King Tommy

CHAPTER XVII—Continued

—24—

"All the same," said Tommy, "I don't think the patriarch ought to have talked that way to the princess about her father."

"The princess evidently felt that way herself," said Janet. "She changed the subject promptly, and—well, she beat about the bush a bit, and it was rather hard to make out exactly what she meant. But I think she was trying to explain to the patriarch that she had no objection to marrying you. Of course that wasn't a thing she could very well say straight out in plain words, and evidently the patriarch didn't quite grasp what she was at."

"How did it end?" said Tommy. "I'm not asking simply out of curiosity. It's really rather an important matter with me."

"I can't tell you how it ended," said Janet. "That tall young man came in who sat at supper with you last night."

"Albert Casimir."

"That's his name. He came in and told me that I might come here to see you."

"I wish you'd waited a little," said Tommy.

"I waited as long as I could. I was practically ordered out of the room. But I shouldn't have been much wiser if I'd stayed. They were all three talking nothing but Lystrian. As soon as the princess realized that the patriarch wasn't taking it when she said she dripped German and spoke Lystrian. So did the count. All I can say is that it sounded as if they were arguing."

"It always sounds as if people were arguing when they talk a language one doesn't understand. Generally they appear to be quarreling. Which side was Casimir on, the princess or the patriarch's?"

"It seemed to me," said Janet, "that they were all three on different sides."

"Well," said Tommy, "I suppose it's all settled by this time. I wish I knew how."

"From the way they were speaking," said Janet, "I should say the discussion might go on for hours. They all seemed to have a lot to say."

"I wish you'd go back," said Tommy, "and try what you can do in the way of influencing the patriarch."

"I don't see that I've any right to interfere."

"Still, I think you ought to try. It's a frightfully serious thing for me. As far as I can make out I'm either going to be hanged or married."

"I'm afraid I've no influence with the patriarch."

"Oh, yes, you have," said Tommy, "as a representative of the League of Christian Churches, you must have. Suppose you were to offer the patriarch to make him president of a world conference of religions, to be held at Chicago or some place like that, where a conference of the kind might be held. He'd love that. And at the same time you could tell Casimir that I don't in the least mind whether I'm king of Lystria or not. If I'm allowed to marry Calypso I'd every bit as soon go home as stay here."

"That young woman," said Janet, "is totally unsuited to be a curate's wife."

"She is," said Tommy. "I know that. Perhaps it would be better for you to say to Casimir that I'd make quite a good king from his point of view—give him any amount of balls and dinners, keep up the opera, not have any income tax, and all that sort of thing. The late king told me exactly what's wanted and I'm prepared to do it. It will be easy enough to talk over Casimir. The real trouble is the patriarch. Look here, Miss Church, if you manage to persuade him, I'll promise faithfully to use all my influence as king to unite the Lystrian church to any Christian body in the world you choose to name. Even if we have to wait till the present patriarch dies and I have the appointment of a new one, we'll pull the thing off in the end."

That must have been a strong temptation to Janet. I dare say she would have given way to it and gone to the patriarch with a proposal that he should be president of some sort of world conference. Whether she would have accepted the position or not no one will ever know. Before Janet had made any reply to Tommy, Count Albert Casimir entered the room.

He immediately ordered the two soldiers who stood on guard to go away. He spoke to them in a manner that was actually savage. Just as if they had forced their way into Tommy's apartments against orders which he had repeatedly given them.

Then he marched over to the window, where Tommy was standing, and saluted. After that he marched back to the door, flung it open, stood to attention at one side of it and said, "Please."

It was evident that Tommy was at liberty again.

Janet, eagerly questioning Casimir, scarcely paused to translate his answers to Tommy, got an outline of what had happened.

The princess had carried her point. Casimir, who did not much care who was king of Lystria, so long as there was a king of some sort, backed her up. The patriarch, who was a kind-hearted old gentleman and really fond of the princess, had given way in the end.

By George A. Birmingham

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Part IV
London and Lystria

CHAPTER XVIII

I find myself at last in my own great station, able to return to a part of the story in which I myself bore a part. I am no longer writing hearsay, but narrating what I actually saw and heard.

