

WILLIAM WALDORF ASTOR

Has Ambition to Become "King's Champion"

Renegade American Willing to Pay Big Price For Privilege to Act the Fool.

William Waldorf Astor's scheme to become "champion of the king" recalls a curious, ancient custom connected with the coronation of British rulers. Since the reign of William the Conqueror the owner of the manor of Scirelsby, Lincolnshire, has held the right to appear at the coronation banquet, and in behalf of the newly crowned king or queen challenge all the world to combat. Mr. Astor is reported as trying to buy Scirelsby from its present owner, Frank Dymoke, who is not burdened with wealth. The expatriated American is not in favor with King Edward, because of his snobbishness toward Archibald Milne, and he is said to have devised this cunning scheme to corner His Majesty Edward VII. The ancient ceremony was omitted at the two last coronations, and the champion was bought off by Victoria by the restowal of a baronetcy. It is presumed that Mr. Astor hopes to get the long coveted handle to his name in this shrewd manner.

The English College of Arms not only gives much interesting information about the Dymoke or Mimmoche family, which is descended from William's original champion, but it contains a picture of the ceremony, showing the armor used by the champion and the trappings of his horse. The horse is equipped with black housings embroidered all over with little silver lions, the arms of the Dymoke family. The armor is of the fashion of the time of Henry VIII.

The last time the ceremony was performed was at the coronation of George IV, in 1821. The head of the Dymoke family at that time being a minister, his place was taken by his son, Henry Dymoke, whose petition for the privilege was granted by the committee on privileges. The youth rode into Westminster hall on a white charger, supported on one side by the Duke of Wellington and on the other by the Marquis of Anglesey, both on horse back. They were accompanied by two heralds on foot with tabards and plumes. Sir Walter Scott has left the following account of the incident: "The champion's duty was performed, as of right, by young Dymoke, a fine looking youth, but bearing perhaps too much the appearance of a maiden knight to be the challenger of the world in the king's behalf. He threw down his gauntlet, however, with becoming manhood, and showed as much horse-manship as the crowd of knights and squires around him would permit to be exhibited. His armor was in good taste, but his shield was out of all propriety, being a round rondache, or highland target, a defensive weapon which it would be impossible to use on horseback, instead of being a three-cornered or leather shield which in the time of the tilt was suspended around the neck. On the whole this striking part of the exhibition somewhat disappointed me, for I would have the champion less embarrassed by his assistants and at liberty to put his horse on the grand pas. And yet the young Lord of Scirelsby looked and behaved extremely well."

A chronicler of the time of Queen Mary describes in quaint language the details of the ceremony that Mr. Astor will have to perform if he succeeds in winning the right to appear at King Edward's coronation as the royal champion. "At the end of the second course of the banquet came, riding in complete harness, armed at all points, with harness, and of the queen's charge, Sir Edward Dymoke her highness' champion, upon a courser richly trapped with cloth of gold, holding in his hand a mace, and upon either side of him a page, one holding his spear, another his target, and with a herald before him, and brought him to the upper end of the hall (Westminster Hall). Then after he had made obeisance to the queen's highness, in bowing his head, he turned him a little aside, and with a loud voice declared these words hereafter following, viz: "If there be any manner of man, of what estate, degree or condition so ever he be, that will say and maintain that our sovereign lady, Queen Mary I, this day here present, is not the rightful and undoubted inheritor to the imperial crown of this realm of England, and that of right she ought not to be crowned queen, I say he lieth like a false traitor, and that I am ready the same to maintain with him whilst I have breath in my body, either now at this time or at any other time, wheresoever it shall please the queen's highness to appoint, and thereupon the same I cast him my gage."

"And then he cast his gauntlet from him, the which no man would take up, till that a herald took it up and gave it to him again. Then he proceeded to another place and did in this manner in three several places of the said hall. Then he came to the upper end, and the queen's majesty drank to him and after sent him the cup, which he had for his fee, and likewise the harness and the trappings and all the harness which he did wear. Then he returned to the place whence he came, and after that he was gone."

