

# A Washington Social War Unparalleled in Diplomatic History.

The New Ambassador from Mexico Snubbed and Humiliated by Members of the Diplomatic Corps of Other Governments.



Madame Aspiroz.

WASHINGTON, April 14.— Madame Aspiroz, wife of the late Mexican Ambassador, has been snubbed and humiliated by members of the diplomatic corps of other governments. The incident occurred at a social gathering in Washington, where Madame Aspiroz, who is a well-known social figure, was treated with marked disrespect. The cause of this treatment is believed to be her husband's position as a former ambassador and the current political tensions between Mexico and the United States. Madame Aspiroz is said to have been particularly hurt by the behavior of certain members of the diplomatic corps, who are known for their high social standing and political influence.



The Last Moments of the Unfortunate Maximilian. (FROM THE FAMOUS PAINTING BY J. P. LAURENS.)

The court merely listened in sullen contempt. The verdict of the court came quick and decisive. It was "GUILTY," and the sentence was "DEATH." Five days later, the 19th of June, was set for his execution. Weak and incapable as Maximilian had been as a ruler he rose to greatness as a soldier. When the death warrant was issued he was in the city of Mexico, and he was himself overcome, while the Emperor's valet fell to his knees and sobbed. Maximilian had refused the means of escape offered to him by the German Prince Salm-Salm and his plucky American wife, the Princess Salm-Salm, who returned to this country only last week.

Because Ambassador Aspiroz 32 Years Ago Was the Prosecuting Officer Who Secured the Death Warrant of Maximilian.



Senor Aspiroz.

When Maximilian was brought out he willingly but urged by Napoleon III. of France. This was a part of the latter's scheme to set up a monarchy in Mexico that would be friendly to France. French soldiers had prepared the way by capturing the City of Mexico and the central provinces. Maximilian on his arrival became a puppet ruler under French military protection. When the failure of Napoleon's plot was foreseen the French troops were withdrawn, in February, 1867. Maximilian's doom was certain from that time.

## STABBED THE STAGE VILLAIN.

MARIE BURROUGHS, the versatile actress, introduced real tragedy into the play "Two Rogues at a Romance," at Denver the other night. The play required her to pretend to stab the villain, enacted by Harold Russell. As a matter of fact she drove her dagger clear through the actor's face. It was a terrible blow and would have subdued any villain. The curtain was hastily rung down after the accident occurred, and for a while last night when I saw the blood gushing out over his face when I made the stroke. "Mr. Russell staggered to the chair, his hands over his face, and fell heavily. I thought the knife had put his eye out and probably killed him. "For a moment my brain whirled, and then I found myself on my knees before him repeating 'My God! I have killed you.' "It is all right. Go on," said Mr. Russell with heroic presence of mind. "The audience can't see it is so dark; go on with the affair."



How Marie Burroughs, Accidentally, Almost Killed the Stage Villain.

consideration prevailed behind the scenes, while the audience wondered at the abrupt ending of the scene. Mr. Russell was carried from the stage, and Dr. Morris, the house surgeon of the theatre, summoned. Mr. Russell's face was ghastly, and the blood, gushing from his wound, had saturated his clothing. Miss Burroughs was utterly prostrated and was removed to her dressing room in hysterics. It was not until an hour after that she was sufficiently calm to go to her room in the Brown Palace Hotel, across the street. Mr. Arthur, manager of the company, thus explained the accident: "It occurred during a part of the play in which Mr. Russell, who takes the part of Sir Richard Carrington, is struggling with Miss Burroughs, who takes the character of the Rajah. During the struggle Miss Burroughs is supposed to stab Mr. Russell. Usually the knife, which is a dagger-shaped paper cutter, having a blade about eight inches long, the point blunted with a small metal ball, strikes his shoulder. "I shall never forget it while I live," said she. "I struggled to my feet, but felt as though I had no limbs. I went over to the curtains and held to them for support. "Mr. Robson, in his part, came out at this moment and seeing what had happened, signalled for the curtain. I had to be carried to my dressing room, and for an hour I was hysterical and could not realize what had happened. It makes me shiver even now to think of how Mr. Russell looked, his face covered with blood." The mystery of the affair is how Miss Burroughs could have inflicted such a dangerous wound with the knife, which is really only a plaything. The handle is of silver, the blade steel, but tipped with a metal ball almost half an inch in diameter. "I certainly received a very heavy blow and shows how enthusiastic Miss Burroughs is in her work. In an interview published just before the accident Miss Burroughs described this identical scene in illustrating how intense is her interest in it when she is setting

