

# Why Queen Mary Turns the Royal Cold Shoulder to Divorcees

Interesting Complications Behind Her Majesty's Taboo of Captain Courtney's Popular Wife, and What Society Did About It



ALL-UNSUSPECTING  
Capt. and Mrs. Christopher Courtney, Just After Their Wedding at the Savoy Chapel, London. Her Expression Plainly Indicates That She Was Then Unaware Queen Mary Would Snub Her for Being a Divorcee.

By a Staff Correspondent.  
LONDON.  
NO more complex social situation has ever arisen in England than that caused by the official cold-shouldering of a beautiful and popular divorcee by Queen Mary.

For the first time in twenty-seven years the rigid code of presentation at the Court of St. James's was found to have been violated. In consequence, Mrs. Christopher Courtney, wife of a distinguished aviation officer, and former wife of one Alexander Rayson, found herself beyond the official pale of recognition by Their Majesties. Probably all the ethical and legal intricacies behind the act of the Lord Great Chamberlain will never be revealed; for procedures of this sort are hedged about with impenetrable barriers. Certain very interesting facts, not stressed by the daily press, may be stated, however.

To comprehend these facts, it is necessary that the reader realize the peculiarly variegated and paradoxical quality of the British society scene today. Since the war, there has been a marked tendency toward a freer and easier regime. Mayfair is apt to smile tolerantly upon persons and practices that would have been taboo during the Victorian era.

This spirit of liberalism extends even to Buckingham Palace. But in one respect, at least, the weight of tradition is still felt with unremitting force. Divorce, legally, is permissible. Regarded from the regal viewpoint, it is "impossible." The ban, it must be understood, is no mere personal whim of the monarchs; it is a solemn heritage that they can in no wise abrogate or evade.

A curious twist is added in the pronouncement that no divorced person, irrespective of whether she or he was awarded the decree, may be presented. The question of individual innocence or culpability is not present.

Mrs. Courtney's "case" was in several respects singular. In the first place, she came to court under the auspices of a lady of great prestige. Her sponsor was none less than the Honorable Lady Salmond, formerly Miss Monica Grenfell, daughter of Lord Desborough, and the wife of Marshal Sir John Salmond, Chief of the Air Force. In addition, Lady Salmond's mother is Lady of the Bedchamber to the Queen—which adds a note of almost humorous involvement to the situation.

Did Lady Salmond, when she proposed the name of Mrs. Courtney,



MRS. COURTNEY.

**CANCELLED PRESENTATION TO THE KING.**  
FIRST CASE FOR TWENTY-SEVEN YEARS.  
AIRMAN'S WIFE.

An announcement has been issued by the Lord Chamberlain for the cancellation of the presentation of Mrs. Courtney to the King.

Lord Chamberlain's Office, St. James' Palace, S.W.1.

June 6, 1930.  
Notice is hereby given that the presentation of Mrs. Christopher Courtney at their Majesty's Court on May 14 last has been cancelled.

THEN THE BLOW FELL  
At Top: Front-Page Clipping from The London Daily Express, Divulging the Cancellation of Mrs. Courtney's Court Presentation, with a Smiling Photo of the "Culprit." Below: The Actual Cancellation Order Issued by the Lord Great Chamberlain.

know that her protegee had been divorced? The general opinion is that she could not possibly have been ignorant of it. But journalism in this country has reached a high peak of accuracy and efficiency. So reporters sought out Sir John at his country estate, Lake End, Huntiscombe, Maidenhead, and asked him to shed light on the tangle.

Said Sir John: "I have no statement to make. Lady Salmond is upset at the inquiries. It is impossible for anyone to see her." Later his wife told me: "I really do not know the reason for the action taken."

That Mrs. Courtney felt the cancellation keenly was evinced in her departure from the country with her husband, "for a holiday." What happened



COULDN'T UNDERSTAND  
The Hon. Lady Salmond, Daughter of Lord Desborough, Who Sponsored Mrs. Courtney's Presentation at Court, and Who Later Remarkd: "I really do not know the reason for the cancellation."

on her return will be stated later.

The turning of the queenly cold shoulder toward her naturally aroused interest in her personal history. She married the Captain in 1926 at the Savoy Chapel followed by a civil ceremony at the Princes Row Register office. Entry was made of the bride's name as "Constance May Rayson, formerly Greensill, spinster, the divorced wife of Alexander Rayson." Her father, George Edward Greensill, was a witness at both ceremonies. Little is known locally concerning Rayson. He is one of those shadowy but significant figures that haunt the background of every society mystery. According to a statement issued by a press bureau last Summer, his marriage to Miss Greensill "had been dissolved on the husband's petition."

Scrutiny of Captain Courtney's personality and achievements was a gratifying task. He entered the navy in 1905, and his military career in the Royal Naval Air Force was brilliant. He is now Deputy Director of Operations and Intelligence in the Air Ministry. His father was W. L. Courtney, eminent editor of The Fortnightly Review.

Socially he is regarded as most acceptable. Basil Foster, the famous cricketer, remarked to me: "He is one of the most delightful of men. Mrs. Courtney is charming. I cannot imagine what motivated the cancellation."

The action in the instance of Mrs. Courtney is a far-away echo from 1903, when a Mrs. Gordon, American-born, came under the displeasure of the House of Windsor. Mrs. Gordon had been presented at court in 1891. Her first husband had been Frederick Close, who was killed. Next she married C. F. Gordon. Divorce by mutual agreement followed, and she married her husband's cousin, Lord Granville Gordon.