The scene of Lord Edmund Trotter's dinner in Grosvenor street, when Lord Northeys and his bride walked in, remains vividly pictured in my mind. Troyte sat bolt upright on the edge of a deep chair in which he had been lounging. At his elbow was a little table with the empty coffee cups and the liqueurs on it. Behind it sat Professor Basile, staring at Northeys with an expression of angry amazement on his face. Half way between the door and the fireplace stood Northeys and his bride. I had never before seen Viola Temple off the stage, and her appearance surprised me. I expected her to be pretty, of course. I did not expect her to be, gentle, shy, and even timid. A girl who has faced huge audiences hundreds of times would not, one might suppose, be frightened of three old gentlemen sitting round a fire. But she was. Northeys' attitude was protective. He held one of her hands and kept her close beside him.

The library in Troyte's house in Grosvenor street is a comfortable and, I think, a beautiful room. There are a couple of good pictures, but for the most part the walls are covered with bookcases. Troyte has spent a great deal on books during his life, rare books, exquisite examples of printing and books which have fine bindings. I do not know that he, or indeed any one, ever reads books of that kind. It is generally easier and pleasanter to buy a modern edition of an old author if you want to read him at all. But there is no doubt that the presence in a room of good books, good from a bibliophile's point of view, creates an atmosphere which is very agreeable, especially after dinner.

A Persian carpet, one of the best I have ever seen, covers the floor of the library. Some good chairs, Chippendale, stand with their backs against the bookcases. But Troyte is too sensible a man to sacrifice comfort to artistic feeling. Round the fire he had deep leather-covered chairs of thoroughly satisfactory late Victorian design.

I, the fifth person present, and by far the least important, leaned back in my chair and gazed feebly.

"Unless it's Emily's curate, who's gone to Lystria," I repented, "I don't know who it can be."

Procopius Cable turned and glared at me with ferocity and contempt. I had been guilty of an ill-timed attempt at a joke in the middle of a very serious crisis. I stopped gazing abruptly and murmured an apology. After that, for a while, nobody spoke.

Troyte was the first to recover his self-possession. He rose from his chair and walked over to where Northeys and his bride were standing.

"My dear Viola," he said, "that stupid husband of yours has never introduced me to you, so I must introduce myself as your uncle. Won't you come over to the fire and sit down?"

He took her by the hand and led her to his own chair. He set her in it and placed a footstool at her feet. The recognition had been a little long in coming, but there were excuses to be made for the delay. Nothing could have been more courteous than Troyte's manner when he got over the shock of her sudden appearance and made up his mind to accept the inevitable. The girl looked up at him with timid gratitude and blushed in the most charming manner.

"Good old Uncle Ned," said Northeys. "I knew you'd take it like a man. What I always said to Viola was this. Uncle Ned may be a member of parliament and a cabinet minister and all that, but he's still a gentleman."

Cable, his hands thrust deep into his trousers pockets, stood scowling.

"What's happened in Lystria?" he said.

"It seems to me," said Northeys, "that some other bigwig has chipped in."

Cable strode over to Troyte's writing table, seized a pen and began to scribble at a terrific pace, faster than any one I've ever seen write except on the stage. His talent is to write, another thing which reminded me of the theater.

"I shall wire to Berlin at once. Casimir is still in Berlin. I shall wire to King Windhausen. I shall wire to the patriarch in Lystria."

"Seems a pity, doesn't it?" said Northeys, "to hurt in this that. What I always say is, 'If a thing's done then it is done, even if it happens to be the thing which a fellow would rather wasn't done.'"

Troyte passed his hand over his forehead anxiously.

"There'll be trouble in the Balkans," he said. "I don't see how this business can end without fresh trouble in the Balkans."

"The marriage has probably got taken place yet," said Cable. "We may be in time to stop it."

"Even if we do," said Troyte, "there'll be trouble."

"I don't see why," said Northeys. "Of course I'm only an outsider and this is your job, Uncle Ned. But I don't see why. It seems to me things ought to settle down. These mountainy fellows, is what you call the place."

"Lystria," I prompted.

"The good old Lystrians," said Northeys, "wanted a king, and they've got one. That dusky queen of yours, Uncle Ned, wanted a husband and she's got one, or will very soon if we don't interfere. He may be a wrong 'un, seems rather as if he is, but if she's satisfied I don't see that it matters to us. The great thing is not to start interfering with other people's business. That never does any good."