Robert de Marmyon, one of the followers of William the Conqueror, is the first king's champion of whom history has made any definite record. The Norman invader conferred on him the castle of Tamworth in Warwickshire, to hold by knight's service, and also the manor of Scirelsby, to hold per baroniam. During the reign of Edward I Philip de Marmyon (or Marmion) died without leaving a male heir, and his great estate was divided. His daughter Joane had married a Ludlow, and a granddaughter, Margaret de Ludlow, married Sir John Dymoke. The manor of Scirelsby was apportioned to this branch of family, while the castle of Tamworth went to the Freville family through another daughter. When it came to the coronation of Richard II Sir John Dymoke and Baldwin de Preville both put in a claim to the right of king's champion. The authorities "after great deliberation" decided that "the said castle was only holden by king's knight's service, and that this high office was attached to the manor of Scirelsby, which was holden per baroniam, and was the caput baronie or head of the barony of the Marmion family."

For nearly 500 years thereafter the Dymokes exercised the privilege of clattering on horseback into Westminster hall during the coronation banquet, of throwing down the steel gauntlet with defiance to the world, of never encountering any "traitors" and of carrying off a silver cup for fee sovereign. The cost of crowning George IV was estimated at \$500,000, but reached \$1,190,000. When William IV was crowned in 1831 the people were crying for reform, and the banquet was omitted to spare expense, which robbed Henry Dymoke of the opportunity to appear as King's champion. At the coronation of Queen Victoria there was a sentiment against the ancient custom, and the ministry bought off Henry Dymoke by giving him a baronetcy to stay at home and remain quiet. Otherwise he would have officiated three times as royal champion, for he lived until 1864. Two other Dymokes served at three coronations each.

Frank Dymoke has put a high price on the manor of Scirelsby, but William Waldorf Astor is prepared to pay well for a tuft. By the ownership of the manor he may become "king's champion" and sworn knight challenger for the high and puissant majesty of the realm, but will King Edward buy him off with a baronetcy?

LEIGH HUNT'S GREAT SCHEME

To Put Seattle Post-Intelligencer Put of Business.

Rise, Fall and Rise Again of a Shrewd Business Man, Manager and Politician.

The life story of Leigh S. J. Hunt, who announces that he will shortly establish a metropolitan daily paper in Seattle reads like a romance. The varying treatment he has received from the fickle goddess of fortune furnishes a theme which only the pen of a Dumas could properly embellish. In the middle '80s Hunt arrived in Seattle from Iowa. He bought the Post-Intelligencer, which was not much of a paper then, for \$27,000. In a few weeks he sold a third interest in it for \$40,000. Soon he had stock in the Puget Sound National, then as now the leading financial institution of the city, and from that on until 1893, when the panic came, everything he touched turned to gold.

In the brief years he boomed Kirkland, a suburb of Seattle, as the place where a mammoth iron works would be built. He was the leading spirit in the planning and placing on the market of West Seattle, where he said the Union Pacific intended establishing terminals. He bought the first cable line built in Seattle, and capped the climax by investing heavily in the Monte Cristo mining district. He also organized a bank.

Hundreds of people invested in Hunt's schemes. The man was looked upon as a wonder. Laboring people by the scores went in with him. As managing director of the Post-Intelligencer, he built up a political ring that controlled the Territory of Washington, and eventually the state. Associated with him in politics were such giants as John C. Haines, Frederick James Grant and George H. Heilbron, who have passed to the great beyond, John H. McGraw, whom Hunt made governor of the state, and who will probably be his friend and ally now that he has decided to return to Seattle, and a host of less well known men, all of whom were shrewd politicians, and whose word was law in the state. His policy was to make King county the dominant factor in the state and he succeeded, which his successors have failed lamentably to do.

Hunt made senators, governors and congressmen. He dictated the municipal government of Seattle with a red hot iron. His word was law and his powerful influential newspaper kept in subjection those who would have risen in revolt. He enjoyed all the power that one man could reasonably hope to have, and apparently it was to last for all time. But the panic came. Almost in a night every dollar which Hunt had on earth was swept away. His property was a drug on the market and his bank was insolvent. Those who had followed his schemes and invested their money in them went down with him. The only consolation they had was that the one time magnate was as poor as they.

Shaking the dust of Seattle from his feet in 1894, Hunt went to Korea. There he obtained important mining concessions from the king, and for six years has been at work recouping his fortunes. His old time luck returned and his wealth is now reckoned in the millions. The earth yielded at his touch and gave up gold in fabulous amounts. In all this time he never returned to Seattle.

