

Mysterious Case of Bertha Mirazek

Brussels, Belgium, has recently been thrown into much excitement over a strange and mysterious affair, culminating in the arrest, in the sleepy suburb of Forest, of a woman of singular character and antecedents. She was in the habit of describing herself as a pilgrim and apostle of Christ and a performer of miraculous cures. She invariably appeared in the streets dressed as a boy scout, also shod in riding boots and golden spurs. She—or he—was known by her friends as George Maresco, but her real name is Bertha Mirazek and the story of her life, as far as it is known at present, makes strange reading.

Born in Brussels thirty-four years ago of a Czech father and a Belgian mother, she began at an early age to dance in a circus, became a great horsewoman and finally a tamer of tigers. She was further known as a lyrical artist, a painter. In the war she acted as nurse in a Belgian prisoners' hospital under the German military authority, but she apparently succeeded in satisfying the Belgian authorities as to the purity of her intentions, for after the war she became attached to the Belgian military headquarters and was sent to Germany as a secret agent to report on military formations in that country.

While on that mission in Germany she fell ill. And this is where the strangest part of her story begins. She was struck down by paralysis. Doctors declared her case hopeless. For a year she lay in the hospital. Then, being devout, she expressed a desire to try a pilgrimage to Lourdes.

That being too expensive, she chose the next best course, had herself carried on a stretcher to the church in Hal, a small town near Brussels, accompanied by the priest of Forest. In that church, in front of the image of the Holy Virgin, she began to raise heartrending cries, then got up and calmly walked up the steps of the altar. She was completely cured. The miracle was performed.

Her fame spread like wildfire among her friends and neighbors, until the ecclesiastical authorities felt the matter had gone too far, and excommunicated her. Nothing daunted, she proceeded to found a new religion, proclaimed herself the priest and apostle of Christ, set up a church in her own suburban house where she administered service in suitable garb, and promised miraculous cures to the sick in body or soul.

The number of her faithful grew, and included men and women of all churches. To some she exhibited scars on her own body, for others she contented herself with putting on a mantle she pretended to have received from Miss Edith Cavell. Gifts poured in, and the "saint" progressed exceedingly—until the family of one of her faithful, a young woman who it is alleged, had spent a fortune on the apostle, her chapel and her holy works, informed the police.

In Prison Awaiting Trial. The singular woman is now in prison awaiting trial. Meanwhile people stand amazed before this example of human credulity, and are wondering whether they have to deal with a very remarkable case of insanity, or with a common though uncommonly clever, adventuress.

The charge on which Bertha Mirazek, alias George Maresco, has been arrested is of having fraudulently extorted sums of money from her victims by means of hypnotic suggestion. She represented herself as having been sent by St. Michael and by Christ with the mission of healing the sick who believed in her, generally by transferring their disease to her own body.

The ascendancy she managed to gain over her alleged victims is amazing. This self-styled apostle of Christ was surrounded by many faithful, mostly women of good family, who worshipped her as their Lord and Master. They swore to having seen with their own eyes astounding miracles and extraordinary cures performed by their "saint."

Her usual method was as follows: A sick person, attracted by her growing reputation, would call on her, asking for help. After being skillfully questioned about his or her family connections and financial circumstances, the patient would be asked to make oaths of faith before the altar of the private chapel, crowded with statues of Joan of Arc, St. Michael, the Virgin Mary and so on, candles, flowers, and a hundred implements of religious ceremonial. The subdued light, the sacerdotal garb and an odor of incense and other would do the rest to impress the would-be adept.

Vision and Revelation. Suddenly Bertha Mirazek would fall in a cataleptic fit, to the utter dismay of the unfortunate patient who had come to be cured. But presently the apostle would come to, and, having received the cures of her nurse, for she had a nurse, who had blind faith in her always ready at hand, would declare, illuminated with joy and happiness, she had had "a vision" and received "a revelation." The revelation naturally concerned the treatment which the patient would have to follow.

On other occasions the apostle would assemble her patients, and, having exercised upon them her hypnotic powers, would fall into ecstasy and

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NEW Fall SUITS Attractive in Style and Price

Our new stock of Suits for men embodies all the style features of the best Ready-to-wear Suits of the season, and we have a big variety to select from. There are Tweeds, Worsteds, Cashmeres, Serges, etc., in the most likeable patterns. We direct your attention to the lines below which are offered at very special reductions Friday and Saturday.

