

CHALLENGES WIDOW OF PRINCE RUSPOLI

His Brother Denies That American Princess's Money Bought Nemi Castle.

SHE RETAINS POSSESSION

Ignores His Offer of Payment If She Will Not Contest the Will Which Gives Him the Estate.

Special Cable to THE NEW YORK TIMES.

ROME, Jan. 8.—The expected storm over the dispositions of Prince Enrico Ruspoli's will has broken with greater violence even than was expected. To the accusations of his widow (née Berry) that the castle and estate of Nemi left to his brother was bought with her money, Prince Umberto Ruspoli, the heir, has issued a statement to Prince Chigi, Marquis Cappelli, and Prince Borghese.

They are chosen as the most representative names in Roman aristocracy. After reading the statement they issued a letter to the papers, in which they said:

"Don Umberto Ruspoli has given us explanations and shown us evidence demonstrating how right Prince Enrico Ruspoli was in the way he left his property, which excludes in the most formal manner Don Umberto Ruspoli from gaining the least profit from the fortune of his sister-in-law."

Now Prince Umberto Ruspoli publishes the letter which he addressed to the above-mentioned gentlemen—Prince Chigi, Marquis Cappelli, and Prince Borghese—in which, after having protested against what he calls "the profanation of the memory of his brother," he says that the latter "bought the Castle of Nemi at auction for \$41,400, and that if his wife lent him a part of the sum, certainly he returned it before his death. However, to cut short all insinuations spread against the venerated memory of my lamented brother, whose will I wish to see respected, I deposit, in your hands the sum of 207,000 Italian lire, representing the purchase price of the property, Nemi, bought by my brother. I do so in order that you may interrogate his widow, Donna Eugenia Berry, and pay her that part of this sum or even the whole if she, on her honor, declares that she will and can in conscience take this money, and affirms that she lent it to her husband for the purchase of Castle Nemi, on condition that she accepts the testament in all its dispositions and leaves me in undisputed possession of the castle and land Nemi before Jan. 30. After this time, if acceptance has not taken place, I will withdraw the offer and will reacquire full liberty of action."

Needless to say, these letters have created great gossip and speculation, and represent the sensation of the day. Meanwhile Princess Ruspoli, like a mediaeval chatelaine, has withdrawn to Nemi and holds the castle, watching from the turrets across the pale blue of the beautiful lake the enemy's approach.

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