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EDITORIAL

NUPTIAL BLAZES.

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ON the same day that Alfred J. Du Pont was married at the Plaza Hotel, in this city, to Mrs. Alicia Maddox, his powder and dynamite plant, located in Fontanet, Ind., blew up, wrecking the whole village, killing scores of workers and injuring many more.

The nuptial festivals of Louis XVI. were marked by a similar disaster. The fireworks in Paris exploded untimely and destroyed hundreds of hundreds of lives. The incident was called “The Slaughter of the Innocents.”

Mr. Du Pont is no Louis XVI., it must be admitted; even less is ex-Mrs. Maddox a Marie Antoinette. Nevertheless, there are features of the Du Pont-Maddox marriage that strangely recall features of the high-stepping class of which Louis and Marie of old were central figures and exponents, and which features are brought into glaring relief by the parallel blaze of Fontanet.

Mr. Du Pont was a divorced husband—a South Dakota divorcee. The present Mrs. Du Pont, Mrs. Maddox, was a divorced wife. The two-barreled fact affords two-barreled peeps into the “sanctuary” of the former family lives of the capitalist bridegroom and the bride.

Mr. Du Pont—like the “nobility” around Louis XVI., who had their estates at great distances from the court, and enjoyed in the latter place the wealth extracted by their stewards from their serfs—did not make his home on his Fontanet estate: that place was not elegant enough: it smelled too strongly of the sweat of the wage-slaves engaged thereon. He dwelt in the large cities of the land, close to the Stock Exchanges. Mrs. Du Pont fled still further away from the rancid smell of her sweated wage-slaves in America: their odor was too disagreeably pungent for her delicate nostrils: nothing less than gay and perfumed Paris suited her for a residential place.

The “Slaughter of the Innocents” in Paris only slightly affected the program mapped out for the festivities of the royal bride and groom. The “Slaughter of the Innocents” at Fontanet caused but little alteration in the capitalist Du Pont bridal program. It was originally to consist of a tour through New England on their 70-horse-power automobile: now the tour on that 70-horse-power automobile will be made to Fontanet, Ind., nor is the gruesome goal expected to interfere with the couple’s enjoyment of the beautiful autumn scenery through the States of New York and Ohio.

The Du Pont class is heir to the feudal class of Louis XVI. and his royal consort. It looks as if the former were now traveling with a 700-horse-power automobile towards the gulf that is heir to that gulf which engulfed the Louis XVI. class.

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