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here as I may say several times before I finish that during those talks—when I look back—there is nothing I have not told His Majesty of which I felt he ought to be aware but never has His Majesty shown any signs of offense, of being hurt at anything I have said to him, and the whole of our discussions have been carried through with an increase, if possible, of that mutual respect and regard in which we stood.

Two Great Anxieties.

"I told His Majesty I had two great anxieties—the effect of the continuance of criticism of the King that at the time was proceeding in the American press and the effect it would have in the Dominions and particularly Canada where it was widespread, and the effect it would have in this country. That was first.

"I reminded him of what I have often told him and his brothers in the years past and that's this:

"The Crown in this country through centuries has been deprived of many of its prerogatives but today, while that is true, it stands for far more than it ever has done in its history.

"The importance of its integrity is beyond all question far greater than it has ever been, being as it is not only the last link of Empire that is left but a guarantee in this country, so long as it exists in that integrity, against many evils that have affected and afflicted other countries.

"There is no man or woman in this country to whatever party they may belong who would not subscribe to that, but while this feeling vastly depends on the respect that has grown up in the last three generations for the Monarchy, it might not take so long in the face of the kind of criticism to which it was being exposed to lose that power far more rapidly than it was built up, and once lost I doubt if anything could restore it.

"Now that was the basis of my talk on that aspect and I expressed my anxiety and then my desire that such criticisms should not have cause to go on.

"I said that in my view no popularity in the long run would be weighed against the effect of such criticism.

"I told His Majesty that I had looked forward to his reign as a great reign in a new age. He has so many of the qualities which are necessary to it.

"I told him I had come naturally and wanted to talk it over with him as a friend. Perhaps I am saying what I should not say here—I did not ask His Majesty whether I might say this—but I will say it because I do not think he would mind, and I think it illustrates the basis on which our talks have been held.

"He said to me not once but many times during these many,

many hours we have had together, especially towards the end, he said to me: 'You and I must settle this matter together. I will not have anyone interfering.'

Dangerous Suspense.

"Well, I then pointed out the danger of the divorce proceedings; that if a verdict was given in that case which left the matter in suspense for some time, that period of suspense must be dangerous because then everyone would be talking and when once the press begins, as it must begin some time in this country, a most difficult situation would arise for me and for him, and there might well be the danger which both he and I have seen through all this, and one of the reasons why he wanted to take this action quickly was that there should not be sides taken and factions grow up in this country where no faction ever ought to exist.

"It was on that aspect of the question that we talked for an hour, and I went away glad that the ice had been broken.

"My conscience at that moment was clear and for some little time we had no further meetings.

"I begged His Majesty to consider all that I said. I said that I pressed him for no kind of an answer, but would he consider everything that I had said. The next time I saw him was Nov. 16.

Decree Nisi Pronounced.

"That was at Buckingham Palace. By that date the decree nisi was pronounced in the divorce case and I felt it my duty on that occasion—His Majesty had sent for me—I felt it my duty to begin

the conversation, and I spoke to him for a quarter of an hour on the question of marriage.

"Again you must remember my Cabinet hadn't been in this at all.

"I reported to about four of my senior colleagues the conversation at Belvedere.

"I saw him Monday, the 16th, and I began by giving him my view of a possible marriage.

"I told him I did not think that a particular marriage was one that would receive the approbation of the country.

"That marriage would have involved a lady becoming Queen and I did tell His Majesty once that I might be a remnant of the old Victorians but my worst enemy could not say this of me—that I did not know what the reaction of the English people would be to any particular course of action.

"I told him that so far as they

went I was certain that that would be impracticable.

The King's Wife.

"I cannot go further into the details but that was the substance and I pointed out to him that the position of the King's wife was different from the position of the wife of any citizen of the country.

"It was part of the price the King has to pay. His wife becomes the Queen. The Queen becomes the Queen of the country and therefore in the choice of the Queen the voice of the people must be heard.

"It is the truth expressed in those lines which may come to the minds of the many of you.

"His will is not his own for he himself is subject to his birth. He may not as no valued persons do, carve for himself, for on his choice depends the safety and the health of the whole state.

"And then His Majesty said to me, and I had his permission to tell you this, that he wanted to tell me something that he had long wanted to tell me.

"He said 'I am going to marry Mrs. Simpson and I am prepared to go.'

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