

and resentment throughout the German Empire. Yet by this time his subjects ought surely to be prepared for anything that he may say during the course of his after-dinner speeches. No monarch in Christendom has delivered so many orations of this character, and were they to be collected into a volume for publication, their perusal would leave the reader impressed with the conviction that the utterances were those of a man whose mind was distinctly unbalanced either through drink or some disease of the brain. Like his grand-uncle, King Frederick William IV of Prussia, and his great-granduncle, King William IV of Great Britain, popularly known as "Silly Billy," he seems to lose his head whenever he gets upon his feet to deliver an after-dinner speech, and to be completely carried away, apparently intoxicated by his own eloquence.

The Germans are a sensible, long-headed race—of all the people in Europe perhaps the most sober-minded—and it is to them a source of cruel mortification that their monarch should persist in exposing himself to the ridicule and laughter of the entire world by the extravagance of his after-dinner utterances, which usually comprise some claim to the vicegerency of the Almighty on earth and to a semi-divine superiority above all his fellow-creatures. He is never tired of insisting in these after-dinner speeches that he is responsible for the performance of his duty as a constitutional sovereign to no one but to God alone, intimates that the people, being constructed of an inferior kind of clay, are unable to understand the intimate relations existing between himself and the Creator, and manifestly considers himself possessed of greater spiritual powers than the Pope himself, since on the last occasion when he visited Leo XIII, he, instead of requesting the blessings and prayers of the Venerable Pontiff upon taking his departure, taxed the gravity of all the clerical and lay dignitaries who were present by effusively proceeding himself to bless the Pope with the words, "Que Dieu vous benisse, Saint Père!" (May God bless you, Holy Father!)

#### WILLIAM'S CHARACTERISTICS.

Yet William is not such a lunatic or a fool as one would gather from his after-dinner speeches. On the contrary, he is a man of many accomplishments and of great intellectual gifts, possessed of generous instincts, as well as of a sincere regard for honesty. He is religious, too, in his own peculiar way, courageous, energetic and conscientious. Indeed, he has many endearing qualities—qualities calculated to inspire respect and admiration—but which are unfortunately all overshadowed and warped by his insupportable vanity and conceit, faults which become most glaringly conspicuous in his post-prandial utterances. If he could only have been persuaded to keep his mouth shut, it is certain that he would occupy at the present moment a very different position from what he does today, both at home and abroad. Nor would the centre of political gravity in Europe have been transferred from Berlin to St. Petersburg.

It would have been well had he followed the example of his English grandmother, Queen Victoria, who in the course of her record reign of sixty years is known to have made only one after-dinner speech; and that was at Balmoral, when on receipt of the news of the victory of the English Army at Tel-el-Kebir, she delivered a neat little speech proposing the health of her favorite son, the Duke of Connaught, who had taken part in the battle, and whose charming and popular wife and children were seated with her at the dinner table. That was an exception. For according to the etiquette of the English Court the toasts drunk at the state banquets at Windsor Castle, Buckingham Palace or at Osborne, are pronounced, not by the queen or by her sons, but by the Lord Steward of the Household, who stands, wand of office in hand, at the end of the royal table. Queen Victoria is a very energetic woman. No one can deny that. But it may be questioned whether some of the reputations which she enjoys for statecraft and political wisdom does not come from her having known herself to practice that exceedingly unfeminine virtue, namely, chastity of speech.

#### NOT OF MODERN ORIGIN.

Although it is only during the last decade that after-dinner speeches and post-prandial toasts have come into vogue as a feature in politics, yet it must not be imagined that the custom is of modern origin. For toasts played an important part during the last century on both sides of the Atlantic, and many are the British and American gentlemen who, during the early part of the reign of Queen Victoria's grandfather, King George III, incurred imprisonment, confiscation of his estates, and even exile for declining to drink the health of the King, a toast "de rigueur" at every dinner table.

In those days there were not a few in England, as well as in this country, who declined to accept these allusions to King George, and his health was proposed with the object of putting on the spot the political sentiments and loyalty of all present. In Great Britain many ingenious devices were adopted by the adherents of the exiled Stuart Princess to avoid doing honor to the toast. One in particular was amusing. Whenever "the King" would be proposed, they would hold their glass of wine over the finger-bowls before them, with the object of satisfying their conscience, as well as their friends that they were drinking "the health of the King" over the water. That is to say, of their Stuart King at Versailles—without exposing themselves to imprisonment as traitors to King George, and to the penalties consequent thereon. In course of time this little trick became known at the English Court, and a rule was instituted prohibiting

the use of finger-bowls at any dinner at which any member of King George's family was present. In some old-fashioned houses the rule is observed to this day, and in the event of the presence of any English Prince or Princess at dinner, no one is allowed to use a finger-bowl, save the royal guest.