MEN'S NAVY SERGE SUITS—The ideal suit for fall and winter wear, so smartly stylish, so dapper in appearance, so comfortable, and above all, so extremely serviceable that you'll wonder why we offer them at so low a price: sizes 4, 5, 6 and 7. Reg. \$22.50 suit. Friday & Saturday \$24.00

MEN'S BOOTS—Tan Calf and Black Kid, Blucher shape Boots, in a good, durable make with Goodyear welt. Sizes 6 to 10. Regular \$7.50 pair. Friday & Saturday \$6.80

MEN'S RAGLANS—New English Coats, just opened, made with stylish lapel, collar and belt. Sizes 34, 36, 38, 40 and 42. Regular \$13.00 each. Friday & Saturday \$10.50

MEN'S FANCY OXFORD SHIRTS—In a sorted stripes; neck bands and soft double cuffs. Sizes 14 to 16½. Regular \$2.75 each. Friday & Saturday \$2.50

MEN'S HALF HOSE—Grey, Fawn and Black, all Wool Half Hose of excellent quality. Sizes 10, 10½ and 11. Regular 85c. pair. Friday and Saturday 69c.

MEN'S DARK GREY ENGLISH TWEED SUITS—Stylishly cut and extremely well made in every respect. If we were asked to "point with pride" we would probably select this very suit. A full range of sizes. Reg. \$22.50 suit. Friday and Saturday \$19.00

MEN'S TWEED CAPS—One piece style, fashioned from soft wool tweeds, in assorted Grey and Fawn shades. A real dressy cap for Fall wear. Sizes 6¾ to 7¼. Regular \$2.25 each. Friday & Saturday \$1.90

MEN'S SWEATERS—Coat style, with long roll collars. Real good quality, made from wool yarn in Brown and Camel. Sizes 38, 40 and 42 inches. Regular \$3.75 each. Friday and Saturday \$3.45

MEN'S SHIRTS—Tunic style with stiff neck band and soft double cuff. A choice selection of neat stripes. Sizes 14 to 16. Regular \$1.75 each. Friday & Saturday \$1.60

MEN'S GREY FLANNEL SHIRTS—Good roomy sizes, from 14 to 16½. Made with collar attached to button at the points. Regular \$3.25 each. Friday & Saturday \$2.90

MEN'S TWEED SUITS—Assorted patterns of Dark and Mid-Grey; all new just opened, all sizes. Regular \$14.50 each. Friday and Saturday \$12.50



PLAID COTTON BLANKETS—Heavy fleecy quality, in assorted checks of various colors. Size 66 x 80 inches. Regular \$7.80 pair. Friday and Saturday \$6.75

GREY COTTON BLANKETS—With Pink or Blue Striped borders. Real good value at their regular price. Size 64 x 74 inches. Regular \$3.30 pair. Friday & Saturday \$2.95

WHITE COTTON BLANKETS—With Pink or Blue borders. Exceptionally good value. Reg. \$3.70 pair. Friday and Saturday \$3.25

WOMEN'S SILKETTE HOSE—In Browns, Fawns, Greys and Heather mixtures; a real good quality and suitable weight for early Fall wear. Regular 55c. pair. Friday and Saturday 48c.

WOMEN'S BLACK AND BROWN COTTON HOSE—Hard wearing quality in fine plain make. Special for Friday and Saturday 18c.

MISSES' WHITE COTTON CORSETS—For sizes from 9 to 15 years. Made with straps at shoulders, hose supporters, and serviceably bound with fine white tape. Regular \$1.35 pair. Friday and Saturday \$1.19

WOMEN'S STANTFIELD'S VESTS—Medium weight, with round high neck and three-quarter sleeves. Finished with silk croch. edging. Sizes 36 to 42. Regular \$1.35 each. Friday and Saturday \$1.08

WOMEN'S CANTON CREPE JUMPERS—In Copenhagen, Bisquit, Rust, Sand, Brown, Navy, Black and Paisley. Beautifully trimmed with embroidery and beads in panel effects, in shades that contrast. Long and short sleeves; round or roll collars. Sizes 36 to 44. Regular \$4.50. Friday and Saturday \$3.35

WOMEN'S APRONS—Extra quality White Lawn, in plain or with bib tucked and embroidered. Regular \$1.10 each. Friday and Saturday 89c.

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WOMEN'S NAVY SERGE SUITS—The ideal suit for fall and winter wear, so smartly stylish, so dapper in appearance, so comfortable, and above all, so extremely serviceable that you'll wonder why we offer them at so low a price: sizes 4, 5, 6 and 7. Reg. \$22.50 suit. Friday & Saturday \$24.00

Buying Opportunities in Seasonable Hosiery

CHILDREN'S BROWN RIBBED HOSE—Extra long lengths, strongly reinforced toes and heels. Sizes 5, 5½ and 6. Regular 23c. pair. Friday and Saturday 19c.

WOMEN'S BLACK AND BROWN COTTON HOSE—Hard wearing quality in fine plain make. Special for Friday and Saturday 18c.

