

SIDELIGHTS ON NOTABLE PEOPLE BY THE MARQUISE DE FONTENOY

King Edward, in the course of the speech which he delivered at the close of the Duke of the Abruzzi's modest, concise and yet vividly interesting address before the Royal Geographical Society in London, describing his recent ascent of Mount Ruvenzori (Ptolemy's "Mountains of the Moon"), referred to the reigning house of Italy as "good friends and allies of ours."

It is pretty generally known that some kind of an understanding exists between England and Italy with regard to certain eventualities in the Mediterranean. But this is the first occasion of there being any mention made of the existing of an actual alliance between Great Britain and Italy.

King Edward is so shrewd and level-headed a diplomat that it may safely be taken for granted that his reference to Italy as an ally was made on this occasion with deliberate intent, and that it was not a slip of the tongue or

ed over to her a considerable amount of ready money. For, whereas a couple of years ago she was in such straitened circumstances that she was compelled to sell at auction at Paris many of her jewels, after having applied in vain to her daughter, Princess Otto Windschgrätz, and to Emperor Francis Joseph for assistance, she has now been able to purchase the fine country seat of Count Henckel Donnersmarck at Oroszvar, on the Danube. It is the first real home that the ex-crown princess has had since she was compelled to surrender her imperial residences at the Hofburg at Vienna, and the beautiful suburban palace of Laxenburg, on her marriage to Count Longay, and all her belongings, which have been in storage since that time, packed in huge cases, have now been forwarded to her, and are being restored to the light of day. Oroszvar is a large and handsome palace, most luxuriously furnished by its former possessor, according to English rather than continental ideas of comfort, and the ex-crown princess has not only paid a large sum for its acquisition as it stands, but is also spending a mint of money in laying out new terraces overlooking the river and in installing electric light everywhere.

From this it would appear that the settlement of her differences with her father has been of a satisfactory nature, to her, and that he has been generous enough to forget all the scandal in which she involved him by means of the lawsuits against him in the Belgian courts. The old king seems to have come to the conclusion that after all it was more politic to be liberal with his daughters than to incur further reproach on the part of the public, and especially of the various foreign courts, by further unsavory quarrels with his children. The subject of money matters, and it was considerations of this nature which led him the other day to make an offer to defray the liabilities of his eldest daughter, Princess Louise of Cobourg, to provide for her maintenance on a footing commensurate with her rank as a princess of the blood if she would cut herself loose from her associations with the people by whom she is surrounded in Paris, notably the ex-Captain Mattachine, who on two separate occasions was the companion of her flight and the sorry hero of her romance.

Mrs. Wolfing, the variety actress, wife of former Archduke Leopold, and who is now being sued by her husband for divorce, far from belonging to the colony of "Naturists" at Ascona, on the Lago Maggiore, is living at Zurich, at a small hotel, with her sister, and is seen daily in the streets of that city, as always very fashionably dressed. She always wears a most inveterate theatregoer.

"About two years ago she and her husband were induced by one of his fellow-officers, who former Austrian, and who had joined the Naturist colony at Ascona, to visit them there. The former archduke and his wife spent about six weeks with their old friends at Ascona."

British Nigeria, extending over an area of half a million square miles, with a population of about 30,000,000, was born on the other side of the Atlantic, the son of Justice Desires Givon, ard, of the supreme court of Canada, and received his military education at the Royal Military College of Kingston, Ont., and has just celebrated his 40th birthday.

After graduating from the military college of Kingston he was for a time employed on the engineering staff of the Canadian Pacific Railroad. There he obtained a practical knowledge of railroad engineering, which the British army proved invaluable to him, that being the one branch of all others in which the corps of Royal Engineers was deficient. He was within a few months after receiving his commission into the ranks of the British army, and he has since been working on the immense railway arsenal at Woolwich, and while there had the good fortune to attract the notice of Lord Kitchener, who at once pitched on him as the one man of all others suited to take charge of the construction of those military railroads which were indispensable to his plans for the reconquest of the Sudan. Kitchener realized that the Sudan could only be regained by means of railroad transport, a decision justified by subsequent events, and although young Givon was under 30 years of age at the time, and a mere lieutenant, he left to him the construction of the Sudanese railroads, and contributed so much thereby to the ultimate defeat of the Boers that he was knighted and invested with the star of the Order of St. Michael and St. George.

