

The Kaiser as I Knew Him For Fourteen Years

By ARTHUR N. DAVIS, D. D. S.

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"It's a good advertisement for you, Davis," he said. "The people see me waving to you and they know you must be a good dentist or I wouldn't come to you. It will help your business!" In every act, he was conscious of the public.

During that period of my career in Berlin, he showed the utmost interest in my progress and frequently inquired how my practice was developing.

The first bill I rendered him, as I have mentioned, he doubted. On a number of subsequent occasions, he paid me more than my bill called for. These overpayments never amounted to very much, but they impressed me because they were so out of keeping with the stinginess the kaiser displayed in other directions.

From time to time the kaiser sent or brought me autographed pictures of himself or others. At the time of the one hundredth anniversary of Frederick the Great, he gave me a picture of that monarch. On another occasion, he presented me with a group picture of himself surrounded by his family and dogs. I remember his bringing to me a large unframed picture in celebration of his silver wedding. It was about twenty-four by eighteen inches in size. It showed the kaiser and himself in a sort of cloud floating above a birdseye view of Berlin, with the palace and the cathedral dimly seen below.

"I don't know just what this masterpiece was meant to signify, but I had it framed and placed it in my office. It evoked from a little boy who entered the room with his mother the following astonished remark: "Oh, mother, look at the kaiser in heaven!"

A post-card picture of the kaiser, signed by his own hand, was in his own estimation one of the most priceless gifts he could bestow. I remember his donating one of them to an American charity bazaar in Berlin to be auctioned off. He thought that the fact that the card came from his imperial majesty gave it a value which could not be measured in dollars and cents. A piece of jewelry or a sum of money might have been duplicated or even excelled by a gift of similar character from any American millionaire—for whose wealth the kaiser frequently expressed the utmost contempt—but what could surpass the value of an autograph of the kaiser!

No doubt the royal banquets were prepared much upon the same principle, for it was a common saying among the German aristocracy that one had better feel well before going to a banquet at the palace.

I happened to mention to the kaiser the reputation his banquets held among his people. He was not at all taken aback.

"That's good!" he commented. "The Germans are too fat, anyway. A majority of the people eat too much."

Long after automobiles became more or less general, the kaiser still employed a horse and carriage for ordinary travel, relying upon his free use of the railways for longer distances. When, however, the reichstag passed a law compelling royalty to pay for their railroad travel, the kaiser took to automobiles. They charged him 11,000 marks, he told me, for the use of a train on one of his shooting trips, and that apparently was more than he could stand.

"Antons are expensive," he declared, "but they don't cost me that much!"

The kaiser speaks English with but the slightest trace of a foreign accent. His diction is perfect. He speaks French, too, very fluently, and, I believe, Italian. He is widely read on almost all subjects and knows the literature of England, France and America as well as that of Germany. Mark Twain was one of his favorite American authors and Longfellow his choice of American poets.

He prides himself on his acquaintance with history and has little respect for the political opinions of others whose knowledge of history is less complete.

Shortly after Carnegie had donated five million marks to Germany to further world-peace, I happened to be talking to the kaiser of American millionaires and the steelmaster was mentioned.

"Of course, Carnegie is a nice old man and means well," remarked the kaiser, condescendingly, "but he is totally ignorant of world history. He's just advanced us five million for world-peace. We accepted it naturally, but, of course, we intend to continue our policy of maintaining our army and navy in full strength."

Indeed, there is hardly any subject to which the kaiser has devoted any considerable attention in which he doesn't regard himself as the final authority.

As an art collector and antiquarian he claims first place, and he is rather inclined to feel that second place

should be left vacant. He always resented very much the acquisition by American millionaires of art treasures and antiquities which the wealth enabled them to buy, but which their limited acquaintance with history and their lack of culture and refinement made them unable to appreciate—in the kaiser's estimation.

Of his own taste in art little need be said. The monuments which he caused to be erected to his ancestors and their advisors and which adorn the Sieges Allee, the street he had opened through the Tiergarten especially for them, are at the same time a monument to the kaiser's ideas of art. They are the laughing-stock of the artistic world. They have been so frequently defaced by vandals whose artistic taste they offended that it was necessary to station policemen in the Sieges Allee to guard them. Not long ago a burglary occurred in the vicinity. The burglars were observed while at work, and a startled civilian rushed to the Sieges Allee to summon one of the officers who were known to be on guard there.

