



IMPORTANT WARNING!

The Rifle Range on the South Side Hill will be in constant use from daylight till dark for Musketry Practice until further notice. All unauthorized persons are therefore prohibited from approaching the Range within 200 yards from either side or within 1,000 yards of the Targets to the eastward. Any unauthorized persons so doing will be liable to arrest, besides incurring serious danger from rifle bullets. This prohibition does not extend to any part of the hills west of the 1,000 yards firing point.

(Signed),
JOHN SULLIVAN,
 Inspector-Genl. Constyb.
W. H. RENNIE,
 Captain (in charge of Musketry Instruction).

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'THE VALIANT POLTROON'

Anecdotal Character Studies of Big And Little Willie.

When the Kaiser visited the East End of London recently, he probably heard the London gamins use a phrase that, slightly altered, might be used by himself: "Shells and guns may smash my throne, but hard names never hurt me." In "The Two Williams," by M. Paul-Louis Hervier (Nash, 7s 6d, net), we have this selection from names applied to the All-Highest: "William the Liar," the Forger, the Impostor, the Assassin, the Butcher, the modern Lochingrin, the Imperial Madman; all these continue the series started by the King of England, who, a real connoisseur in his knowledge of men, christened his nephew with the nickname of "The Valiant Poltroon." It is only just to M. Hervier to add these are not his epithets, but just a few gathered from the world's press. The author suggests that from anecdotes and quotations it is possible to form an accurate estimate of character, and, assuming all stories are true, we find the Kaiser blustering, boastful and mean, the Crown Prince, weak, silly, but occasionally humane; but as they are both able at times to laugh at themselves, perhaps they are not quite so bad.

Marvellous Shots.
 Despite the paralysis of his left arm, the Kaiser is a fair shot, and at a pigeon match got up by the officers at Spandau he hit eleven times out of thirteen and won two marks from the stakes. He pocketed his winnings with the remark, "That's something, anyhow, to buy a nice tart for my brats at home." On another occasion, at a shoot organized by Count Zeppelin, the keepers announced that the Kaiser had beaten all records, and laid out in a long line sixty-four head—all victims of his prowess. But the Count overheard him saying to the head-keeper: "Sixty-four head, you say? That is really rather odd. I have used only thirty cartridges. But then I fired some prodigious shots!" William is a brave man. We are assured that he hates water, yet as soon as he is up "he plunges into a cold bath with some sturdily." Are not the bravest those who conquer fear? While the Kaiser is devoted to the three K's—Kirche, Kinder, and Kuchlein, the Kaiser attributes Germany's "greatness to beef, beer and Bismarck!" He recognises knowledge and authority. When on his yacht in the North Sea a pilot came on board to take the boat into port. The Kaiser placed himself beside the pilot, and even proposed to assist

him, but was met with a bluff: "Are you the pilot, or am I the pilot?" William retired to his cabin. After a few minutes' reflection he mounted the bridge again, and presenting the pilot with a box of cigars, said, humbly: "It is you are the pilot!"

The Kaiser's Commandments.
 In the wall of his study, just above his desk, William has his own "commandments," gathered from ancient and modern wisdom, and doubtless is fully convinced that he acts up to them:

"Be brave in suffering; never desire what cannot be obtained; or what is not worth the trouble of obtaining; be satisfied with the time as it is; look for the best in everything; take the pleasures of Nature and of humanity as they are. Have confidence, during the thousand bitter hours, in someone who is good; devote yourself with all your heart, with all your power, even if you will never be thanked for it. He who learns these rules and practises them is the happier, the freer, the prouder for it, and his life will always be pleasant. He who is distrustful deceives others and injures himself. It is our duty to consider every man good until he has proved the contrary. The world is so great, and we human beings are so small, that, of necessity, everything cannot depend upon us. If a trifle injures us or makes us suffer, who knows if it is not necessary to the welfare of the whole creature? Everything in the world, whether it be an animated being or an inanimate thing, speaks of great wisdom, and the omnipotence and of the omniscience of the Creator. Things are, therefore, what they ought to be; it matters little as to how they were in the past. May the will of the Creator be accomplished."

An Imperial Joke.
 The Kaiser is fond of giving presents, particularly alarm clocks, but his gifts are usually cheap and tawdry, and are bought by the dozen in the bazaars of Berlin. He is proud of his stationery—and immense blueish paper bearing his monogram. The envelopes are enormous, for the paper must not be folded; they all bear this caution: "Document of the highest importance."
 "One day, William made a list of influential people more or less in touch with the Court; into each envelope, marked with the impressive description, "Document of the highest importance," he put a comic postcard, after which, in the middle of the



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night, he despatched the missives by orderlies to his victims. Princes got up hurriedly, old Princesses jumped from their beds, officers believed in unexpected appointments. There were many spoilt nights and William congratulated himself on having invented so original a trick. It seems that the Imperial family chuckled over it for more than a week."
 "The Kaiser is very wealthy. He gave 10,000 francs to the subscription on behalf of the sufferers in the burning of the Charity Bazaar at Paris; they came not from his own privy purse but from the relief fund for widows and orphans of German soldiers and sailors!"