While in South Africa he fell in love with the daughter of Sir Richard Solomon, the regal adviser to the Transvaal administration, and married her four years ago. Subsequently, owing to Sir Percy's insisting upon running the South African railroads to suit the Government and the general public, rather than the mine owners of the Rand, he became involved in a quarrel with the latter, and secured his transfer to staff work in England,

where he has been, until the other day, assistant quartermaster-general of the western military division.

Physicians and surgeons intrusted with the medical care of royal personages are sometimes blamed for exacting exceptionally large fees from their illustrious patients. But they are justified in demanding big prices. If they do so, it is not because princes and princesses of the blood can afford to pay more liberally than patients of less exalted rank, but it is due to the extraordinary risk to which their doctors are exposed in attending them. With an ordinary patient, if they make a mistake, furnish an incorrect diagnosis, or are unsuccessful in any operation that they undertake, little is heard of the matter outside the immediate family concerned. But with a royal personage, especially if it happens to be one of the anointed of the Lord or in the line of succession to the throne, the slightest error or slip means the ruin of the doctor's professional reputation.

If I call attention to this, it is owing to the controversy which has arisen with regard to the operation performed upon the late Queen of Hanover and to the shock of which she succumbed. And it was a terrible operation, which she was compelled to undergo without the assistance of anaesthetics, which it was found impossible to administer owing to her advanced age, and it is now claimed that the operation might have been avoided, and that she would have performed it under such circumstances as was a shocking piece of needless and fatal cruelty.

It is impossible to refrain in this connection from mentioning the fact that the late King of Hanover, owing his blindness to the mistake of another surgeon, that is to say, an oculist. The Crown Prince of Hanover, as he was then, had sustained an injury to the eye while playing an equestrian game, which led to the gradual loss of the sight. As usual in such cases, the strain on the perfect eye led to some slight ailment, which the oculist, a man of fine name, Dr. Griefe, proposed to relieve by a trivial bit of surgery. In some way or another at the critical moment the hand with which he held the lancet was seized with a sudden spasm, which caused him spasmodically to pull the knife cut clean through the optic nerve of the unfortunate prince, blinding him for life. This was in 1840. The crown prince was just 21 years of age at the time, and therefore the full extent of the affliction which had fallen to his share. The equally unfortunate doctor, professionally ruined and denounced for his carelessness, not alone by his countrymen, but at home Europe, committed suicide shortly afterwards, precisely in the same way that Sir Richard Croft, the eminent English surgeon and accoucheur, cut his throat owing to a mistake which he made in the treatment of Princess Charlotte of Wales, and which resulted in her death soon after childbirth.

The Ameer, or King of Afghanistan, as he is now styled, who is at present visiting India for the first time, is also a sportsman, and has developed a pronounced taste for motor racing and ballooning. The English Government has set aside \$1,000,000 to be spent in connection with his entertainment, and his knowledge of English, his gentility, and his dignity of manner, so much so that it is difficult to realize that he still retains most appalling methods of punishing rebels, and that he had several offenders buried alive, others blown from the mouths of cannon, others blinded, while some brigands were fastened in iron cages, slung aloft in the principal streets of Kabul, and left there to perish of hunger and thirst. The Ameer seems to have been especially struck by Lord Kitchener and to have developed a pronounced liking for him, inviting him to visit him at Kabul.

Count Edward Paar, whose name has been mentioned in connection with the present ministerial crisis in Hungary, is the senior aide-de-camp of Emperor Francis Joseph, and his most loyal, devoted and trusted retainer, besides being one of the most distinguished generals of the Austrian army. That he has been lacking in discretion or that he is directly concerned in the scandal which is creating so much noise at Pesth, although possibly the foe of the venerable monarch will endeavor to make capital out of the punishment.

The general, who is over 70 years of age, and who accompanies the emperor everywhere, always living under the same roof, whether they be at Vienna, Schoenbrunn, Isol or Pesth, has naturally as a bachelor had some "affaires de coeur," and some more or less Platonic friendships with women. That some of the women whom he has thus known should have vaunted themselves of their friendship with the emperor's most faithful and constant companion and adviser, and that they should have exaggerated the extent of their intimacy, is quite natural. It is also possible that some of them, in becoming involved in pecuniary difficulties from feminine extravagance, should have listened to proposals from unscrupulous politicians to wheedle information from Count Paar concerning the views of the emperor upon this or that matter, in return, of course, for cash. But that such a worthy man of the world, one so discreet and loyal as the count, who has spent his whole life in shielding his master from intriguers, should have allowed either the baroness or any other woman to worm information out of him concerning Francis Joseph, no one who knows him will believe for a moment. The mention of his name in connection with the entire affair is a contretemps to which everyone is exposed who holds a position of trust and importance as that which he has filled for nearly half a century in the entourage of the venerable emperor.

