A ROYAL MARRIAGE.

Marriage of the King of Greece to the Grand Duchess Olga, Bridegroom—The Royal Bride Assisting at the Marriage Contract—Greek Church—The Religious Ceremony.

(St. Petersburg (Oct. 25) Correspondence of the London Herald.)

Yesterday evening, at eight o'clock, the Imperial court witnessed a nuptial ceremony almost as sumptuous as the marriage of the Czesarevitch with the Princess Dagmar of Denmark, which was celebrated in the same place just a year ago. I say almost as sumptuous, because the ceremonial observed at the celebration of the ceremony I am about to relate, would have been as complete had not the Empress been absent; the etiquette, much more formal and rigorous at the Court of St. Petersburg than at any of European Court, precludes the presence of the Empress at the celebration of the marriage of members of the Imperial family not being her children; and the august bride, the Grand Duchesses Olga, is not by birth an Imperial Majestic. However, it was most interesting on many accounts.

First, the august bride and bridegroom are both very young; the bride, eldest daughter of the Grand Duke Constantine and of the Grand Duchess Alexandra, *nee* Princess of Grand Duchess Alexandra, *nee* Princess of Saxe Altenburg, was born August 22, 1851. Consequently she has scarcely entered her seventeenth year. The bridegroom, George I., King of Greece, was born December 24, 1845, therefore he is not yet twenty-two. Very few marriages are recorded where husband and wife do not make up a thirty-nine years'together, and the occurrence is still more striking when the young spouses are ready near a royal crown. The nearest instance of it is, I believe, the marriage of her Majesty the Queen with the Prince Consort Albert, who were both twenty-one when they were married. Moreover, the August bridegroom is the second brother to the Czesarevna, who has won all hearts in her adopted country, and the Imperial family of Russia is to be united to the royal house of Denmark by another matrimonial bond.

Verily the house of Schleswig-Holstein-Sonderburg-Glucksburg, now reigning over the Danes, the Wendes and the Goths, fairly promises to eclipse the Saxe-Coburg family, who gave so many consorts to queens and royal princesses in Europe. Already the two eldest daughters of King Christian are married to the heir of two mighty empires, England and Russia; his Majesty's second son was elected King of Greece, and now eighteen, and now he marries a princess of the house of Romanoff. Lastly, the most interesting feature of his marriage of his Hellenic Majesty with a Russian princess is, in the eyes of the Russians in general, that it is also an indissoluble union between Russia and Greece, whose religion and interests in the East are identical, they think, at least. The history of politics of late years, and especially the recent events that have occurred in Europe, show that royal alliances have little weight with the fate of countries. But I must anchor politics and resume my narration.

Sunday morning at eight o'clock the guns bristling on the fortress announced to the inhabitants of St. Petersburg that the marriage of her Imperial Highness, the Grand Duchess Olga Constantinova, with his Majesty, the King of the Greeks, would be celebrated during the day. The official programme had stated that the ceremony would take place at eight o'clock in the evening, in the Imperial Chapel of the Winter Palace. At half-past 7 the gentlemen and ladies having the privilege of entree, and walking after the Chevaliers Gardes, had met in the Concert Hall, all the officers of the guard assigned to the Nicholas Hall and its ante chambers; the members of the civil service and of the nobility, who had to assist, in the Heraldic Hall, the Mayor of St. Petersburg and the foreign Russian and foreign merchants in the Marshal's Hall. At that same minutes to eight the members of the Council of the Empire, the Senators, the ladies of the bedchamber, the maids of honor, the mistresses of the households of the grand duchesses, the members of the Imperial household, the ambassadors and foreign ministers with their wives, members of the household of the King of the Hellenes, and of the Crown Prince of Denmark, the Secretaries of State, the Aides-de-Camp General and Major-General of the Emperor and of the Grand Dukes, with their ladies, had occupied in the chapel the places reserved to each of them. The gentlemen, in full uniform, occupied the right side of the chapel, the ladies, wearing the national costumes, were at the left side. Among the foreign Ministers I noticed Sir Andrew Buchanan, General Cialdini, the Duke d'Ossuna, Baron Talleyrand-Périgord, Count Delaunay (Italy), Prince Henry Vicco Adelmarkhan (Persia), *&c.* Among the Russian high functionaries I will name Prince Dolgoroukoff, President of the Council of the Empire; Prince Gortschakoff, Chancellor of the Empire; Milutine, Minister of the War; Admiral Grubbe; M. Valuieff, Home Minister; Count Tolstoi, Minister of Public Instruction; M. Reutern, Minister of Finances; General Melinkoff, Minister of the Public Works; Count Strogonoff, Marshal Baratinsky, Admiral Menschikoff, *&c.*