Troyte, who was seriously troubled, murmured something about a war in the Balkans which it might be impossible to localize. Cable crossed the room from the writing table with three sheets of note paper in his hand.

"This," he said, holding out one of them, "is a telegram to Casimir. The other two are to the king and to the patriarch. Can you get them sent off at once, Lord Edmund?"

"I think so," said Troyte. "I can send them round to the Foreign office and they'll get them off for me. But I doubt if there'll be any operators on duty at this hour in the post offices abroad. I shall have to write some telegrams myself. I must communicate at once with our ambassador in Berlin and with our ministers in Prague and Bukarest and—"

"Seems a pity, doesn't it?" said Northeys. "After all, Uncle Ned, that fellow whoever he is evidently wants a princess. And what I always say is, 'Why shouldn't he have her if he does?'"

"The patriarch will probably have him shot out of hand when he gets my telegram," said Cable bitterly.

"I hope not," said Northeys. "He may be quite a decent fellow, not a wrong 'un at all. And it isn't every one who'd take on that princess of yours, Uncle Ned. Lots of men don't like it."

"I've told you all along," I said, "that the princess Calypso is as white as you are."

"Still, there's always a risk," said Northeys. "A throwback, don't you know. What scientific Johnnies call atavism. You never can tell when a perfectly coalblack baby might turn up. Horrid things, black babies. What I always say is that if a fellow is prepared to take the risk, why not let him? No particular business of ours is it, if the babies turn out to be black or even brown?"

Troyte was attending to Viola, taking her coat from her, offering her cushions, trying to induce her to drink champagne. Cable grew impatient.

"Perhaps," he said, "you will phone these telegrams through to the Foreign office, or would you rather I sent a messenger with them?"

Troyte got up and went to the telephone. Northeys talked on, addressing no one in particular.

"What I can't see," he said, "is why we should butt in. So far as I can make out, I'm the only one of us with a shadow of a grievance, and I don't want to trot it out. I can't well take an action for breach of promise against an Indian queen. I'd look such an ass, wouldn't I, Uncle Ned?"

He turned to me because Troyte was at the telephone and Cable had turned his back on us.

"I know you'll say she's not an Indian," said Northeys, "but Persians seem to me just as bad."

"She's not Persian, either," I said.

(TO BE CONTINUED.)

Celibates by Choice

I think that it is true there are men and women who wisely realize that, having reached the approach of middle age, it is better to remain unmarried rather than marry from any but the most serious reasons.

Marriages made in middle age may be extremely happy. But there are women as there are men who have through experience, through adversity, through the need of self-dependence, attained so great a degree of individuality that they feel that in marriage, with its enormous need of adaptability, they would become lost.

We ought not to dismiss such people as necessarily selfish and self centered. Probably they know that their capacity for friendship, their ability to be of real service to many widely differing types of human nature, their wider leisure, makes it possible for them to express themselves more generously as unmarried people.—Exchange.

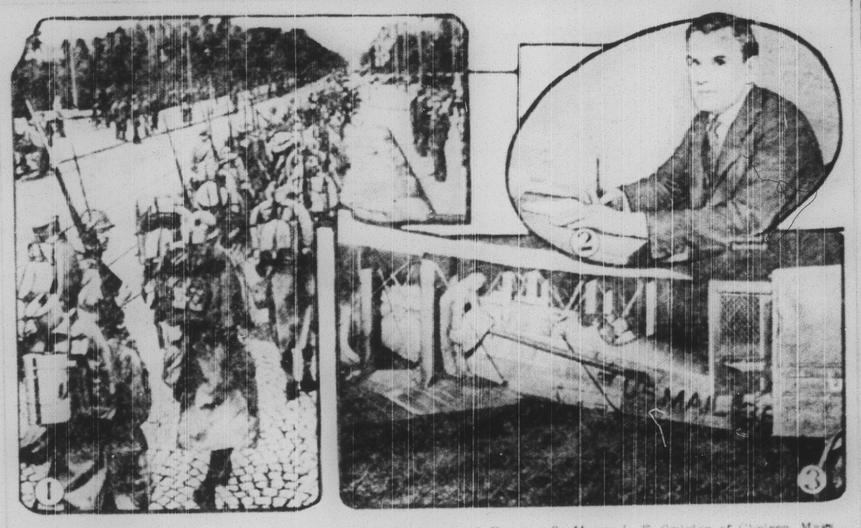
Queer "Felicitation"

Ignorant of English, a Frenchman wished to telegraph his congratulations to an English friend on his marriage.

