

# The Home Reading Circle

## The Wedding of Kate Carnegie

By  
Ian MacLaren.

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**SYNOPSIS.**

Great speculation is rife in Drumtochty as to how and where the approaching marriage of Kate Carnegie, an Episcopalian, and John Watson, Free Kirk minister, will be celebrated. The problem is a tremendous and absorbing one to the people, until Kate settles the matter by asking Dr. Davidson, the minister of the parish (Established) church, to perform the ceremony. "I have no objection if you are guilty to John, the parish Beadle. How shall the Free Kirk brethren, who needs must come to their minister's wedding, be seated? Since the religious movement of 1843, some thirty years before, which restored the establishment of the Free Kirk, none of its dissenters has ever sat foot within the parish church, but of course the ancestral family pews are still there, and John evolves the plan of having the Free Kirkers occupy their ancestral pews on the occasion. This is settled on, but kept secret between John and Dr. Davidson. But another question still vexes the good Beadle, and he appeals to Dr. Davidson again, Will the Free Kirk Beadle want to act as colleague at the

PART II.

"Certainly not, as, eh, colleague"—the Doctor's voice kept wonderfully steady—"but assistant, perhaps, to take any little duty you cannot overtake yourself, for the day will be a strain, and it would relieve you to have a man at your command."

It was exasperating that after all this care had been taken, and every risk of collision had been anticipated, that a man like Gormack should suddenly plunge into the affair and create a crisis which might have ended in general confusion. For a generation Gormack had sat contentedly on a back seat, and supported Drumsheugh and the front bench in the government of the affairs of the commonwealth, and his unexpected interference is only another illustration of how a dunceman may at a time loss his head.

"A've been wunnerin' hoo a' the fous can be seatin' at the marriage, John, an' a've hit on a bit plan which micht be o' use tae ye."

The fathers regarded him with horror, as one bereft of his senses, and John's face, after one swift stare of astonishment hardened into steel.

"It's thoochit o' ye, Gormack, tak peety o' pair, helpless, distractit cratur, an' a' wud be glad tae hear for we a' ken ye ha'e a' terrible gift o' ingenuity, and even after that Gormack continued on his course.

"It wudna be wise-like tae see the Free Kirk folk han'lin' about the doors or wanderin' up an' doon the passagons, or rammin' themselts intae pews whar there wens room for them, like stirkie intae a' byre."

John encouraged Gormack to proceed with such irony that even Whinnie felt the atmosphere, and Hillocks indicated to Drumsheugh that he ought to intervene.

"Noo, a' wens thinkin' that ye micht set a corn measure at ae end o' a passage an' a stool at the other, and lay a stack ladder on them. WI' plaid or sic-like on it, ye cud get a grand seat for maybe twelve fous, an'—"

"Wee an' awf'ful hand," Gormack, when ye tak the jokin', but ye canna draw the Beadle; na, na, he has his pan ready, an' he's no tae tell it till the day come," which was very shrewd of Drumsheugh, but it took him all his time—the doctor had to assist—to smooth John down and induce him to regard Gormack's suggestion as a foolish and irreverent jest. It was four weeks before the outraged functionary had worked on his indignation, during which time he badgered Gormack without mercy—entreating him to bring forward any new suggestions for the seating of the people, and offering him the duty of church officer on the great



HE BANTERED GORMACK WITH MERCY.

day, till the approach thereof reduced him to a solemnity which filled the Kirkyard with awe.

After Carnegie had left the church on the Sunday before his marriage, Burnbrae appeared at the precentor's

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## TO CELEBRATE THE DIAMOND JUBILEE

### Preparations for the Great Event Which Will Take Place in June.

#### VICTORIA'S RECORD BREAKING REIGN

#### Arrangements for the Big Procession, Though Practically Completed, Have Not as Yet Given Official Sanction—Some Possible Features of the Diamond Jubilee—Victoria's Retrospect.

From the Philadelphia Times.

Less than three months now remain before the celebration of Queen Victoria's diamond jubilee, and Londoners are busy in anticipation of the coming event. Although the route which the procession will follow on June 22 has not been officially announced, it is generally assumed that it will be similar, so far as the first part of it is concerned, to that followed ten years ago, when the ceremony took place at Westminster Abbey. On this assumption processions and windows along the route have already been let at what seem enormous figures, but when one considers that such as a whole year's rental was the universal rate for a single day at the Czar's coronation in Moscow last year, and that notwithstanding the barbaric splendor of that eastern pageant, it could not compare in point of historic interest with the commemoration of the longest reign of the half hundred sovereigns who have ruled over Great Britain since the time of Alfred the Great, the sum of \$10,000 for one of the best houses on Piccadilly, and \$25 for a window capable of accommodating five people does not seem so very ruinous.

While Englishmen are busy with their preparations, it is in a quiet way, not noticeable to the casual visitor. London does not wear its heart on its sleeve for days to peck at; the mighty ebb and flow of its tide of humanity is not easily affected, only a little increase in the daily mail, a little mutter among the house agents, an increased attendance at the theatres. There is no outward and visible sign of what is going on nor will there be until well on in June.

Down in the country towns and villages local magnates are endowing hospitals, building libraries and presenting fountains to their fellow-townsmen in commemoration of the event; but the bulk of the money subscribed by the people will go into a fund to relieve the London free hospitals from a load of annually recurring indebtedness, amounting to tens of millions of dollars.

#### BEGINS ON SUNDAY.

The commemoration will commence on Sunday, June 20, when religious services will be held in every church the world over where the British flag flies. Monday, June 21, is what is known as accession day, but at the Queen's suggestion the many celebrations will be deferred until the following day, when her sixty years' reign will have been actually completed and a new epoch entered upon.