#### DERIVATION OF THE WORD.

The word "toast" used for describing the proposal of a health in an after-dinner speech dates back to mediæval times, when the loving-cup was still regarded as an indispensable feature of every banquet. The cup would be filled to the brim with wine or mead, in the centre of which would be floating a piece of toasted bread. After putting his lips thereto the host would pass the cup to the guest of honor seated on his right hand, and the latter would in turn pass it on to his right-hand neighbor. In this manner the cup would circulate round the table, each one present taking a sip while drinking toward his right-hand neighbor, until finally the cup would come back to the host who would drain what remained and swallow the piece of toast in honor of all the friends assembled at his table.

History teaches us that the ancient Greeks, the Romans, the Assyrians and the Egyptians were in the habit of drinking one another's health at dinner. Indeed, at Athens, the etiquette concerning what may be described as the liquid courtesies of this kind was very strict and elaborate, being known by the name of "Philobesis." The participants of the repast were in the habit of drinking to one another until they could carry no more, and then they would pour out the remainder of the wine on the altar of any Parca deity that might happen to be handy. At Rome the same custom prevailed. Post-prandial oratory, however, was severely condemned as out of place, and while the Greeks contented themselves with exclaiming as they put the cup of wine to their lip, "I salute you, be happy," the Romans restricted themselves to the exclamation, "Propino," which is the Latin for "I drink your health."

In conclusion, it may be suggested, that in view of the important role which after-dinner toasts have played during the reign of Emperor William, there could be no more fitting or more

eloquent epitaph on his tombstone than the single and epigrammatic word, "Propino."

EX-ATTACHE.

#### A NEW PORTRAIT OF WHISTLER.

MR. NICHOLSON'S CHARACTER SKETCH OF THE BRILLIANT ARTIST.

Mr. Nicholson made a portrait of Queen Victoria. All the world went mad over it. Then his editor, Mr. William Ernest Henley, who has a fondness for encouraging new men, said to himself: "Go to; I shall let this new genius of mine draw me a series." It is a little of a pity Mr. Nicholson had an inspiration when he made the portrait of the Queen. He was not thinking of a "series." When he came to evolve that precious thing he began to falter. The portrait of Sarah Bernhardt was good, but not so good as its predecessor, and the picture of "Bos," which is to say, of Lord Roberts, was even less edifying. But now he has reached Mr. Whistler, and it must be admitted that he has very nearly recaptured the brilliancy of his first performance. It is not that he has successfully delineated the features of the famous artist. As a matter of fact, Mr. Whistler is a dapper little gentleman with eccentric ways, but without an eccentric physiognomy or particularly quaint traits. Saving his curious white lock of hair, which is trained to a fantastic behavior on his brow, he is quite as an other man. But this portrait is a beautiful summary of the Whistler's mental habit; it points to the life that audacious genius who has chosen for his own purpose to wear a Mephistophelian air before the public.

This is the Whistler of "The Gentle Art of Making Enemies"; this is the plaintiff in the great case of Whistler versus Ruskin; this is the man who proceeded to "scalp" George du Maurier when the latter drew too freely the characteristics of an old companion. After all, is not this the individuality which the world will longest remember? To be sure, posterity will think first of Mr. Whistler's paintings and etchings and last of his personality. His works are the thing. But those are great by virtue of their impersonality; they are works of art, not Whistleriana; and when future ages ask what manner of man the painter was they will care most for documents like this sketch of Mr. Nicholson's. It

does not matter that it is fantastic and theatrical. Both qualities belong to Mr. Whistler's personality. He is most himself when he is not himself, he is most natural when he is posing for the admiration of the world, and in one portrait which we reproduce you get all of the man's supreme attitude, all of his dexterity, all of his wit and humor. We are not sure but that this, like the portrait of the Queen, will take precedence of more sober transcripts of the image in question. Mr. Whistler is a fascinating image—one of the most original and artistic in our modern art. Mr. Nicholson has treated him with understanding, nay, with something akin to inspiration—and dull facts may go to the board.