"If you hurry," exclaimed the civilian, excitedly, "you can catch these burglars red-handed."

"I'm sorry," replied the policeman, "but I cannot leave the station."

Realism is the kaiser's idea of what is most desirable in dramatic art. When he put on "Sardanapal," a Greek tragedy in pantomime, at the Berlin opera house, he sent professors to the British museum to secure the most detailed information available regarding the costumes of the period. Every utensil, every article of wearing apparel, every button, every weapon, in fact, every property used in the play were to be faithfully reproduced, particular pains being taken to produce a most realistic effect in a funeral pyre scene in which a king ended his life. The kaiser sent me tickets to see it.

King Edward attended the performance at the Berlin Royal opera and I asked the kaiser how the king of England enjoyed it.

"My gracious," the kaiser replied, unable to repress his satisfaction at the effect the pantomime had had on his royal uncle, "why, the king was very much alarmed when the funeral pyre scene came on. He thought the whole opera house was on fire!"

Perhaps the kaiser's love for details might be attributed to his keen observation. Nothing, no matter how trivial, escaped his attention.

A couple of years before the war I had the empire furniture in my waiting room reupholstered. On the very first occasion of the kaiser's calling at my office after the change he noticed it.

"My, my, how beautiful the chairs look!" he exclaimed. "Good enough for Napoleon himself."

On another occasion, between two of the kaiser's visits, I had had put up in the waiting room a new portrait of Mrs. Davis. The kaiser noticed it the moment he came into the room and made some complimentary remark about it.

The kaiser frequently accused the Americans of being dollar-worshippers and the English of being ruled by Mammon, but that he himself was not totally unmindful of the value and power of money was clearly revealed by the manner in which he catered to people of wealth in recent years.

The richest man in Berlin and one of the richest in Germany was a Hebrew coal magnate named Friedlander. The kaiser ennobled him and made him Von Friedlander-Fuld. Another wealthy Hebrew to whom the kaiser catered was Schwabach, head of the Bleichroeder bank, one of the strongest private banks in Germany, and he, too, was ennobled, becoming Von Schwabach.

A number of other wealthy Hebrews in Germany were also honored by the kaiser in another way. Although he was averse to visiting the homes of private individuals who lacked social standing, he departed from his rule in their favor and visited their mansions ostensibly to view their art collections, but actually to tickle their vanity.

Shortly after Leishman became ambassador to Germany, the kaiser called on me.

"Your new ambassador's daughter is the best looking young lady who has attended our court in many a day," he declared. "Half a dozen of my young staff officers are very anxious to marry her. Can you tell me, Davis, whether these Leishmans have money?"

If the kaiser despised the American propensity for money-making, he was certainly not averse to acquiring American dollars.

He told me once that every trip the Hamburg-American liner Amerika made from New York to Hamburg resulted in transferring \$150,000 from American to German pockets, and added: "We're mighty glad to get some of your American money, I can tell you."

Of the kaiser's versatility I had convincing evidence. In his conversations with me we usually wandered from subject to subject in the most haphazard manner, and he invariably displayed a surprising store of information on every topic we touched, and I am not vain enough to believe that he was so anxious to make a favorable impression upon me that he prepared for these discussions in advance.

Indeed, the kaiser discussed so freely almost every subject that suggested itself that I often wondered what his advisors would have said had they overheard our conversations. His readiness to talk to me was undoubtedly due in a tendency he had to treat every one with whom he came in contact as an equal. For a man who was apt to have so many enemies, he was not suspicious than anyone I had met. He seemed to trust every one, and his sense of security unshaken his tongue and made him more talkative than most men.



The kaiser was very fond of listening to and telling stories with a point and he frequently invited me to tell him any new one that I might have heard. Some of the stories we exchanged were more or less risqué and would be out of place in these pages, but I do not mean to intimate that there was anything very much amiss with them. They always amused him very much and he was quick to catch the point.

The kaiser's sense of humor frequently exhibited itself. He told me of a conference between representatives of all the powers regarding the selection of a king for Albania after the Balkan war. Some of those present thought the incumbent ought to be a Catholic, others insisted that a Greek Catholic was essential, still others maintained that a Mohammedan would be most logical.

It seemed quite impossible to come to any agreement as to just what religion the king of Albania should profess, and the kaiser had ended the discussion, he said, with the suggestion:

"Well, gentlemen, if a Protestant won't do, and a Roman Catholic won't do, and a Buddhist is out of the question, why not select a Jew and call him Jacob the First? He'll have his throat cut, anyway, in three months!"