Some months ago he returned to the American continent and landed at Vancouver, B. C. Instead of stopping at Seattle he went to New York and from there to London. Everywhere he met men whom he had induced to invest money in his schemes in Seattle. He made good their losses with interest. Among the men whom he thus repaid was James S. Clark, the well known Iowa politician. Hunt went on to London in connection with his mining business and returned. He hurried across the continent to Seattle.

In New York, prior to leaving for London, he stated that he intended starting a newspaper in Seattle, and when he reached here on his return his old-time associates and friends greeted him with open arms. He took a suite of six rooms at the Butler, engaged a lot of Japanese and colored servants to wait upon him, and then walked over to the First National Bank where he deposited an immense sum of money, together with a list of the names of the men who had lost money through his schemes in the old days. Every claim was outlawed, but Hunt instructed his bankers to pay every cent to the last farthing. President Hoge, of the bank, sent for one man who held Hunt's outlawed note for \$40,000.

"How much will you take for it?" he asked. The man hesitated. Two years ago he would have rejoiced to get \$20 for it. "Well, I don't know," he began, "I guess—"

"Well," put in Mr. Hoge, brusquely, "here is a check for the face value of the note, with interest to date. Will that satisfy you?"

This man was one who had lost all in the panic. The interest on the note was over \$20,000 and he went out of the door a rich man, whereas he came in, to all intents and purposes, a pauper. Once in Seattle Hunt demonstrated that he was in earnest about his newspaper scheme. He at once ordered 12 typesetting machines and a quad press, and contracted for a building to be erected on First avenue and Madison street. The structure will be ready in five or six months, about the time the new plant will arrive and then the paper will start. It will be called the Washingtonian.

KATE CARMACK'S ATTORNEY

Writes From Hollister, Cal., Concerning His Client.

Says She Has Been Shamefully Treated and is Now in Actual Want—Where is Tagish Charley?

The following letter is from A. M. Cunnning, of Hollister, California, attorney for Mrs. Geo. W. Carmack in her late trouble with her husband: "Hollister, Cal., April 9, 1901, Editor Nugget: On the 10th day of last November I wrote a letter to 'Tagish Charley' and sent it to your city, but it was returned to me uncalled for. I now send the same letter to you in hopes that you will publish it in your paper as a piece of news worth publishing, and that in this way the news will spread far and wide and that 'Tagish Charley' and also 'Skookum Jim' may both get the news in this way.

Mrs. Kate Carmack, wife of George W. Carmack, still lives here at Hollister, California. Her daughter Graphie is with her and so is her niece, Mary Wilson. The children are going to school, but Mrs. Carmack is in actual want. I have written three letters to 'Skookum Jim' and directed one to Dawson, one to Dyea and one to Skagway. I also wrote to William Sellman at Dawson, in regard to the whereabouts of Jim. Mr. Sellman recently left here for Dawson.

Rosa Watson's husband died since writing the letter to 'Tagish Charley' and she has moved back to her farm in the country and Graphie is now staying with her own mother. Rosa Watson is George W. Carmack's sister. Carmack has recently given her a power of attorney to collect everything coming to him in this county, and to sell all of his property here, which she is proceeding to do.

The feeling here is very strong in Mrs. Carmack's favor. It is reported here that Carmack has disposed of his gold mines on Bonanza creek. Is this true? Yours truly, A. M. CUNNING.

The letter the attorney refers to as having been written by him to Tagish Charley is not given in full, but the following are the salient features of it: "Hollister, Cal., Nov. 10, 1900. Tagish Charley, Dawson, Canada: Dear Sir—George W. Carmack has left your aunt Kate and his child Graphie. About the first of last April he left them and went to Dawson. Carmack never intends to go back to his wife and Graphie. He has left them forever. I have brought a suit for divorce for her and I ask that her child Graphie be given to her by the court and that she have one-half of the property which Carmack has accumulated since he was married to Kate. How much property has Carmack got or near Dawson? Can you not send me certified copies of his titles to his different pieces of property?"