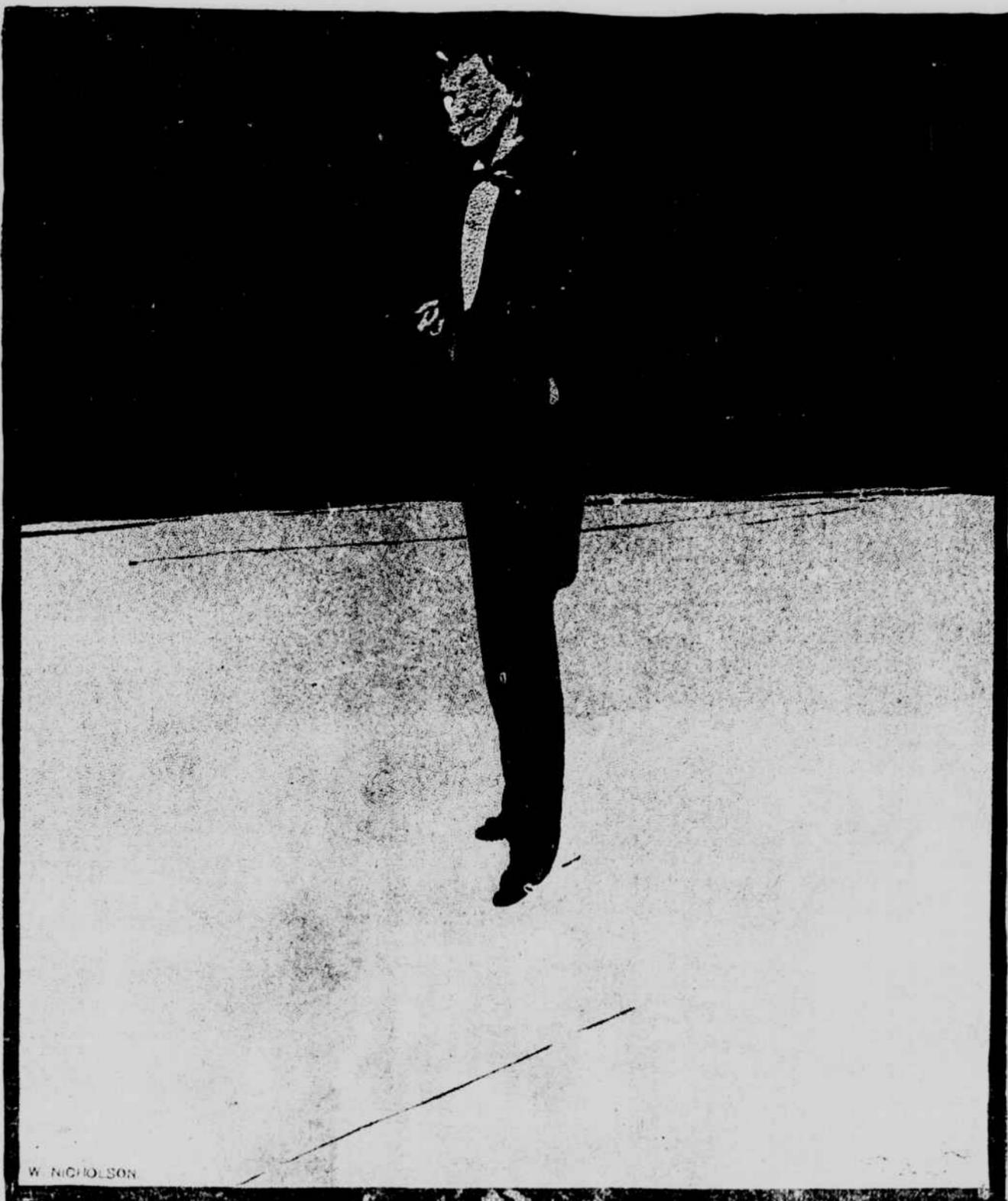
#### LOST MINES AND SPRINGS.

From The Topics Capital.

There is a tradition in New Mexico that many mines once freely worked have been lost. There is another tradition that many springs have also been lost, and it is understood that the losses of both mines and springs were brought about by the Indians. New Mexico is supposed once to have been much more attractive than it is now. The Pueblo Indians arose in revolt on the first full moon in August, 1680. When they had driven the Spaniards down into Old Mexico they set to work to change the conditions so that there should be little temptation to reconquer New Mexico.

This idea inspired the filling of mines which had been opened and worked during the former Spanish occupation. The Indians, with great care, destroyed all traces of many mines; it is said. This is not so surprising as what they did to the springs. It is tradition, and the statement is commonly accepted as historic truth, that in their labors to render the country as uninviting as possible these Indians suppressed numerous springs. Such results were accomplished in an ingenious manner. The Indians dug down and cleared away the dirt until they found the crevices of the rock through which the water came. They took the fibrous bark of a species of fir tree and tamped it into the crevices. As the material became water-soaked it swelled until it plugged. Nothing remained but to throw back the dirt and to give to the surface the general appearance of the surrounding country. This was not a temporary expedient. It resulted, according to the present theory, in the permanent destruction of many sources of water.

To this day the appearance of slight moisture often stimulates a search for one of the missing springs. Occasionally these searches are successful. The earth is removed, the crevices are found, the bark is picked out, and the water, after more than two centuries of being turned back, resumes its natural flow.



MR. NICHOLSON'S IDEA OF WHISTLER.