THE PEERAGE

Without Whitewash

Our bold, bad barons, and their wicked wives

By Sidney Hodlin

SARAH, DUCHESS OF MARLBOROUGH (1685-1744)

Lady Elizabeth Spencer, a cousin of Prince George of Wales, had no private fortune of her own. Yet she married the Duke of Marlborough, war hero and statesman, and managed his estate with great care.

Her language

The Irish Earl of Tyrconnell once complained of his daughter's speech. She must have been a chatterbox, he thought. When his lordship's daughter was accused of speaking too much, her father replied: "It is from the same part of the world; the tongue is the same, but the language is different."