The Crown Prince.
 I have little space to deal with Little Willie, but beyond the episode with the butcher's daughter at Esch-sur-Alzette, he, considering the training he had had, comes out fairly well. One day he was skating with a girl in Switzerland, and she remarked:

"How beautiful the stars are."
 And when the young woman observed a star more brilliant than the rest and asked its name, the Crown Prince, remembering having often heard his father solemnly proclaim "Gott mit Uns," answered with a smile:

"I'm not quite sure about the name. But it must be a new decoration given to God by my father!"
 His wife was Colonel of the regiment in which he was Major, and when Willie thought of having a night out with boon companions, she would enter the room in full uniform, and order the Major to pass the evening at the Palace under arrest. He can appreciate his enemies, for on January 1st, 1915, he sent his portrait to General Sarrail, then in command of the 3rd French Army, with his dedication "The Crown Prince to his valiant Adversary." Amusing and scandalous, the libraries will have a big demand for "The Two Williams."
 The name of the translator is not given, but his or her work is very well done.

A Loser.
 There is a little of the rapier thrust about Mr. T. W. H. Crosland, and it is with a sharp double-edged battle-axe "The Soul of a Crown Prince" (Werner Laurie, 1s. net). There is nothing in him that is good, even the little humorous note that accompanied two quarts of "delicious vanilla ices" to the girls of a high school who had sent him verses of devotion and a bouquet of flowers on his birthday is held up to scorn. Naturally the looting of the Chateau of the Baroness de Baye at Champagne receives strong treatment, and Mr. Crosland treats the Prince's denial that he was the culprit with scorn. In Mr. Crosland's words, "The Crown Prince stands before the world as a loser, a black-guard, a thief, a liar, a hater of peace and a lover of blood-shed."—From "To-day."

YESTERDAY'S WAR MESSAGES

Austrians Claim Success On Stokhod River

LONDON, Aug. 23.—It is remarked that while both Russian official communications to-day report the situation on the west front unchanged German and Austrian officials show heavy fighting going on along the fronts of Field Marshal Von Hindenburg and Archduke Charles Francis. The Austrian communication says the Russians have renewed attacks against General Von Bothmer, but that, except for a small portion of a trench, which is still being fought for, all positions remain in the hands of the Austrians, despite the greatest sacrifices by the Russians. The Austrians claim to have repulsed strong Russian attacks on the western bank of the Stokhod River, the Russians suffering severe loss in the fighting.

Defends the Air Defence Board

LONDON, Aug. 23.—Major Baird, representative of the Aerial Board in the Commons, replying in the House last night to a criticism of the air defences during the recent Zeppelin raids, announced that since the war began the Entente Allies had accounted for thirty-five Zeppelins. There had been thirty-four raids on England, said Major Baird, in ten of which no casualties were suffered, while in the remainder the number of killed was 334 civilians and 50 military men. Nobody can say that these casualties, deplorable as they are, will have any influence on the conduct of the war, provided honourable members of this House do not give utterance to such statements as have been made in the Commons to-night. Members of the Commons ought to be leaders of the people, not create panic. Lord French has a very complete system of air defence. It is being improved daily, while the British Flying Corps has a record superior to any other nation.

Getting After Security Holders

LONDON, Aug. 23.—Further measures are contemplated by the Government to bring about the mobilization of such Canadian and neutral securities as have not been turned over to the Government. In the Commons to-day the Chancellor of the Exchequer said that it was the intention of his Department to apply to Parliament for power to impose a further income tax of two shillings on returns from all such securities which have not been deposited with the treasury.

Proposal to Film Cabinet is Dropped

NEW YORK, Aug. 23.—A news agency despatch from London to-day says that the proposal to film the British Cabinet has been dropped. Premier Asquith announced this afternoon. The scheme originated among a number of prominent women including the wife of the Premier. The proceeds of the motion picture, showing the Cabinet at work, were to be devoted to the War Relief Fund.

Bulgarians Claim Gains In Struma Valley

SOFIA, Aug. 23.—Further advances for the Bulgarians in the Struma Valley on the Macedonia front, are announced in to-day's official statement by the Bulgarian army headquarters. The Bulgarians also penetrated further southward from Florina on the western front, where they reached the Marka ridge. The capture of strongly defended positions by the Bulgarians, pushing from east towards Florina on Nina Ridge is likewise announced.

EXTEND RAILWAY SYSTEM

London Chronicle.—Russia's decision to extend her railroad system by 19,000 miles increases very considerably her lead in that respect over the remaining commercially undeveloped countries of the world. At present her total strength of railway is just short of 38,000 miles. It is not much; it works out at one mile of railway to every 3,000 inhabitants. But India is worse, with 7,000 people per railway mile; progressive Japan is worse still with over 10,000; and, as for China, she is past speaking about. She can only offer her huge population 5,000 miles of railroad, or one mile to every 70,000 of them!

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