He wrestled with the dictionary until the happy couple were fairly on their honeymoon, and by that time he had evolved the following: "May you be very happy in the workhouse!"

His friend was about to demand an explanation, when it dawned upon him that what was meant was: "May you be happy in the union." [For the benefit of American readers it should be stated that all English workhouses (or institutions for the poor) are known as union workhouses.]

The hoatzin, a bird found along the Amazon river, has feet on its wings.



1—French troops evacuating the Ruhr, marching out of Essen. 2—Mayor L. F. Quigley of Chelsea, Mass., who was indicted with 43 others, for conspiracy to violate the prohibition laws. 3—First imposed picture of the night air mail, showing a plane being loaded at Hadley field, New Brunswick, N. J.

NEWS REVIEW OF CURRENT EVENTS

France and Britain Agree on Reply to Germany —Crop Report of Government.

By EDWARD W. PICKARD

FRANCE and Great Britain, in the persons of Foreign Minister Briand and Foreign Secretary Austen Chamberlain, have reached complete agreement as to the reply which the allies are to make to Germany's latest note on a security pact for Europe. The text will not be made public until it has been submitted to Italy, Belgium and Japan, and then delivered to Berlin. However, enough of its nature has leaked out to show that it is cordial in tone and calculated to persuade Germany of the friendly intentions of the other nations. Dealing with only a few points specifically, it suggests that the time is ripe for getting down to business, which presumably will take the form first of conversations among the ambassadors and foreign offices. It is hoped the foreign ministers can get together for the final arrangements in September, when the League of Nations is in session.

France still insists on preserving her leadership over central Europe and therefore will demand that the eastern boundaries of Germany, as well as the western, be guaranteed. This is not acceptable to Great Britain, and more than it is to Germany. France also clings to her claim to the right to send troops through Germany to help Poland in case the Poles are attacked by Russia. Germany doesn't concede this and the British are loath to insist on it.

The allies probably will insist that Germany first of all enter the League of Nations. This Berlin is willing to do only with special treatment in respect to Article 16 of the covenant. Also the Germans will demand that they be given mandates over at least some of their former African colonies. In the reichstag last week the government was attacked for "making concessions to the whole world that fail to take into account Germany's national honor." In replying, Foreign Minister Stresemann said:

"As to our right to have colonies I can only state that the first time the question of our entering the League of Nations was debated Germany took the stand that as long as the league distributes colonies and accepts the principle that fully civilized nations have the right to control the less progressive nations, the Germans have the right to be counted among the civilized nations. On this point, too, Germany demands full equality and rights."

BARON VON MALTZAN, German ambassador to Washington, has handed to Secretary of State Kellogg the formal request of his government that the United States return the German properties seized during the war and now in the custody of the alien property custodian. The State department's reply must be that it is necessary to await the action of congress on the matter. The properties were seized by act of congress and that body stipulated that they could be disposed of only under congressional authority. Those yet retained are valued at about $300,000,000.

That Germany would make this claim was expected, but it is probable that it will reopen the whole matter of the collection of American claims on Germany for payment for damages sustained by American citizens during the war, including the Lusitania claims, and for the expenses of maintaining the American army of occupation in the Rhine country. There are many advocates of the proposition that the seized properties should be kept to liquidate those debts, in part. The entire matter is up to congress.

NEGOTIATIONS for the funding of the Belgian debt, now in progress in Washington, were not especially satisfactory last week. Each side put forward a proposition which the other side rejected, so it was necessary to seek new ground. Evidently the two commissions were rather far apart in their views on Belgium's capacity to pay, which is the crucial point. There was still no doubt expressed that they would finally come come to an agreement. It has been decided that Belgium shall be granted a brief moratorium, but the problems of the interest rate, the annual payments on account of principal and the number of years in which the whole debt is to be retired are yet unsettled.

