

LETTERS OF ALICIA

She Writes to Her Friend
About the Irish Question
and Many Other Important
Things

(Robert Barnes Rudd in N. Y. Evening Post.)

New York City, Sunday Night.
Dearest Girl—Every one seems to be talking about the Irish question lately and, naturally, I've begun to be terribly interested in it. Perhaps you'll think I'm late in beginning to be interested, but if you had all the things to do that I have to do you wouldn't be able to think of anything at all. Besides I don't just think of a thing and let it go at that. My mind isn't like that. It's more philosophical. But I remember you never took philosophy at Roscliff. It is one of the most difficult subjects I ever had anything to do with. It came winter term through Lent and was very serious and Miss Botts told me that she'd never seen a girl with exactly my type of mind. You learn all about people like Hegel and Socrates, who took hemlock—a sort of ancient drink—and Plato, who taught that the soul is immortal, and Nietzsche—but Nietzsche isn't democratic at all, so we didn't waste much time on him.

You see, in philosophy it isn't so much what you think that makes it so important. It's your "system," the same as in cards, that makes people study you. It's always called some one's "system of philosophy."

Well, Miss Botts said she thought I had quite a system for a girl of my age. And so I've begun to study the Irish question. First of all, there are the Irish people. Now, every one likes the Irish, particularly the lovely, cultivated ones. A great many of them, you know, do not use a brogue at all, nor shillalahs, nor wear those funny little pot hats, and I remember when the steamer stopped at Queenstown they used to come aboard and sell laces and bunches of shamrocks, and always called you "My lady." And, of course, there is Lady Gregory. I think Lady Gregory gives such bright ideas to the Irish people in her plays, don't you? You seem just to "smell the peas" as you read. (One of my teachers at Roscliff said that, so I quote it because I think a plagiarism is unpardonable. That's why I'm so particular to

speak originally.) Peat is a sort of soup that the people in Ireland eat a great deal of. Of course, you know that, probably, but I thought I'd tell you in case you didn't. But this is the way I got interested in the Irish question. The other day Alice Caruthers had a perfectly awful fight at Susan's luncheon (for that girl from Detroit—the one with the thick smilies and the strange mother)—with Bertha Foker. I've forgotten whether Alice was pro-Irish or Bertha. But one was and one wasn't and they had such a fight that Alice had to go away to her mother's in Yonkers for a week to recuperate.

It made such an impression on me—Alice simply screamed at Bertha in the most awful way, and Bertha kept yelling to every one, "Don't pay any attention to her, girls; she's crazy,"—so I felt sure there must be something in it. Then I heard Sir Philip Gibbs when he was here and was simply crazy about him. Helen Stoten was there with Bert Witherspoon. She looked perfectly awful in a green hat and took notes. There was lots of applause and some hissing. What can Helen see in Bert? He's so blotchy and you have to keep snapping your fingers at him to keep him amused.

I haven't made up my mind which I'm for—the Irish or the Irish-Americans. Then there are the Sinn Féiners and the British. They all seem to be different, and it's quite confusing, unless you bring your mind to bear on it very strongly. I am doing that now, and am simply absorbed! Then there are the Ulsterites, Unionists, and Nationalists. They are all different, too, I believe.

The great thing, I think, is to have a philosophical outlook on things and not go tredding about where angels fear to tread. After all, every cloud has a silver lining, and it all depends on how you look at things, doesn't it?

Besides, charm is so important, and, after all, the great question is whether there are enough charming ones to govern themselves. Of course, Sir Gibbs is very, very interesting, but, then, I forgot, he's British, isn't he? Don't you think I'm perfectly right about all this?

Affectionately,
ALICIA.
"A clean house with plenty of fresh air and sunshine is a long step in the direction of health." N. B. Health Week April 24-30.
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NAPOLEON AS AN
EPILEPSY VICTIM

Dr. L. P. Clark Says Disease
at Critical Moments of Battle
Caused Costly Mistakes
—Hurt His Military Genius

(New York Times.)

Dr. L. P. Clark, a prominent psychiatrist of this city, is preparing a series of lectures, which will later be put in book form, of the epileptic personalities of leading men in history, including Napoleon, Caesar and Mahomet. Recently he lectured before the historical society of the New York Academy of Medicine on the influence of the malady on Napoleon, bringing out the fact that he had been seized by attacks of the disease at critical moments of battle, and these conditions had resulted in costly mistakes.