Mrs. Carmack, your aunt Kate, lives here in Hollister, California. Rosa Watson, Mrs. Carmack's sister, has coaxed Graphie away from her mother. They live side by side in different houses, but Graphie stays at Mrs. Watson's and eats and sleeps there. My impression is that Mrs. Carmack, your aunt, may need some help before long. Carmack is not sending her any money to live on, or anything to wear. The way Carmack has treated your aunt is considered a great outrage here. It is said here that you and your uncle 'Skookum Jim' showed Carmack where to find the gold in the first place.

Please write to me as soon as you get this. I wrote to 'Skookum Jim,' your uncle, a short time ago. Sincerely yours, A. M. CUNNING.

A Lively Ride.

While Capt. and Mrs. D. B. Olson were out horseback riding yesterday afternoon and while letting their steeds out for a little canter near the Ogilvie bridge, the cayuse ridden by Mrs. Olson suddenly took the smooth bit in his teeth and refusing in any way to respond to the efforts of his fair rider, started at full speed for Dawson. While the horse was not pale, Mrs. Olson held on like grim death. Pedestrians, of whom there were hundreds out for a Sunday airing, readily yielded the right of way. Following some distance behind and urging his steed to best leads followed Capt. Olson in a vain endeavor to overtake and capture the runaway. With rare presence of mind Mrs. Olson stayed safely with the frightened and unmanageable animal until in front of the electric light and power house, when, slipping her foot from the stirrup, she slipped to the ground uninjured, the pony running on to the stable. It was the first time the horse had ever been ridden by a lady and consequently required a rather than a smooth bit.

Mrs. Olson does not wish any of the people who witnessed her feat of yesterday to think she was in any way attempting to lower the record made by Paul Revere.

Stern Resolution.

Kind Old Lady—You say you haven't worked for 18 years. Have you been blacklisted by some of these grinding trusts? Tramp—No, mum; y'see it was just 18 years ago that me brudder died of overexertion, an I've been avengin his death ever since.—Chicago News.

Killed at Dyea.

Fred Stotko was killed at Dyea this morning. The sad intelligence was brought to this city by Councilman John Laumeister and brother. According to the details of the tragedy as related by Mr. Laumeister, Mr. Stotko was engaged in an effort to extricate a scow which had drifted under the old wharf of the Dyea-Klondike Transportation company. There was a sort of brace or support sustaining the heavy timbers above in the way and Mr. Stotko started to cut it out. He had not proceeded but a short time when it gave way, precipitating the timbers upon him. He was struck heavily upon the left side of the head, and it is thought the neck was dislocated. The blood flowed profusely from the injured man's mouth and ears. Mr. Laumeister was a short distance away when the accident occurred, but quickly came to Mr. Stotko's assistance. The injured man was taken to the house near by. It was about one hour after the accident when he breathed his last, but from the time Mr. Laumeister reached him to the moment of his death, he was unable to move a muscle. Judge Sehlbrede, who acts as coroner went to Dyea late in the afternoon, and will take charge of the body. He will probably hold an inquest. He was accompanied by Dr. Ransom. Both went with Mr. Laumeister and his brother. Mr. Stotko leaves a wife and two children, who are now in San Francisco. He has resided at Dyea for about two years and was highly esteemed by all who knew him. He was quite well known in this city and his friends will be grieved to know of his sudden and awful termination of his career. He was about 35 years of age. Judge Sehlbrede and party will return here with the remains this morning.—Ataskan, April 25.

A Nice Point With Her.

A woman who is trying to live up to recent riches was entertaining a caller the other day. She really was entertaining her visitor, though not in just the way she thought she was. "That woman," says the caller, "dropped r's (which are liquids), till I wanted to send for my rubbers. When her little girl, aged 9, came in and sat beside us with her feet up on a round of her chair, I admired her as a child who knew enough to keep in out of the wet. But when the child began to chew gum with an energy which was worthy of a better cause I did wish she would swim out into the other room. But she sat and chewed herself into notice. "Darling," said her mother, "what are you chewing?" "Gum," said the child, exhibiting a large lump of it on the end of her tongue. "Who began it?" demanded the mother sternly. "I did." "Are you sure?" "Yes, ma'am." "Very well, then. I'm particular," she said haughtily, turning to me, "who begins the gum my children chew."—New York Sun.