In 1903 she unwisely drew attention to herself by suing for the custody of her four-year-old daughter, Cicely, by her second marriage. Lady Gordon evidently sensed during the early stages of the legal action that her cause was foredoomed. Anticipating failure, she got possession of the child and crossed the Channel, perilously, in a small tug boat. Immediately a committal order was issued against her by the Law Courts.

Her gesture, at that time, was sensational. It lost nothing of its flavor when she wrote to Lord Gordon as follows:

"My darling Gran: Please forgive me for running away. I went straight off and am with friends. It was the only thing to do. We could not give up the child to . . . You know I have spoken the truth. I will let you know late where I am. Don't be anxious don't blame me. Yours at all times, Margaret."



LOOK OF REBUKE  
Characteristic Photo of Queen Mary, Showing Her Rather Severe Mode of Dress. The Accompanying Article Analyzes the Reasons Behind the Invariable Royal Disapproval of Divorced Women.



"YOU ENTER THUS"  
Miss Belle Harding Instructing Two Young Women in the Intricacies of Approaching Royalty, When Presented in the Throne Room. They Are Also Taught the Correct Way to Wear Court Dress and the Technique of the Courtsey.

Even coming twelve years after her court presentation, all these actions of hers were a little too much for the strait-laced standards of the period. King Edward VII was on the throne then. Himself no puritanical person—indeed quite the contrary—he was nevertheless forced to bow to tradition. He sanctioned the cancellation.

Persons unacquainted with this tradition indulged in some quiet amusement at the monarch's expense. It seemed to them curious that he should take so uncompromising a stand, when stories about beautiful actresses pouring champagne down his collar were in free circulation. These persons forgot that monarchical custom could not be swerved from its course merely because the administrator was a jolly, unconventional man.

There have been two other examples of court presentation cancellations in the past forty years. In 1898 a Mrs. Crossley underwent that humiliation. Also in the Victorian epoch Lady Twiss,

wife of the last Sir Travels Twiss, was officially snubbed. "Assertions," in the stiff, precise language of that day, "were made against her conduct."

Times have always changed, and they are changing rapidly now. Returned from her "holiday" recently, Mrs. Courtney found London society glad to greet her. Her position, once the regal rebuke had been administered, was again secure. It had been felt necessary to impose the stigma. But stigmas are not indelible, or even always unofficially recognizable.

One of the privileges of a court presentation is that it entitles women to enter the royal inclosure at Ascot. "This season," said a peer's young son to me, with a yawn, "they seem to be letting down the bars there. I wouldn't scratch the surface of respectability in too many cases at Ascot."

Perhaps not. But in any event Mrs. Courtney finds Mayfair's shoulder gratifyingly warm, after the slight chill she caught from Buckingham Palace.

## HUMAN MECHANICS

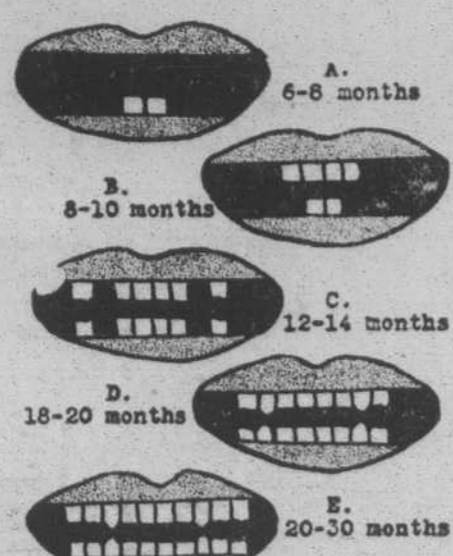
How Baby Teeth Form and Make Their Appearance

By HERBERT L. HERSCHENSOHN  
(Physician and Surgeon)

MISUNDERSTANDING on the part of the mother often causes her much unnecessary anxiety and worry about the development of the baby's teeth.

Every child gets two sets of teeth. The baby teeth are temporary and are only twenty in number. At about the sixth year the permanent teeth begin to appear, the final number being thirty-two.

The baby teeth probably begin developing as early as six months before birth. However, they do not start breaking through the gums until about six months after birth. Baby teeth appear in groups. The first group erupts between the sixth and eighth months. It consists of only two teeth, the two middle lower incisors. About two or three months later, between the eighth and tenth months, all four upper incisors appear. The next interval is longer. Several months elapse before the third group break through the gums. This consists of the other two lower incisors as well as the first four molars. In other words, the infant



The Above Sketches Show the Infant's Age in Months During Which the "Baby Teeth" Make Their Appearance.

should have twelve teeth when it is a little over a year old. When the infant stage merges into that of childhood, that is, at the eighth

month, the fourth group of teeth become visible. This contains the four canines only. They are placed between the incisors and the molars. There is now no space between any of the teeth.

Although the final group does not as a rule crop out until about a year later, it may make its appearance any time after the twentieth month. In this group are the second molars, four in number, one for each corner of the mouth upper and lower. When these are all out the full set of temporary teeth is completed.

Exceptions, of course, occur. Some infants are born with one or two teeth already visible. Although they are pointed to with considerable pride it does not in any way signify that the infant has unusual healthy physical development. As a matter of fact it may even mean in a few cases that some inherited disease is present. Of greater concern is the absence of teeth at the end of ten months or a year. Rickets is an outstanding cause in the delay, and when the teeth finally do appear the structure is of poor quality and they decay early.

Many infants, who are apparently normal, are sometimes several months late in cutting teeth. In some instances there seems to be a familiar tendency in this direction to which no significance need be attached.