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THE PRINCE OF WALES

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to marry are questions in which, under our democratic monarchy, the whole people have an intimate concern. Under the older dispensation a Royal marriage was an affair of high politics. Diplomacy, not Cupid, ordained the mating. Political gains—not infrequently, financial gains, too—were anxiously weighed. Not 'Is it love?' so much as 'Is it politic?' was the question to be decided before a Royal betrothal was sanctioned. Little wonder the Courts of Europe were strewn with broken hearts under this vicious denial of nature's own choice.



Lady Denniston, Cashmere Hills, Christchurch

Clifford, Christchutch. photo.

"Popular sentiment throughout the Empire would be revolted if any attempt were made to marry off the Prince in this way. Happily the attempt will not be made. For one thing, the Prince himself is not that sort of man. When he chooses a bride he will be guided by his heart alone. For another thing, the convention that Royal blood may mate only with Royal blood has ended so far as the Empire at least is concerned. The right which both Princess Mary and the Duke of York have exercised of marrying outside the Royal circle cannot be denied to the Prince of Wales.

"UNQUESTIONABLY the popular wish is that he may take as his wife a girl typical of English beauty, schooled in British tradition, and familiar with our democratic and domestic ways. Rumour at various times has associated him with this name and with that. Rumour may be disregarded. If the Prince has indeed made his choice it remains, so far, his secret and his alone.

"It may be said, however, his return to the Motherland has brought him to a significant phase. Africa completes his grand tour of the Empire. It has been a broadening and beneficient experience for him—an unrivalled apprenticeship in Imperialism. It would be natural if its close saw the close of his bachelorhood also. If the future is to confirm that forecast there could be no more fitting British wish to the Prince than that by his choice he may both enrich his own happiness and satisfy popular desire by leading a British girl to the altar."