At seven o'clock the august bride left the palace of her father, the Grand Duke Constantine, for the Winter Palace; her *cortege* was composed thus: An escort on horseback; four outriders; M. Troyolovsky, Master of the Household of the Grand Duke Constantine, and a master of ceremonies, in a gilt carriage and four; their Imperial Highnesses the Grand Duke Constantine, the Grand Duchess Constantine, the Grand Duke Nicholas Constantinovitch, and the bride, in a gilt carriage and six. The equerry and the Aid-de-Camp in Waiting rode on each side of the carriage, which was followed by two pages and two riders; the Mistress of the Court and the maids of honor of their Imperial Highnesses the Grand Duchess Constantine and the august bride; four outriders. A fifteen minutes to eight the ladies of the bedchamber who had superintended the toilet of the august bride left the apartments of her Imperial Highness, and then the Grand Master of the ceremonies came to the King of the Greeks, and led him to the apartments of the bride.

A few minutes to eight the imperial procession proceeded from the august bride's apartments to the great chapel of the palace. When it entered the Concert Hall a salvo of twenty-one guns was fired from the fortress. The procession entered the chapel in the following order: The fourriers (quartermasters) of the household of the Grand Duke Constantine, of the imperial household, and of the chamber of his Majesty the Emperor, two by two; the Grand Master and the masters of ceremonies of the bedchamber, two by two; the secondary members of the household, two by two; the court marshals, wearing the insignia of their functions; the high dignitaries of the court, two by two, viz.: Count Perem and Gondovich, masters of the hounds; Baron de Meyendorff, of the equerry, and Prince Nicholas Dolgorouky, cup bearer; the grand marshal, Count A. Schouvaloff and Count Cherebetovitch, Grand Master of the Court; Count Tolstoi, Grand Master of the Ceremonies; the Grand Duke Constantine, his Majesty, the Emperor, followed by the Minister of the Imperial Household, the General Aid-de-Camp Count Adlerberg; the General Aid-de-Camp, the General Major and the Aide-de-Camp of the day; his Majesty, the King of the Hellenes, George I., with his august bride, the Grand Duchess Olga Constantinovna; their Imperial Highnesses, the Czesarewitch, Grand Duke Alexander Alexandrovitch, and the Czesarevna, Grand Duchess Maria Feodorovna; his Royal Highness Frederick, Crown Prince of Denmark; their Imperial Highnesses, the Grand Dukes Vladimir and Alexis, sons of the Emperor; their Imperial Highnesses, the Grand Duke Constantine, and the Grand Grand Duke Constantine, and the Grand Duke Nicholas, parents of the bride; their Imperial Royal Highnesses, the Grand Dukes Nicholas, Constantine, Dmitry, and Vladimir, brothers of the bride; their Imperial Highnesses the Grand Duke Nicholas, the father, the Grand Duchess, and the Grand Duke Nicholas, the son; their Imperial Highnesses the Princes Nicholas, Eugene and George, of Leuchtenberg, and the Princesses Romanovsky and Dolgoroukoff, of Leuchtenburg; his Imperial Highness the Prince Peter of Oldenburg; his Highness the Duke Charles of Schleswig-Holstein-Sonderburg-Glucksburg, uncle to the King of the Greeks; their Highnesses the Princes Nicholas and Alexander of Oldenburg; the ladies of the bedchamber, the maids of honor, the mistresses of the households of the Grand Duchesses, the maids of honor of the Empress.

All the persons invited, and who were not in the chapel, entered it after the maids of honor.

Eight o'clock struck when the procession came to the church. Under the dais, the Emperor, King George and his bride, and the Imperial family were received by Monsignor Isidore, the Metropolitan of St. Petersburg, the members of the Holy Synod, and the clergy of the Imperial chapel. The Metropolitan offered the holy water to the august personages.

The religious service then began in that impressive manner peculiar to the Greek rite. When the officiating priests pronounced the words, "O Lord, the King will rejoice in thy strength," the Emperor led the August bride and bridegroom to the raised seats reserved for them opposite the centre of the iconostas. In all the Greek churches, the iconostas, in the form of a cross, the tabernacle, at the eastern end, and which the priest only can approach, is separated by a partition called the iconostas. In the Imperial chapel the iconostas, with its rows of sacred images, is covered with precious metals, which reflected the lights of a thousand wax candles. Meanting, to the Grand Duke Nicholas, the eldest brother of the bride, and the Princess Romanovski Leuchtenberg, the bride of the Czesarewitch