Field Marshal Sir Evelyn Wood has always been regarded until now as not only a most gallant soldier, but also as a most accomplished soldier, and his reputation in this latter respect is, however, calculated to suffer from his revival once more, in one of the weekly London papers, of the story of how his grandfather, Sir Matthew Wood, loaned a sum of \$50,000 to the Duke and Duchess of Kent,

in order to enable them to leave Germany and reach England in time for their child to be born in the United Kingdom and with a cabinet minister in attendance. This child afterward ascended the throne as Queen Victoria, and if, instead of making her advent into the world in England, she had been born in Germany, where it would have been impossible to comply with the constitutional requirements of the presence of a secretary of state, at a royal birth, she might possibly have lost the crown. As it was, her uncle, King of Cumberland, afterward King of Hanover, made a most determined effort, with the support of the Orange Society, of which he was the president, to secure the succession for himself.

While all this is absolutely true, the members of the reigning house of England do not particularly relish being reminded of the favors which they have received, and King Edward can hardly be expected to approve of the fact that he virtually owes his crown to the field marshal's grandfather and to the latter's timely loan of \$50,000 to the Duke and Duchess of Kent, that is to say, to the grandparents of his majesty.

Lord Peel's son-in-law, Rochfort Maguire, who has succeeded the late Alfred Beit as president of the British South African Company, and as the head of the greatest diamond mine syndicate in the world, is an Irishman, who may be said to owe his amazing success in life to a bath. It was in the days when the late Cecil Rhodes sent him on a special mission to King Lobengula for the purpose of securing certain valuable concessions from the all-powerful ruler of the Matabeles. It was a perilous mission, as quite a number of white men had met with death at the hands of Lobengula and his chief, Lobengula, and Maguire arrived at Lobengula's kraal, was received fairly well, and then proceeded to cleanse himself of the dust and grime of his voyage by means of a bath in his travelling bath tub. This created a tremendous amount of excitement on the part of the natives, and a considerable part of the Matabele nation assembled to witness the proceedings.

Maguire is not a man who loves publicity, but he is a bit of a philosopher, and nothing could be cooler or more deliberate than the way in which he stripped, folded his clothes, and then slipped into the water. The Matabele nation looked on, commenting freely, but as he could not understand a word, that did not matter to him. Presently he produced a toothbrush, and a box of tooth powder, and started brushing his teeth. There they drew the line. The man who puts strange things into his mouth, who foams at his lips, and turns water to milk must clean. Yells of astonishment rent the air. A party went off to tell the king, taking the Irishman's paraphernalia, and, what is more, his clothes, Maguire

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a thoughtless phrase uttered on the impulse of the moment. It speaks volumes for the friendly relations between the various powers of Europe, and especially of those between England and Germany, that Italy can be an ally of Great Britain without interfering in any way with her status as an ally of Germany and Austria, and as a member of the triple alliance. England on here part being again bound by some thing more than a mere entente cordiale to France.

In this connection it will be interesting to observe whether any foreign naval officers will be permitted to witness the great naval operations which the British admiralty has arranged to take place this month off Lagos. The channel, the Mediterranean and the Atlantic fleets, as well as the first, second and third cruiser squadrons, are to take part in the maneuvers, under the supreme command of Admiral Sir Arthur Wilson, whose forces will amount to near a hundred ships, including 32 first-class battleships, all marking the last word in naval construction, and representing the flower of the English navy. It is said that Sir Arthur Wilson will undertake some important experiments, concerning the nature of which much secrecy has been observed, and indeed little has been allowed to reach the public concerning the fact that any rendezvous of England's naval forces is about to take place.

I hear that representatives of the United States navy have been invited to be guests on board one of the battleships of Sir Arthur Wilson's command, but I cannot find that any other foreign officers have been asked to attend, not even those of Japan, which is noteworthy, in view of the recent discussions as to what the attitude of Great Britain would be in the event of any trouble between America and Japan.

Ex-Crown Princess Stephanie of Austria, after having been defeated in her attempts to obtain, by means of lawsuits from her father, King Leopold, the surrender of her share of his vast wealth, under the terms of the marriage contract and will of her dead mother, has now come to some kind of financial understanding with him, according to the provisions of which he has turned

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