"It is recorded," Dr. Clark said yesterday, "that while sitting on his horse on the march and wearing by prolonged mental strain, Napoleon had frequent episodes of lethargy, and his attendants often caught their leader's muttered remarks, 'The conquest of Russia—Europe—the world.' What could have been a more fitting automatic release of Napoleon's soul striving than in these words expressed in an automatic mental content?"

"At the battle of Borodino as at Jena we find the epileptic malady disturbing the military genius of Napoleon. In this instance, however, instead of the disorder merely hindering a complete victory as at Jena, it nearly cost Napoleon a disastrous defeat.

Command Left to Marshals.
"The battle of Borodino began about 6 a. m., but Napoleon suffered from one of his attacks and his subsequent depression at midday so that afterward the conduct of the conflict had to be entrusted to his marshals unaided.

"How much of this time cannot be postulated, but it is definitely recorded that the retreat was on the whole a masterful one, in spite of the fearful odds Napoleon encountered.

"Finally, what manifestations of attacks have we in the Hundred Days regime? The crushing blow of the final defeat at Waterloo might well have prostrated a much less sensitive egotist than Napoleon. It is recorded that after the annihilation of the Guards, and Napoleon saw his cause was utterly ruined, he fell into one of his epileptic lethargies and in the confusion about him came near being captured. Sitting on his horse in a somnolent lethargy, he was supported in this position by two of his faithful attendants. Thus he rode from the field, his great head rolling about on his shoulders, in a state of dejection and utter collapse.

"Unfortunately, great genius such as Napoleon's is rarely combined in the epileptic as a class, for thus equipped their potentiality for harm to themselves and others would render them more of a social menace.

was suddenly checked forever? We may simply reply that he did, but, instead of the more vulgar type of epileptic seizure, his epileptic reactions were shown in his conduct toward the English governors, his own household and the guests who frequented the island.

Inherited from Maternal Side.
"The epileptic traits in Napoleon's character were probably derived from the maternal side of his family ascendants. His mother, Letitia Bonaparte, although well born and of remotely noble descent, was of peasant nature. She was hardy, unsentimental, frugal and sometimes unscrupulous. It was mainly to his mother that the famous son owed his tremendous, even gigantic physical and nervous endurance. His father, Charles, naturally of an indolent temperament, after offering a half-hearted though for a time enthusiastic support to the rebellious Corsican patriot, Paoli, readily submitted to the resumption of peace offered by General Vaux, the French commander. Charles died in his thirty-ninth year, of the so-called hereditary disease of cancer of the stomach, but Napoleon's mother continued in full possession of her faculties until her death at 88."

While Napoleon was well endowed intellectually, Dr. Clark said he was quite one-sided in mental development. He never learned to speak or write French well, he said, and while a boy played with no one and always chose to be alone.

Dr. Clark declared that the disease was illustrated in the manner in which Napoleon dictated his proclamations. The sudden impetuous fury of unchecked enthusiasm inherited in an epileptic is seen, he said.

Another common epileptic trait was shown in Napoleon having the conviction that all authoritative force came from God, said the physician, and that its exercise carried with it its own justification.

"The crude and ruthless disregard of the conventions of marriage and society was signally shown in the egoistic attitude Napoleon displayed in divorcing Josephine and marrying Marie Louise of Austria," he said. "The manner by which it was done was quite epileptic—cold, calculating, unfeeling, yet without cloak by sentimentality."

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Famine Sufferers in Need of More Money Till Harvest Time.

More than \$2,000,000 has been sent to China for relief work in the famine areas in the northern provinces, according to a statement issued by Thomas W. Lamont, Chairman of the American Committee for China Famine Fund, who said that hundreds of thousands more were required to carry the needy through April and May.

The largest contribution forwarded through the committee for any church was that raised by the Presbyterians (North and South), totaling \$881,688. The Methodist Episcopal Church, South, has forwarded \$154,677 through the committee and an additional \$50,000 sent direct. Included in the total of \$801,187.84 raised by the churches and turned over to the committee were contributions from twenty-two mission boards of Protestant denominations.

In Japan, at a particular crossing in the Gifu, which is the shopping district of Tokio, a flagman, a traffic officer and six, seven or eight policemen with swords are stationed to direct traffic.

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