The powers did not select a Jew, but the prince of Wales, the kaiser's nominee, was put on the throne, and within a month or two afterwards had to flee for his life.

In referring to Roosevelt's patriotic offer to lead an army in France, the kaiser declared that he admired him for his courage and zeal.

"I hear," he said, "that he is now on his way to Italy. It is too bad we did not postpone our offensive there. Perhaps we might have captured him. Wouldn't Teddy look funny in a gas mask?"

Shortly after the U-boat Deutschland made its successful trip to America, the kaiser called on me, and he was in a very jocular frame of mind.

I happened to mention to him that I planned to go to America the following summer in connection with the porcelain I had patented.

"Well, it won't be necessary now, Davis," he commented. "We can send the Deutschland over and bring back a boatload of teeth!"

"Fix my teeth well, Davis," he declared on another occasion, "so that I can bite. There are lots of people I would like to bite!" and he snapped his jaws together in a way that would have terrified me had it not been in my mind, although his remark was evidently more facetious than vicious.

The courtesy and affability which the kaiser almost invariably displayed in his relations with me did not prevent him on one occasion from showing his indignation at my touchiness upon what was evidently a very sore point—the part that America was going to play in the war, although he always claimed to be unperturbed about the American situation.

He had pointed out that America at that time had only 30,000 men in France and he believed that the U-boats would effectively prevent any great addition to our forces abroad, if, indeed, they ever left our shores.

"As a matter of fact, however," he added, "your countrymen would be very wise, no doubt, to fight for their country to the very end, but I don't believe you'll ever get many of them to leave home to fight abroad. America will really be a very small factor in the war, Davis!"

"Your majesty is underestimating the power of America!" I replied.

He turned to me indignantly, and in his most imperious manner exclaimed: "We underestimate no one! I know exactly what we are doing!"

How seriously he was mistaken in this respect has since been sufficiently proved.

No matter how gloomy the outlook for Germany, the kaiser seldom showed concern. It is true that whenever things were going wrong, as when the Russians in the early part of the war were sweeping everything before them in their advance on the Carpathians, he and the rest of the royal family, kept as far in the background as possible, whereas when the German cause was triumphant, as in the case of the offensive against Italy, he could not make himself too conspicuous at the front.

But even when Germany's adversity was greatest, the kaiser always set on a brave front. At such times I have seen him stop in the street, after leaving my office, and before the hundreds of people waiting outside to greet him, ostentatiously put a cigarette in his mouth and light it, that everyone might see how steady his hand was, and how little he was worried by the grim things that were taking place.

At the same time, on one or two occasions after the war started, I noticed that he acted differently when in the street and lighted a cigarette from his custom when everything was quiet.

The kaiser once invited me to see that a building was erected in Germany.

not a bridge built, not a street opened, not a park laid out, but was the project was first submitted to him. He kept posted on everything that was going on, not only in Germany, but in the world at large, and, as far as he was able, he endeavored to have his finger in every development of world-wide importance. I cannot imagine that he was less interested in what his countrymen were doing in connection with the war than he was in their achievements in time of peace.

If he did not actually order the sinking of the Lusitania, therefore, I am convinced that he was thoroughly aware of the plan to blow it up and sanctioned it. That he could have averted it if he had been prompted to do so is clearly indicated by another incident which left a very deep impression upon me.

I was informed by one of the German aviators that plans had been made to drop gas bombs on London which contained a deadly gas which would penetrate the cellars of houses in which civilians were in the habit of hiding during air raids.

Shortly before this hideous idea was to be put into effect the papers announced that the bombs of this character had been dropped by the allies on Baden-Baden, but that, fortunately, they had fallen in a clump of woods in the center of the town and had failed to explode, which had given the Germans an opportunity to take them apart and ascertain their nature.

The purpose of this announcement, of course, was to forestall the storm of condemnation which the Germans knew would follow their use of the bombs on London—a ruse which they had invariably employed whenever they contemplated some fresh violation of the rules of international law and the dictates of humanity.

It happened that one of my patients who resided in Baden-Baden called to see me the day after the bombs had been dropped on her town, and she told me all about it.

"The airplanes which dropped the bombs had been flying over the city all the morning," she declared. "We thought they were our own machines out for practice and paid no particular attention to them. Then they dropped the bombs and they landed in the woods, and we knew we had been attacked. What a dreadful thing for them to do!"

