

THACKERAY'S LECTURES ON THE GEORGES.

GEORGE THE FIRST.

Continued from the last issue of "THE EVENING TELEGRAPH."

That beautiful Aurora von Koenigsmarck and her brother were wonderful as types of bygone manners, and strange illustrations of the morals of old days.

The founder of the race was Hans Christof, a famous warrior and plunderer of the Thirty Years' War.

Otto's nephew, Aurora's elder brother, Carl Johann von Koenigsmarck, a favorite of Charles II, a beauty, a dandy, a warrior, a rascal of more than ordinary mark, escaped, but deserved being hanged in England for the murder of Tom Thynne of Lonstat.

When the crown did come to George Louis he was in no hurry about putting it on. He waited at home for a while; took an affecting farewell of his dear Hanover and Herrenhausen, and set out in the most leisurely manner to ascend "the throne of his ancestors."

Here we are, all on our knees. Here is the Archbishop of Canterbury prostrating himself to the head of his Church, with Kielesmseege and Schulenberg, with their ruffled cheeks and glowing faces, kneeling before him.

Koenigsmarck, intimated with drink—there is scarcely any vice of which, according to his own showing, this gentleman was not a practitioner—had boasted at Dresden of his intimacy with the two Hanoverian ladies—not only with the princess, but with another lady powerful in Hanover.

The character of the tragedy, of which the curtain was now about to fall, are about as dark as a set of ever eyes rested on. There is the jolly prince, shrewd, selfish, scheming, loving his cups and his ease (I think his good humor makes the tragedy darker); his princess, who speaks little, but observes all; his old painted Jezebel of a mistress; his son, the electoral prince, shrewd too, quiet, selfish, not ill-humored, and generally silent, except when goaded into fury by the tongue of his lovely wife.

How that perverse fidelity of passion pursues the villain! How madly true the woman is, and how astoundingly she lies! She has bewitched two or three persons who have taken her up, and who never believe in her wrongs.

George Louis has been held up to execration as a murderer of Bluebeard, whereas the electoral prince had no share in the transaction in which Philip of Koenigsmarck was seuffed out of this mortal coil. The prince was absent when the catastrophe came.

As one thinks of what might have been, how amazing the speculation is! We know how the doomed Scottish gentleman came out at Lord Mar's summons, mounted the white cockade, that has been a flower of sad poetry ever since, and rallied round the Stuart standard at Marston.

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of Ahlden," and her silent husband no more uttered her name.

Four years after the Koenigsmarck catastrophe, Ernest Augustus, the first Elector of Hanover, died, and George Louis, his son, retained in his stead. Sixteen years he reigned in Hanover, after which he became, as we know, King of Great Britain, France, and Ireland, Defender of the Faith, the wicked old Countess Platen died in the year 1706.

You understand the distinction I would draw between history—and I do not aspire to be an expounder—and manners and life such as these sketches would describe. The rebellion broke out in the north; it was before you in a hundred volumes, in none more fairly than in the excellent narrative of Lord Mahon.

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me in said St. Paul's matins and vespers are sung in York Minster; and Dr. Swift is torn out of his stall and deignery notice at St. Paul's to give place to Father Dominic, from Salamanca. All these changes were possible then, and once thirty years afterwards—all this we might have had but for the pulbera exigua, that little toss of powder for the hair which the Scotch conspirators stopped to take at the tavern.

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I liked to be out of it as much as ever he could; and when there passed all his time with his Germans. It was with them as with Blucher, one hundred years afterwards, when the bold old ruler looked down from St. Paul's and asked, "Was for Plunder?" The German women plundered; the German secretaries plundered; the German cooks and attendants plundered; and even Mustaph and Mahomet, the German negroes, had a share of the booty. Take what you can get was the old monarch's maxim. He was not a lofty monarch, certainly; he was not a patron of the fine arts; but he was not a hypocrite, he was not ungrateful, he was not extravagant. Though a despot in Hanover, he was a moderate ruler in England. His aim was to leave it to itself as much as possible, and to live out of it as much as he could. His heart was in Hanover. When taken ill on his last journey, he was passing through the Hotel de Clugny, and his livid head out of the coach window, and gasped out "Osenaburg, Osenaburg!" He was more than fifty years of age when he came among us; we took him because we wanted him, because he served our turn; we laughed at his unsmooth German ways, and sneered at him. He took our loyalty for what it was worth; laid hands on what money he could; kept us assiduously from Popery and wooden shoes. I, for one, would have been on his side in those days. Cynical and selfish as he was, he was better than a king; it is St. Germain's, with the French King's orders in his pocket, and a swarm of Jesuits in his train.

The Fates are supposed to interest themselves about royal marriages, and so this one had omens and prophecies specially regarding him. He was said to be much disturbed at a prophecy that he should die very soon after his wife; and sure enough, pallid Death having seized upon the luckless princess in her castle at Ahlden, presently looked upon her, King George I. in his travelling chariot, on the Hanover road. What position can outride that pale horseman? It is said George promised one of his left-handed widows to come to her after death, if leave were granted to him; he revisited the temples of the moon; and soon after his demise, a great raven actually flying or hopping in at the Duchess of Kendal's window at Twickenham, she chose to imagine the King's spirit inhabited these plumes, and took special care of her sable viceroy. Affecting metaphysics—funeral royal bird! How pathetic is the idea of the duchess weeping over it! When this chaste addition to our English aristocracy died, all her jewels, her plate, her plunder, went over to her relations and trustees; we think whether her heirs took the bird, and whether it is still flapping its wings over Herrenhausen?

The days are over in England of that strange religion of king worship, when priests flattered the monarch in the temple of God, when severity was held to be the ennobling duty; when beauty and youth tried eagerly for royal favor; and woman's shame was held to be no dishonor. Mended morals and mended manners, in courts and people, are among the priceless consequences of that great revolution which came to rescue and secure. He kept his compact with his English subjects; and, if he escaped no more than other men and monarchs from the vices of his age, at least we may thank him for preserving the liberties of his country.

There are standing in the political world the first George, and traits in it which none of us need admire; but among the nobler features are justice, courage, moderation—and these we may recognize ere we turn the picture to the wall.

(To be continued in our next issue.)

FINANCIAL NOTICE TO THE HOLDERS

OVERDUE LOANS

Commonwealth of Pennsylvania

Holders of the following Loans of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania can receive payment (principal and interest) by presenting them at the FARMERS' AND MECHANICS' NATIONAL BANK, on and after MAY 20, 1867:

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Loan of April 16, 1846, due August 1, 1855.
Loan of March 21, 1851, due July 1, 1856.

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WILLIAM H. KEMBLE, STATE TREASURER.

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PLATE-WORK CONSTANTLY ON HAND. WATCHES AND JEWELRY carefully repaired.

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Would invite the attention of purchasers to their large and handsome assortment of DIAMONDS, WATCHES, JEWELRY, SILVER-WARE, ETC., ETC.

ICE PITCHERS in great variety. A large assortment of small STUDES, for toilet noies, just received.

WATCHES repaired in the best manner, and guaranteed.

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Offers an entirely new and most carefully selected stock of AMERICAN AND GENEVA WATCHES, JEWELRY.

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An examination will show my stock to be unsurpassed in quality and cheapness.

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LEGAL NOTICES. IN THE ORPHANS' COURT FOR THE CITY AND COUNTY OF PHILADELPHIA.

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