According to the government press of Rome, Italy hopes the total of her American debt will be made a variable sum somewhat like the German reparations under the Dawes plan. Ambassador de Martino will soon return to Washington with the proposition that Italy is ready to pay to the limit of her capacity, but that the matter should be considered in the light of possible participation of American capital in Italian private and public industrial enterprises.

UNCLE SAM made public his second guess at the total of crops that the American farmer will raise this year. At current prices the wheat and corn crops, as forecast, will be worth close to $4,000,000,000. The Department of Agriculture places the wheat crop at 870,000,000 bushels and that of corn at 2,900,000,000.

The 1,067,000,000 bushels of oats, at farm prices, is estimated at $481,000,000; the 214,000,000 bushels of barley at $128,000,000, and the 52,000,000 bushels of rye at $47,000,000. This would make the five grain crops at close to $4,500,000,000.

Total for the five grains, wheat, corn, rye, oats and barley, was 5,202,000,000 bushels, or 193,000,000 more than harvested last year and 67,000,000 less than suggested by the report for August 1 last year.

The most striking feature in the winter wheat report is the smallness of the Kansas crop, 97,000,000 bushels, the poorest showing with three exceptions in the last 20 years. Kansas, Nebraska and Oklahoma combined have 121,735,000 bushels, a drop of more than 30,000,000 bushels last month and of 141,000,000 bushels from last year.

A spring wheat crop of 261,000,000 bushels, decreased 13,000,000 from July and 20,000,000 from last year. Minnesota, the Dakotas and Montana have 187,000,000 bushels, a loss of 12,000,000 from last month and 58,000,000 from last year.

A corn crop estimate of 2,900,000,000 bushels represented a loss of 139,000,000 as a result of heat and drought last month, yet the promise is 29,000,000 above the average and a gain of 510,000,000 bushels over last year. The nine big states where the surplus corn is raised have 1,905,000,000 bushels, a loss of 85,000,000 from last month and a gain of 454,000,000 compared with a year ago.

CHICAGO and the region round about was much stirred last week by the arrest of Col. Will Gray Roach, chief narcotic agent there, and three of his aids, on charges of trafficking in drugs. The action followed close upon a raid in which Kitty Gilhooley, "queen of the dope peddlers," was seized and a great quantity of dope seized. Later many opium joints in Chicago were raided, and there were fears that a new tong war would break out because members of one tong accused those of another tong of being informers. In the apartment of Colonel Roach were found many Oriental treasures, some radio sets and other articles of value which it was suspected he had obtained in raids for seized narcotics. He asserts that were legitimately purchased by him from addicts. It is alleged that the activities of the government agents in Chicago have smashed a dope ring that operated throughout the country, and that the subsequent revelations will involve politicians, lawyers and policemen in various cities.

ON THE northwest part of the fighting line in Morocco the French, moving northward from the Ouezzan sector and the Spanish, moving down from the El Arish region, have effected a junction and started a joint offensive with the purpose of rolling up the right wing of Abdel Krim's army and pushing it toward Cherbouna. This movement, according to dispatches from Fez, is going far toward destroying the power of the Riff leader, for some of the tribes have told him they will fight no longer outside of their own territory and others have opened negotiations for peace with the French. It is announced in Paris that Marshal Petain, the defender of Verdun, is being sent to Morocco to take the supreme command there and to direct a great offensive planned for September. The army of 200,000 has been reorganized by General Naulin, commander in the field, and most of the infantry are being supplied with the new Chatellerault automatic rifles.

The revolting Druses in Syria, after killing or capturing 917 French soldiers, are now on the defensive, having been driven out of Suweidah.

PARDON for Warren T. McCray, former governor of Indiana, is urged on Attorney General Sargent in a petition signed by 14 governors of states, seven of the jurors who convicted him and 30 bankers who were victims of his fraudulent transactions. Many other persons also signed the petition. McCray was sentenced to ten years in prison and has served but a year and three months. His long career of service to his state is cited in his favor.

THERE is now little doubt that John W. Weeks will soon resign his post as secretary of war because of his continued ill health. He visited President Coolidge at the White House last week and while it was denied that he already had resigned, administration officials said there were small chance for his ever resuming his duties in the cabinet. Indeed, Mr. Weeks himself told that because of the condition of his health following his operation last spring he was doubtful whether he would be able to return to Washington this fall, and that it was possible he might not take up his cabinet work again.

