

NOTES ON THE BUST OF MARY SEACOLE BY COUNT GLEICHEN.

Notes given to Miss Gertrude Jewaby
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The enlarged replica in plaster of the bust of Mary Seacole which has been completed by Mr. Curtis Johnston is after the terra cotta bust in the collection of the Institute of Jamaica. Count Gleichen, the artist, was born in Würtemberg in Germany in 1833 as Prince Victor Ferdinand Franz Gustaf Adolf Constantine Friedrich of Hohenlohe-Langenburg, for many years known as Count Gleichen (1833-1891), naval officer and sculptor, was ~~the~~ third and youngest son of Prince Ernest of Hohenlohe-Langenburg and of Princess Feodore, only daughter of Emich Charles, reigning Prince of ~~Leiningen~~^{Leiningen}, by Princess Victoria of Saxe-Coburg-Saalfeld, afterwards Duchess of Kent. His mother was therefore half-sister to Queen Victoria. Prince Victor was sent to school in Dresden. He seemed to have been a somewhat difficult lad and ran away. Through the interests of Queen Victoria he was put into the British Navy as a midshipman in 1848. It was in 1854 that he was serving on the H.M.S. "Jean d'Arc" off Sevastopol. It was at that time that he came in contact with Mary Seacole. The friendship which was established was pursued in subsequent years; presumably in England which Mary Seacole visited a number of times after her experience in the Crimea. In 1861 Prince Victor married Laura Willamina daughter of British Admiral Sir George Seymour. By German Law reigning families whose wives were of lower rank were disqualified from using their husbands title. In consequence, Prince Victor assumed the title of Count Gleichen, the second title in his family, by which he was known for many years. After retiring from the Navy Count Gleichen devoted himself to an artistic career for which he had considerable talent. He executed a number of busts of notable people. His most important work was a colossal statue of Alfred The Great. The terra cotta bust of Mary Seacole is dated 1871 and bears the initial "G" which Count Gleichen used to mark his work. If had a bust of Mary Seacole in wood it seems unlikely that this is a replica of that bust and is probably quite a separate work. Its delicate execution is believed to be a very good likeness. We also believe that the enlarged replica which Mr. Johnston has completed is a most faithful piece of work.