Van Dyck, Velasquez, Rubens and others lent their artistic richness to the splendor about them.

The private apartments of the Duke and his consort were on the ground floor, where the couple could step into a bit of garden and woodland in the heart of London.

Royalty was often entertained there. On one occasion, during the regime of the third Duke, Queen Victoria on a visit remarked to the third Duchess: "I have come from my home to your palace."

The Empress Eugenie, consort of Napoleon III, was so enchanted with Stafford House that she desired the French Emperor to build a facsimile for her in Paris.

It was among surroundings and traditions of that nature in which the present Dowager Duchess reigned for a generation. On state occasions she presided as hostess at what was known as the largest dining table in the world.

One of the most memorable of these



The Dowager Duchess from a pen sketch

banquets was that given by the Duke and Duchess in honor of the Czar and Czarina of Russia shortly after the marriage of the imperial couple.

Specter of Future Kept Away From Festal Board

"Topsy-turvy land" was then far away for Nicholas II and his consort, but, all unknowing, they were journeying toward it just as surely as was their charming hostess.

Among the guests at that banquet were the Prince and Princess of Wales, who later became King Edward VII and Queen Alexandra; the present King of England, then a royal duke, with faint prospects of reaching the throne; Lord Rosebery, Lord Rothchild and many other celebrities.

It was in one of the supper rooms of Stafford House that Lily Langtry, then a famous beauty, committed the faux pas which cost her the friend-

ship of King Edward as Prince of Wales.

At the end of a supper and when the spirits of the guests were at the highest Miss Langtry dropped a spoonful of ice down the neck of the heir apparent.

Edward rebuked her quietly and she vainly tried to gain his pardon. He merely bowed and smiled, then left Stafford House hurriedly. The actress never again was included in a guest list which was headed by Edward's name.

Brilliant London seasons, court functions, state balls, the joys of the hunting season, and days and weeks on the Duke's broad acres in Scotland—so the current of life rippled on for Her Grace, the Duchess.

She did not realize it. Few realize it. But the days of the landed aristocracy's pomp and power were numbered. For centuries dukes and earls and barons had lorded it over broad domains won by war, by craft or by the prodigality of monarchs.

Taxes Began to Eat Way Into Purses of Nobles

New conceptions were forcing themselves into political thought in England. The nobles had long been exempt from taxation, but even before the world war taxes were making big inroads on landed estates.

The great nobles, owners of many thousands of acres, found themselves "land poor." The Duke of Sutherland was no exception. He began ridding himself of much of his Scottish holdings.

Sutherland dreamed of planting the English landlord system on this side of the ocean. He and his beautiful Duchess went to Canada incognito as Mr. and Mrs. Erskine, and the Duke made cautious inquiries.

With the co-operation of his wife, the Duke bought large tracts in Canada, but public opinion frowned on his plans to install the tenant farmer system there.

While she played a major role in Mayfair, the Duchess did not permit dinners and dances and court levees to blind her to the wretchedness she saw under the surface in England and Scotland.

Staffordshire, the center of the pot-

"Meddlesome Millie" Saw Economic Era Changing

"YEARS ago," said the Duchess of Sutherland, addressing pottery workers in Staffordshire before the war, "when I came inexperienced and enthusiastic among you, you called me 'Meddlesome Millie.'"

"As far as a miserable duchess could be an agitator, I strove to be one. But what changes since those days. Slowly, definitely, the aspiring democracy demands the open road."

"The day will come when no one will be grateful for the crumbs that fall from a rich man's table. It will be a great day, too. We must advance, and if there is some squealing about the advance and a little over-hurry about it, at any rate people can see the break at the end of the tunnel and know they will emerge into fuller light."

the potteries district soon after most of Trentham Hall had made way for the factory, "when I came inexperienced and enthusiastic among you, you called me 'Meddlesome Millie.'"

"As far as a miserable Duchess could be an agitator, I strove to be one. But what changes since those days! Slowly, definitely, the aspiring democracy demands the open road. The very mansion—Trentham—in which I nursed my ideals is razed to the ground."

"I live in a cottage in peace and independence, as a friend among the workers for whom I strove. Is that not enough to make me optimistic and is it not symbolic of all change today?"

"The day will come," continued this titled democrat, "when no one will be grateful for the crumbs that fall from a rich man's table. It will be a great day, too. We absolutely must advance, and if there is some squealing about the advance and a little over-hurry about it, at any rate people can see the break at the end of the tunnel, and know that they will emerge into fuller light."

The sentiments thus voiced by the

She helped establish schools and libraries. She became a keen supporter of technical education. She studied the labor problems that were gripping England. She became interested in the cause of temperance.