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france, from which she would emerge with her hands and chest inflamed. This was her proof of the translation of the diseases of her patients. She loved to describe herself as the Belgian Joan of Arc. The names of at least two members of the Belgian senate are mentioned among her most frequent visitors. But the majority of her clientele were society women.

Girl Visitors in Holy Places

HELD AS HAREM SLAVES.

Seizure and enslavement of young girl visitors to the Mohammedan holy places of the Arabian peninsula has become so flagrantly practised that the League of Nations has investigated and plans to abolish the evil. Lord Cecil of Chelwood, recently introduced before the sixth commission of the League Assembly a project looking toward an international protocol for the suppression of all forms of slavery. The commission has decided to summon to Geneva President Ghil, of the League of Nations, the League of Nations, whose report following a twelve months' investigation of slavery throughout the world is to be the subject of discussion during the present session of the Assembly.

The seizure of girls in Arabia is principally to supply the harems of wealthy Moslems. It is one of the gravest matters before the Assembly. The area of the Arabian peninsula is the world's greatest slave market today, and therefore the scene of some of the most evil abuses of human beings. There are two general classes of human merchandise in the peninsula.

1. Negro slaves from Africa, who either are captured in slave raids or bought in the open slave market and smuggled across the Red Sea to be sold to wealthy Moslems as laborers. 2. Girls who come into Arabia in legitimate capacities and who are seized and sold into harems.

From the Moslems' standpoint there is nothing particularly reprehensible in so replenishing the harem as a proper institution. According to the League's reports these young girls come almost exclusively from the Eastern Mohammedan countries. They arrive in Hedjaz or other surrounding states either as independent pilgrims, as pilgrims accompanying their parents or as servants accompanying their masters.

In addition it is asserted that there is also a large number smuggled to be sold later into harem slavery. This aspect of the slavery question in the Arabian peninsula will be taken up by the League not only from the standpoint of human slavery but also from the standpoint of the white slavery traffic.

Information has been submitted to the League showing that even in many cases where girls and young women have visited the holy places of the Arabian peninsula bearing papers showing that they were free born, they have been seized, these papers destroyed, and the victims sold into slavery for life.

As preventive measures the League probably will ask that restrictive measures be taken to prevent girls and women from taking part in these pilgrimages, either as independent pilgrims or as servants, and that in every case all such possible victims going into the Hedjaz or other Arabian peninsula states be equipped with passports and certificates of freedom and that they be registered at the port of embarkation so that if they fail to return they can be traced.

Due to the fact that when many slaves there are freed through the intervention of their Consuls or home Governments, they refuse to take advantage of it, unless they are repatriated. The League's Advisory Commission has recommended the creation of some Red Sea port of clearing house for slaves where they can all be sent while steps are being taken for their repatriation.

The report states that the League's Commission has not been able to ascertain definitely whether the present Government at Mecca or the provisional one at Jeddah have abolished the custom of receiving dues on all slaves sold or not, but that in any event negroes from Africa are still imported and sold there.

The commission recommends as one step towards breaking up the traffic across the Red Sea, the formal declaration that the transportation of slaves by sea constitutes an act of piracy so that all boats engaged in the trade can either be captured or sunk.

The League's Advisory Slavery Commission has also recommended the creation for the Arabian peninsula of a slavery information bureau where all information regarding slaves cases can be centralized as a basis of an active campaign toward wiping out the scourge there.

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When U.S. States Repudiate Debt

In view of the fact that the United States has been so keen to obtain settlement of war debts from the nations it is but natural perhaps that several influential American newspapers have been calling attention to the fact that in the past numerous States of the American Union repudiated their debts, and in consequence, many British citizens who have invested millions of their money in these bonds have never, either as regards principal or interest, been paid. The point against Uncle Sam on this matter is that the Federal Government was so amended (the eleventh amendment) that it was made impossible to institute any court action against these States that had repudiated the just debts.

The matter is one involving a many millions of dollars, and has been back over many years. So that if a simple interest was added to the principal sum which has been repudiated the amount resulting would be as large as the debt owing to the United States by the Belgians, and which the latter has now obligated itself to pay.

The first instance of repudiation was that of Mississippi back in the year 1842, when that State failed to make provision for the payment of five million dollars in bonds issued to raise the capital of the State Bank of Mississippi. Florida, on becoming a State in 1845, repudiated an indebtedness of \$3,900,000, excusing itself on the grounds that the issue of bonds by the territory was illegal. In 1860 Florida, then a State it will be repudiated an issue of \$4,000,000 of State bonds issued in exchange for railroad securities. About the same period Michigan and Louisiana repudiated a portion of their State debt. After the Civil War there was a perfect orgy of repudiation by the Southern States. For instance, in 1868 North Carolina the Legislature of 1868 authorized a bond issue of \$25,000,000. Repudiation began in 1870 and continued later through divers reasons, deals, backed by the Legislature of that State, this debt was excused due to about half of the original sum.