London's population is over six millions, and it is estimated that there will be one million visitors staying there during the entire jubilee week, besides perhaps half a million more who will come in and return home the same day. There will be special performances at the theatres, and the town will be magnificently illuminated. In the evening, undoubtedly the chief attraction to the visitors will be the processions from Buckingham Palace to St. Paul's Cathedral in the morning and its return in the afternoon.

Special preparations have been made to provide children with a good view of the procession. Queen Victoria's love for the little ones is proverbial and perhaps one of the prettiest episodes of the day will be the presentation by the children of England of an appropriate gift to her Majesty.

Sixty long years, in which the world has moved forward at a rate and to a point deemed impossible a century ago. Not that the times have always been peaceful. The smoke of Trafalgar and Waterloo had barely blown away when she commenced her reign. The Crimean war and the Indian mutiny were trying times for her, and in the course of years she has had the most astute diplomats of the world to contend with.



THE TEMPTATION OF ST. ANTHONY.

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every part of the colonies. The rest of the cavalcade will be made up of foreign royalties and representatives, home and colonial officials and the Queen's ladies, all with their appropriate military escorts.

#### THE PROCESSION.

Leaving Buckingham Palace about 11 a.m., the procession will wind its way up Constitution Hill to Piccadilly, where it will turn east past Apsley House—the nation's present to the "Iron Duke"—past rows of magnificent private houses and palatial clubs until it reaches St. James' street, where it may perhaps turn down hill past some of the buildings and embankments of St. James' Palace, past Marlborough House, the home of the Prince of Wales, and so through Pall Mall and Cockspur street into Trafalgar Square. It is possible, however, that instead of turning down St. James' street, the procession may continue along Piccadilly, past the Academy, to Regent Circus and turning down the lower end of Regent street, reach Trafalgar Square by way of Waterloo Place and Cockspur street, thus depriving the clubs of an opportunity to display their loyalty, but pleasing the stockbrokers. From Trafalgar Square the procession will wind its way along the "Strand," the chosen home of the Thespian and Bohemian, until it reaches the ancient boundaries of the city of London, where a monument surmounted by a brazen griffin marks the former site of Temple Bar. A score of years ago when would have been at this spot by the Lord Mayor and corporation with an address of welcome, but on this occasion the address will be reserved until after the ceremony at St. Paul's, when the Mansion House is reached. From the law courts it is practically a straight line down Fleet street, the home of the London dailies, and up Ludgate Hill to the Cathedral.

#### TICKETS OF ADMISSION.

The magnificent proportions of St. Paul's are lost sight of in the pent-up circle of dingy houses that surround it. The only fair view that one gets is on approaching it from the west, but the recent restoration of Queen Anne's statue which stands before it, will prevent the procession from driving up to the northern entrance. It has been suggested that after the fatiguing drive the Queen will descend from her carriage and walk up the long flight of steps which lead to the nave of the cathedral, but that the ceremony will take place under a canopy erected outside. The Queen, however, is a great stickler for forms, especially in the case of religious ones, and it is not unlikely that she may decide, after all, to brave the steps and not allow so trifling a matter to interfere with the proper observance of the ceremony.

The immense open space before the west front has been entirely reserved by the Lord Chamberlain, which means that only those who have been admitted at court will be able to obtain tickets of admission to this desirable spot.

The cathedral service will be conducted by a short one, and after its conclusion the procession will wind its way to the Mansion House, where the Lord Mayor will provide the tied cavalcade with rest and refreshments. The journey back will probably pass along the Thames embankment.

#### AN EVENTFUL REIGN.

Of all the multitudes who will throng the street that day none will have more curious food for reflection than Queen Victoria. Born on the 24th day of May, 1819, she has outlived all who were her early counselors, and of the crowned heads who were alive at the time of her coronation in 1837 not one remains today. She remembers with horror the assassination of two presidents of the United States, two presidents of the French republic, the Czar of Russia, the Emperor Maximilian, a Sultan of Turkey, the King of Spain, and less other less notable national heads. She has witnessed the detronement of the emperor of the French; she alone, happy in her husband, her children and the love of her people, remains to give thanks for a long period of peace and happiness—a longer period than any other of her predecessors.

Sixty long years, in which the world has moved forward at a rate and to a point deemed impossible a century ago. Not that the times have always been peaceful. The smoke of Trafalgar and Waterloo had barely blown away when she commenced her reign. The Crimean war and the Indian mutiny were trying times for her, and in the course of years she has had the most astute diplomats of the world to contend with.

The Queen will drive in an open carriage drawn by twelve cream-colored horses. By her side will be the Princess of Wales and for her escort she will have the princesses of all the reigning houses of Europe. An additional and what will no doubt be a popular escort will be formed of a detachment from different volunteer regiments in

While never overstepping the bounds of her constitutional limits Victoria has from an early date compelled a strict adherence to her ministers, and more than once has prevented them from rushing into unnecessary war. Perhaps her mind will run back to the days of the Chartist riots, to the corn law and reform riots, when Hyde Park palings went down and national institutions for a time were threatened; to Fenian invasions and other domestic trouble happily passed. In whatever direction her thoughts may wander through the past she will not fail to note with deepest satisfaction the too evident expression of feeling among all classes that her work has been well done and not done in vain.

#### Had the Grip.

Medium—"Now, ladies and gentlemen, if there's any spirit you wish to see, let me know." Professor Driebones (named Ectyologist)—"Can you show us Cheops, the builder of the great Pyramid?" Medium—"Certainly." Professor Driebones—"Glorious! I will talk to him in his own language." Medium (hastily)—"Cheops says he has the grip and can't come."—New York Weekly.

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