As her interests and her sympathies expanded she became recognized in certain circles as one of the most enlightened and democratic of England's aristocrats.

Then, in 1913, the Duke, her husband, died. The title and the entailed estates were inherited by "Meddlesome Millie's" eldest son, George Granville Sutherland-Leveson-Gower, now the fifth Duke of Sutherland.

Death had come to the fourth Duke as he had completed plans for the sale of Stafford House, which stands on land held under Crown rental. It was purchased by Lord Leverhulme and presented to the British nation.

With widowhood came the changed financial status that is the outcome of the entail system by which the noble houses of England held their great estates intact. For some reason an arrangement developed between the Dowager Duchess and the new Duke, her son.

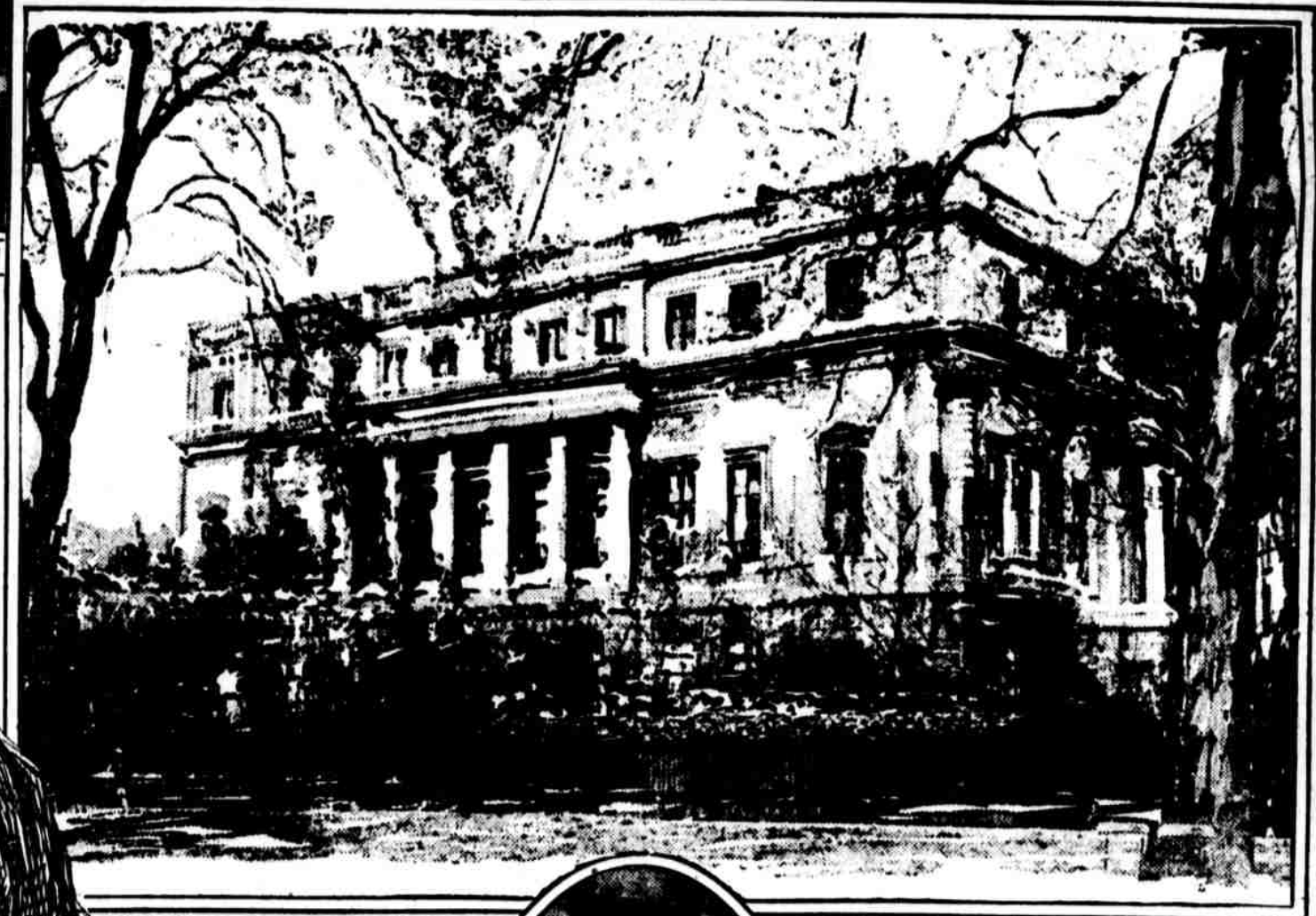
Lady Millicent, while Dowager Duchess of Sutherland, had to yield the perquisites of dual rank, the highest grade in the nobility and next to princes of the royal blood. She reverted to her status as daughter of an Earl.