Georgia and Arkansas annulled their state constitutions in the seventies and eighties, skinning their bondholders, in the case of the latter to the tune of more than \$12,000,000. Other States, finding repudiation a easy way of liquidating obligations, included Virginia, Tennessee, Mississippi, North and South Carolina, and Alabama.

The spirit of the defaulter in this matter may be gauged by the fact that a proposal to levy a tax to pay off the State debt of Mississippi was submitted to a poll of the people and defeated by an overwhelming majority. As most of it was owing to "foreigners" why should they worry?

Under the circumstances enumerated above it is not surprising that a great many United States citizens should be a little ashamed of a comment which on the one hand insists that all money owing it by war-stricken countries be paid, while on the other no action is taken to make good the just debts of the State of its own Commonwealth, particularly in view of the fact that such repudiation was aided and abetted by a Constitutional amendment—Saturday Night.

In the new frocks, the long-waisted blouse fits at the hips very smoothly. Set-in girdles give a fitted look to coat of gray cloth trimmed with squirrel.

A charming velvet hat with a square crown is developed in two shades of blue.

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"GRAVES" PURE CIDER WINE—Pineapple, Orange, Lemon, Raspberry and Strawberry flavors. Regular 60c. bottle. Friday and Saturday 47c.

COOKED CORNED BEEF—"Steak" Brand, 1-lb. tins. Regular 30c. tin. Friday and Saturday 24c.

LINE JUICE CORDIAL—Raspberries, quarts bottles. Regular 80c. bottle. Friday and Saturday 72c.

These prices are for CASH ONLY. No phone or C. O. D. orders accepted.

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CHILDREN'S FLEECE-LINED VESTS—White and Cream, to fit from 8 to 12 years of age. Nicely finished with fine croch. heading; others bound with braid around the neck; long sleeve style. Regular 65c. each. Friday & Saturday 57c.

CHILDREN'S COTTON ROMPERS—Blue and Grey with White stripe around the collar. Half sleeves and button trimmed belt. Close-fitting elastic knee. Regular 45c. each. Friday and Saturday 36c.

CHILDREN'S WHITE & PINK JERSEY BLOOMERS—Sizes to fit 4 to 8 years. Made with elastic at waist and knee. Regular 25c. pair. Friday and Saturday 20c.

MISSES' WOOL JACQUETTE SWEATERS—Cinnamon only, trimmed with Corn around the collar. Long sleeves, close-fitting. Sizes 10 to 14 years. Regular \$2.50. Friday and Saturday \$2.15

WOMEN'S FANCY SILK & WOOL JUMPERS—Shades of Sand, Jade, Orchid, Honeydew, Copenhagen, also Black and White, made with roll collar and round neck styles, with trimmings of White Silk military braid. Regular \$3.95 each. Friday and Saturday \$3.25

CHILDREN'S WHITE LAWN PINAFORES—To fit from 3 to 6 years. Nicely finished with embroidery and pin tucks. Made with flounce at skirt. Regular 70c. each. Friday and Saturday 59c.

WOMEN'S WHITE COTTON CORSETS—Medium bust styles with long hips, nicely trimmed with embroidery and finished with four strong hose suspenders. Sizes 21 to 30 inches. Regular \$1.40 pair. Friday and Saturday \$1.18

WOMEN'S WHITE UNDERVESTS—Medium weight fleeced vests, of good wearing quality. Finished with white tape at neck and down the front. Sizes 34 to 40. Regular 75c. each. Friday and Saturday 62c.



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MISSES' WHITE COTTON CORSETS—For sizes from 9 to 15 years. Made with straps at shoulders, hose supporters, and serviceably bound with fine white tape. Regular \$1.35 pair. Friday and Saturday \$1.19

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WOMEN'S TWEED SUITS—Assorted patterns of Dark and Mid-Grey; all new just opened, all sizes. Regular \$14.50 each. Friday and Saturday \$12.50

Household Goods

METAL TRAYS—Reg. 30c. each. Friday and Saturday 26c.
BLEACHED TABLE LINENS—Reg. 80c. yard. Friday & Sat. 72c.
CURTAIN SCHEM—Assorted patterns. Reg. 25c. yd. Friday & Sat. 18c.
MARBLE CLOCKS—Boudoir size. Reg. \$1.95 ea. Friday & Sat. \$1.65
STRIPPED TICKING—Inches wide. Reg. 45c. yd. Friday & Sat. 38c.
BORDERED LINOLUUM—1 yd. wide. Reg. \$1.25 yd. Friday & Sat. 99c.

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