PRESIDENT COOLIDGE is said to be considering several men for the place of ambassador to Japan, made vacant by the death of Edgar A. Bancroft. Among those mentioned as possibilities are Frank W. Mondell, William C. Borden, a Chicago attorney, and William M. Butler, who was solicitor general for a time under President Taft.

MUSTAPHA KEMAL PASHA, president of Turkey, has divorced his wife, Latife Hanoum, who was one of the foremost feminists of Turkey. At the same time Kemal issued another presidential decree abolishing all the old regulations governing the dress of Turkish women.

Comprehensive

An actress who was compiling her autobiography sprinkled it plentifully with photographs which had little to do with the story. Among them was one of the Matterhorn.

"Why this?" asked the prospective publisher.

"As you see, I have labeled it 'The Matterhorn, which I once partly climbed.'"

"I see. And while we are about it we'll just run in one and label it 'The earth, where all this took place.'"

Why Risk Neglect?

Are you lame and achy; weak and nervous? Do you suffer backache, sharp pains, disturbing bladder irregularities? This condition is often due to a slowing up of the kidneys. The kidneys, you know, are constantly filtering the blood. Once they fall behind in their work, poisons accumulate and undermine one's health. Serious troubles may follow. If you have reason to suspect faulty kidney elimination, try *Doan's Pills*. *Doan's* are a tested diuretic, recommended by thousands. *Ask your neighbor!*

A Pennsylvania Case

Mrs. D. S. Buterbaugh, 1117 Graham Ave., Windber, Pa., says: "A cold settled in my kidneys and, when I stooped, I got a kink in my back and it was hard to straighten. The muscles in my back were sore and stiff. Mornings, I didn't feel like getting around. My kidneys were weak and acted irregularly. Doan's Pills drove away the backache."

DOAN'S PILLS 60c

STIMULANT DIURETIC TO THE KIDNEYS

Foster-Milburn Co., Mfg. Chem., Buffalo, N. Y.

Childish Actors Barred

Children under three years of age will not be permitted to appear in moving-picture films in Germany if a bill introduced in the reichstag becomes a law. The bill points out that the nervous and physical strain of facing the bright lights of movie studios is injurious to infants. The bill further provides that children between three and twelve years may not appear in films except by permit of police and school authorities.

A Back Number

"Does Edith smoke?"

"Heavens, no! She is hopelessly old-fashioned."—Boston Transcript.

Some men owe their success to acting contrary to the advice of their friends.

Your system needs Hancock Sulphur Compound

If you suffer from rheumatism, gout, eczema or hives, or if troubled with pimples, blackheads, freckles, blotches or other skin eruptions, your blood and skin need the purifying and healing effects of this tried old remedy.

Physicians agree that sulphur is one of the best and most effective blood purifiers known to science. Hancock Sulphur Compound is the most efficacious way to use and benefit from Sulphur. As a tonic, it soothes and heals; taken internally, it gets at the root of the trouble.

50c and $1.20 at your druggist's. If he cannot supply you, send his name and the price in stamps and we will send you a bottle direct.

HANCOCK LIQUID SULPHUR COMPANY
Baltimore, Maryland

Comet With Two Tails

It is reported from Germany that photographs taken of the comet Orkhis show that it has now developed a second tail. This tail cannot be seen with a telescope. The primary tail also is, to all intents and purposes, merely a photographic object, only the vaguest indications of it being perceptible in a telescope.

A duplicity, or even a multiplicity, of tails is by no means an uncommon occurrence, although it is not often seen in objects so faint as the present comet.

Sometimes

"Pass, what is the balance of power?"

"Bank balance, son."

For Two Score Years and Ten She Has Taken Beecham's Pills

"I was just 18 when I commenced to take Beecham's Pills. They have been of great benefit to me in relieving sick-headache, constipation, and biliousness. Next March I will be 88 years old so you see I have lived to a good old age."

Miss ELEANOR WILCOX
Newburgh, N. Y

For FREE SAMPLE—write B. F. Allen Co., 417 Canal Street, New York. Buy from your druggist in 25 and 50c boxes. *For biliousness, sick headaches and constipation take*

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have relieved sufferers for over eighty years. Sample free at your druggist's or from

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