

A Wedding Surprise at St Marylebone

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A NOBLEMAN'S MARRIAGE.

Anticipating by a day the date publicly announced for their wedding, Lord Howard de Walden and Miss Margherita Van Raalte were quietly married in London last month. Everything connected with the ceremony had been kept a profound secret, except to a small circle of relatives and intimate friends. No information was forthcoming as to the time or the place of the ceremony. Marylebone parish church, of which Lord Howard de Walden is Crown Warden, was never suspected. Situated in Marylebone Road, it does not suggest itself as suitable to a quiet wedding. An awning stretching from the main entrance was the only outward indication that a wedding ceremony had been arranged. About half-past 11 wedding guests began to arrive in motor cars, but they were so few that they attracted practically no attention. Lord Howard de Walden, accompanied by a friend, drove up in a motor-brougham shortly before 12 o'clock, entered the church by a door which was not used by the guests, and was received by his best man, Captain Gerald Ellis. It was a few minutes after noon when the bride, accompanied by her mother, Mrs. Charles Van Raalte, arrived in a motor car. Miss Van Raalte wore a beautiful but simple dress of ivory crepe de beauté and scalloped tunic, a handsome chinchilla stole, and a large blue hat trimmed with plumes. When all the wedding guests had arrived the congregation did not number more than 60. The service was fully choral, the choir numbering 50 voices, and Mr. F. B. Kiddle being at the organ. The officiating clergy were the Rev. Ernest Powles, Rector of Snailwell, Newmarket (uncle of the bridegroom), the Rector of Marylebone (Dr. W. D. Morrison), the Rev. R. Conyers Morrell (assistant curate), and the Rev. F. S. Algeo, Vicar of Brownsea Island, Dorset (the country home of the bride). A short address was delivered by Dr. Morrison. The interior of the church had been artistically decorated, the prevailing colours being red and white. There were red roses in profusion, white lilac, white camellias, smilax, ferns, and Phoenix palms. Smilax had been prettily entwined about the church pillars. When the wedding party left the church there was a crowd of about 30 outside, but very few of them were aware of the identity of the bride and bridegroom. Lord Howard de Walden will be 32 in May. He has been a soldier, is an authority on armour, has written poetry, and had an opera and a drama produced. He is well known in the racing world. At Audley End, Saffron Walden, he indulges in the ancient pastimes of hawking and falconry, he is an expert fencer, an enthusiastic motorist and yachtsman, and has bought an aeroplane. One of the wealthiest Peers in the kingdom, he derives the greater part of his wealth from his Marylebone estate, which extends to Oxford Street, and includes Cavendish Square. Lord Howard de Walden's bride is the elder daughter of the late Mr Charles Van Raalte, who twice unsuccessfully fought East Dorset as a Unionist. She has a beautiful voice.