## To Study the Ladies of the Sultan's Harem.

MISS ALMA DALMA, the well known comic opera singer and former wife of Rudolph Aronson, has undertaken to penetrate the mysteries and secrets of life in the harem of the Sultan of Morocco. Miss Dalma left Tangier by caravan for Fez last Tuesday. Fez is the capital of Morocco, in the middle of the desert, and here she hopes to secretly study the most curiously interesting social institution on earth. Miss Dalma goes armed with letters to very influential people, and it is well that she does, because the Sultan, probably the most arbitrarily cruel despot in Africa, has a cheerful habit of feeding kerosene down the throats of people who give him displeasure and then setting them afire. Miss Dalma will later on write the results of this interesting visit, if she comes back alive. The New York public is well acquainted with Miss Dalma, who is an old Casino favorite and a very handsome young woman. After her success in "Ernani" ten years ago she went abroad to cultivate her voice. She received instruction from Mme. Marchesi and from Mme. Ricci, in Milan. Later Mr. and Mrs. Aronson had a misunderstanding, the result of which was a cessation of cordial relations. Alma Dalma was invited to return home. Alma Dalma remained in Europe. Miss Dalma formed a friendship with Mme. Mascagni, wife of the composer of "Cavalleria Rusticana," and spent many months as a guest at the composers' house in Italy. At last, in the Fall of 1898, she returned to America, and, almost at once, from Chicago came news that she had applied for a divorce from her husband, whom she charged with desertion and failure to support her. Aronson smiled somewhat grimly when he heard these charges, but he did not contest the suit and Mrs. Aronson was awarded her decree. Since then Alma Dalma has divided her time between this country and Europe. She is the writer of two plays, both of which have been produced abroad.



MISS ALMA DALMA.



THE NEW CHURCH WHERE NEWPORT'S ARISTOCRATS WILL WORSHIP

## AN EXCLUSIVE "400" CHURCH.

Not only have the Summer colonists at Newport sought secluded spots for bathing and golfing, for picnics and dances. They have also sought out a little church where they can worship by themselves if they so wish. It is so far out of town that except themselves and the country people there are few other attendants. Almost every one that summers at Newport has seen the Berkeley Memorial Chapel; yet many of the residents of Newport and the towns on the island of Rhode Island have simply heard of it. To them it is simply another new "meeting house." It is situated about four miles out of Newport, on the southeastern shore of Middletown, near Taggart's ferry, famous in Revolutionary times, and near the fine "Fossil" little church, covered with ivy, and in the Summer season has always been attended by some of the richest of the Summer residents. Many of them have bestowed large sums of money on its memorial furnishings. Everything in the interior of the church has been provided for in that way. The church is named after Bishop George Berkeley, who came from Europe and settled in Middletown in 1723. The beautiful stained glass window at the west is in memory of Mrs. Edwin Booth. That at the east is in memory of Bishop Berkeley. A mural tablet opposite the entrance is for Lieutenant Totten, who lost his life in an attempt to save others. There is also one for Edwin Booth, the gift of his daughter, Mrs. Edwin Booth Grossman, who planted the vines about the church with which it is now covered. Mr. Harold Brown gave the organ. There are two stones in the porch themselves and the country people there are few other attendants. Almost every one that summers at Newport has seen the Berkeley Memorial Chapel; yet many of the residents of Newport and the towns on the island of Rhode Island have simply heard of it. To them it is simply another new "meeting house." A large sum of money has been expended in improving the grounds and in laying out a new driveway. On a Summer Sunday scores of fashionable turnouts can be seen driving out to this country chapel, where for two years the Rev. Henry Stone, lately called to Trinity Church in Newport, has been the preacher. Among the regular attendants are Mrs. John Carter Brown and her family, the families of Julien Davies, Robert Guenet, Lyman C. Joseph and the King family. The chapel is near Gray Creek, the farm of Mr. Oliver H. P. Belmont. Both he and Mrs. Belmont are frequent attendants. A CITY BUILT OF ZINC. IN the Transvaal, on the eastern border of Africa, is the queerest village in the world—Beira, a town built of zinc. The dwellings and outhouses, the public buildings, the residence of the Governor, the barracks, the stores, hotels, saloons, the public houses, are all of zinc. The fever of speculation and the greed for gold was so great and the influx of immigrants so rapid that the town was built in six months.