What a foolish thing for allied airplanes to do—to spend a whole morning studying the layout of the town and then to drop those deadly bombs on a clump of woods where they could not possibly hurt anyone, and how careless of the Germans not to meet them while they were engaged in their devilish work!

But the point I wanted to bring out was this: these gas bombs were never used on London!

"Just as everything was in readiness for the raid," the officer told me regretfully, "we received orders direct from the kaiser to hold off—I saw his signature to the order. Of course, there was nothing for us to do but comply, but if we had had the kaiser there, I believe we would have strung him up by the neck! We still have those bombs, however, and you may be sure they will yet be used!"

For some unknown reason the kaiser stopped the use of those lethal gas bombs for the time being. Why didn't he move to save the women and children on the Lusitania?

When I went back to Berlin in the fall of 1915, after a visit to the United States, the kaiser was very anxious to ascertain from me just how America felt towards the war.

I told him that before the sinking of the Lusitania, American opinion had been divided. There had been many who were strongly pro-ally, there had been others who were openly pro-German and there had been still others who maintained an absolutely neutral attitude. After the Lusitania tragedy, however, there had been a distinct change in public feeling. I told him, practically the whole country having become decidedly anti-German.

"Perhaps if the U-boat commander had known so many women and children were on board," was the kaiser's only comment, "he might not have sent for the torpedo which sent the vessel to the bottom, but what he was thinking of most, of course, was the 5,000 tons of ammunition on board which were destined to slaughter my people!"

Of course the kaiser knew that if the U-boat commander's orders were to sink the Lusitania, disobedience upon his part would have left but one course open for him: suicide. If, on the other hand, the kaiser meant to intimate that the U-boat commander sank the Lusitania on his own initiative or without special instructions from his superiors, the fact still remained that the kaiser could undoubtedly have prevented the tragedy and didn't.

But if there can be any doubt as to the kaiser's direct responsibility for the sinking of the Lusitania, certain it is that he fully approved, openly defended and even exulted in the murder of women and children by Zeppelin raids of London, Manchester, Liverpool and other non-military cities and towns.

(To be continued)

A GOOD IDEA

The Warron Ont. Town Council has bought a 50 acre bush lot about 5 miles from town. It is the intention of the council to put men to work at once and get out a big supply of firewood for next winter. It is thought that the wood can be sold to the families in town for \$3 50 per cord.

Undoubtedly there are degrees of flavor. Take Fruit for instance—you select an orange, and on eating it you find it to be flavorless, certainly, but sharp—acid; choose another, a ripper more matured fruit, and it is luscious, the flavor is mellowed and rounded—it is FLAVOR-FULL. Nature made a better job of the second orange. Exactly the same is true of Tea. Nature is not equally kind to all. It requires expert knowledge and continual care to select and combine FLAVOR-FULL Teas to produce the delicious cup obtained from KING COLE Orange Pekoe. If you love your cup of Tea, unusual pleasure awaits you in KING COLE Orange Pekoe.

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NEWSPAPERS HIT AGAIN
All printing papers used to print newspapers is bought at the war prices f. o. b. at the mill, so the two recent increases in railway freight rates hit the newspaper publishers new blows. Besides a newspaper. Of these thirty have risen over 200 per cent twenty five others have risen 150 per cent eighteen have risen 100 per cent; forty-two have risen over 75 per cent. Over 250 papers have gone out of existence, while over three hundred have raised their selling price. If the war continues another year every paper in all the countries will have gone out of existence or have raised its rates—Publicity, Montreal.

DESPATCHING BY PHONE
BETWEEN MONCTON AND NEWCASTLE
Railway telephone communication between Moncton and Newcastle has been completely installed and orders have been despatched over the phone during the last few days. The line

was completed some time ago and the work of putting in the phones finished last week.

At the regular monthly meeting of the Methodist Auxiliary of the W. M. S. held at Mrs. E. A. McLean's last night, the receipts for the past quarter were reported as \$80, \$60 from the auxiliary and \$20 from the Missions Circle. Two life membership certificates were granted.

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Doctors warn against remedies containing powerful drugs and alcohol. "The Extract of Roots, long known as Mother Seigel's Curative Syrup, has no dope or strong ingredients; it cures indigestion, biliousness and constipation. Can be had at any drug store." Get the Missions Circle. 50c and \$1.00 bottles.

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