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EDITORIAL

“YOU, HAPPY AUSTRIA, WED.”

By DANIEL DE LEON

EUROPEAN society news being full with the details of the brace of weddings of our American millionairess(es)—millionairess Antoinette Heckscher with Lord Esher’s heir, Oliver Sylvain Baliol Bratt, and millionairess Constance Warren with Count Guyde Lasteyrie—a long procession is started before the mind’s eye of American heiresses who have married European “noblemen,” generally financially, and, not infrequently, also physically decayed ones, whereby these scions of a feudalic past are propped up with the wealth plentifully produced by and capitalistically exploited from the Working Class of America.

Austria has long had no reputation for military power to defend herself, let alone for making conquests. Nevertheless, both the instances of effective defence on her part, and even of conquests are not a few. These were made through adroit marriages. Long before the marriage of a princess of the royal house of Hapsburg with the first Napoleon, whereby war and the disruption of the Austrian Empire was averted, Austria had substituted Wedding for War. The fact was immortalized centuries ago by a neat Latin dactylic distich, which, translated, runs this wise:

Let war be waged by others; you happy Austria, Wed;
For, what Wars {give} unto others, Venus gives unto you.

What else but an up-to-date and Europe-wide Austria do the American-heiresses-wedding-pauper, or, if not exactly pauper, at any rate, money-needing feudal houses of Europe constitute? Does not the distich fit, to-day, the feudal lords who, as Austria lost the cunning of arms, have lost the cunning of extorting wealth from the toiling class; and, like Austria, now encompass the same ends by wedding? Of them, as of Austria, America furnishing the weddees, can now be said:

Let Force be used by others; you, puling nobles, Wed;
For what Force unto others, Venus gives unto you.

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