But while most of the estates passed to the Duke, her son, she had her jewels and her art treasures, the most prized of which was the portrait of herself painted by Sargent.

Then came the war. She established a Red Cross hospital at Namur, where the German guns soon pounded a path through the Belgian lines. It was at Namur that she met Major Percy Desmond Fitzgerald, an officer of the Eleventh Hussars.

Tries Marriage Again and Then Once More

It was in the early days of the war when the grim, gray machine of Prussian militarism was crunching its way through Belgium. The Dowager Duchess interrupted her hospital work long enough for a hurried ceremony which made her Major Fitzgerald's wife. Then she returned to her hospital.



Stafford House, soon to be a National Museum

The marriage apparently was not a happy one, because it was dissolved before the war ended. In 1919 the Dowager Duchess married Lieutenant Colonel Hawes, who won the D. S. O., the Military Cross and the ribbon of the Legion of Honor.

Colonel Hawes, son of a county justice of the peace, was not weighed down with worldly possessions. Like many officers with fine records, he decided to try his fortunes in trade. He established himself in Paris and now has offices at 18 Rue de Miromesnil.

The Dowager Duchess resolved to bolster up her husband's resources by a sale of her art treasures. All her pictures and household goods were placed under the hammer a few weeks ago.

"I am terribly broke," she said. "I hope a good sale will keep me in bread and butter for a while."

The pictures the auctioneer disposed of included portraits of Dr. Samuel Johnson and Sir Francis Drake. The sale did not bring as much as was expected, so reluctantly the Dowager Duchess decided to include her own portrait in the list.

The word was sent quietly to this country, where New World dollars are magnets for Old World art. Joseph E. Widener, millionaire connoisseur and member of the Fairmount Park Commission, heard of the impending sale.

The commission, custodian of the Widener collection in Memorial Hall, was advised to buy the portrait of the Duchess. It had been appraised at \$25,000, but after some cubling back and forth it is understood the gem of Sargent's genius was obtained for less than that sum.

The Dowager Duchess personally supervised the crating of the portrait. She told friends it was as though her "other self" were going to Philadelphia.

The portrait reached here safely a few days ago and was taken to Memorial Hall. It will be hung soon in the Widener gallery there.

Philadelphia, through the Park Commission, reached a long and arduous journey. The portrait is a bit of beauty for Philadelphia to enjoy.



The present Duchess of Sutherland

Duchess showed she had glimpsed the beginning of the economic upheaval which was threatening the break-up of vast entailed estates.

In the last few years before the World War the Duchess had turned away from the whirl of social life. Not that she became a recluse. But she merely touched the circumference of Vanity Fair occasionally. The center of her interests lay in social work.

American Social Leaders Helped "Land-Poor" British Nobleman

THE portrait of the Dowager Duchess of Sutherland is not the first art treasure of Stafford House, London, to come to Philadelphia.

Six years ago last February a collection of paintings, furniture and furnishings, some of them dating back to the Middle Ages, was sold at auction in this city.

When Stafford House passed out of the hands of the present Duke, the "land poor" nobleman sent most of its contents to this country, which offered the best market for the treasures.

Society leaders of Philadelphia, New York, Boston and Baltimore, either in person or by agent, flocked to the sale, eager to acquire some of the rarities that the landed wealth of the House of Sutherland had gathered.

The late John G. Johnson forsook his legal duties for three days of the sale with the happiness of a man gratifying a hobby, and acquired some of the Duke's offerings.

Among the men and women of social prominence who attended that sale were Mrs. Paul Denckla Mills, Mrs. Rodman E. Griscom, Mrs. J. Kearsley Mitchell, 3d, Mrs. Stanley Flagg, J. Warren Coulston, Jr., Mrs. L. Webster Fox, Mrs. Alexander Van Rensselaer, Mrs. A. W. Biddle, Mrs. Robert K. Cassatt and members of the Ippincott and Du Pont families.

Among the patrons of art from other cities seen at the sale were Colonel R. A. Stevenson, of Annapolis, Md.; M. B. Wightman, of Brooklyn; S. Baker Brooks, of Asbury Park; R. A. Van Wart, of New York, and Hope H. Barrall, of Chestertown, Md.

The furniture, with its associations of Old World grandeur and power, included a magnificent Henry IV reception suite of three pieces, a settee and two arm chairs, upholstered in verdure tapestry and with frames of carved walnut.

Other items were two deep-seated Charles II armchairs, upholstered in red Adams' damask, and two massive bronze chandeliers, surmounted with cupids and a ball and coronet with the letter "S" (Sutherland) in relief.