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A GOOD SERIAL STORY



REALLY "A King in Khaki" is better than "good"—purely as a story, mind you. There is only one objection to it—a painfully rare one these days—it's too short. It is a notable illustration of fine condensation. It's pretty nearly all action, with admirable characterization.

The hero's name is Smith. Probably it might not occur to you that he doesn't appear to have a first name. Anyway it's never mentioned. It rather gives one a shock at first, but he is so fine, so big, so genuine, so truly a hero that one forgets all about the name. After all a name is merely for purposes of identification, a mere convenience like the number of a house. You never can tell what is inside of a house, what its spirit may be, from the number on the door. Of course the hero of this tale might have been called Ethelbert Montague, or something like that, but when you come to know Smith, and it doesn't take long, you are glad he has that name. He is bigger than any name that could be given him.

THE story begins in the next number of our SUNDAY MAGAZINE, and if you know some folk who like good stories and who aren't likely to hear about "A King in Khaki" you can safely tell them they will miss a whole lot if they don't start it. That is all that is necessary—just to start it. If they begin it they are bound to finish it. It is a real romance, modern romance, which is just as picturesque as that of the elder days, only it takes a mind out of the ordinary to see it and portray it. It tells how a man made a West Indian island a kingdom of his own, turning a commercial venture into a success, when, in the language of the big captain of industry in the story, it hadn't any right to succeed. Smith's genius and determination not only accomplished that, but also he outwitted the financial pirate who wanted to reap all the benefits for himself, thereby robbing a great number of small stockholders who had been lured into the scheme.

BIG and splendid as Smith is, he isn't any finer as a man than Christabel is as a woman. Christabel is the millionaire's daughter, and she complicates things a lot. There's love, adventure and something happening all the time. It's a fullsize man and woman story, and with one exception who doesn't count at all, there isn't a character in it you wouldn't go out on the worst night that blows simply to meet. The King in Khaki—that's Smith—is the kind of a king Americans know and understand and believe in.

By the way, have you seen anywhere better, more absorbing serials than our SUNDAY MAGAZINE has been printing? "The Vanishing Fleets," "The Diva's Ruby," "The Spitfire," "Sergeant Kinnaird" were all on a high plane. And now comes one worthy of that distinguished company. And it should lead, really.

DO you know—you who have been worrying about Wall Street and hard times, since the late "passionate young panic" demoralized things—do you know that those in whose care is the boundless wealth of the nation—the keepers of the prairies—have not worried at all? William R. Lighton tells about it in a fact article in which there is a deal of poetry, in the next SUNDAY MAGAZINE. It is an article worth pondering over. It will open your eyes to many things you didn't know—unless you are an authority like the author of it.

IS it a case of reluctant liver?" asked Shorty McCabe of Spencer, "or don't she want to be your Filipino belle?" It was the latter of course, and Shorty tells all about it in his breezy, joyous fashion in "Getting Splashed by Doris." Her last name is Cubbins, and her father is the owner of "Peerless Pickles." Doris was supposed to be a shy and shrinking young thing, but—you'll read it, of course, and find out for yourself.

H. B. MARRIOTT WATSON has recently completed one of his deliciously humorous and exciting Galloping Dick stories called "The Attack on the Chaise." Colonel J. Y. F. Blake, commander of the Irish legion in the Boer War, being the only foreigner commissioned by President Kruger, begins, our space permitting, his reminiscences of that struggle, and they make remarkable reading. Lots of other good things, of course, and a cover by Rose O'Neill Wilson, the illustrator of "A King in Khaki."

ODDITIES OF COLOR BLINDNESS

WHILE the number of color blind persons is not very large, only about five in every hundred suffering from any defect in this respect, and most of them being affected only in a minor degree, yet the phenomenon assumes very remarkable phases.

One specialist has said that he had found two persons who possessed monochromatic vision; that is to say, all colors appeared to them to be simply different shades of gray.

If one will look at a photograph of a landscape, or better, of a garden filled with brilliant flowers, he will be able to form an idea of the appearance which nature must present to the person who suffers from this affliction.

One can sometimes imitate the effects of color blindness through overfatigue of the eye. Thus Brett the English painter once told the members of the Royal Astronomical Society that in painting a scarlet geranium, after working on it for a quarter of an hour, the artist will not know that it is scarlet at all, but will continue to paint as if it was black or colorless. "Red," he explained, "is a very irritating color to the retina, and one can look at green until all is blue."

The world must be a curious place to color blind persons, of whom there are fifty males and four females to every thousand individuals. Some are blue-yellow blind, and everything seems either red, green, or gray to them; others are red-green blind, and all things seem to them to be yellow, blue, or gray of various shades; and others again perceive no distinction of color at all, the whole

world wearing an unchanging aspect of gray. The oddest fact about the groups first mentioned is that they have the compensation of seeing their own particular colors much more keenly than persons with ordinary vision.

The color blind do extraordinary things at times. For instance, an officer of the navy went one day to purchase material for a coat, vest, and trousers. He bought instead a blue coat and red trousers, believing them to be of the same color.

A British Admiral painted a landscape a work of which he was very proud, until a friend finally convinced him that he had painted the trees red, in mistake for green.

An architect's pupil, being directed to copy the representation of a house finished in brown, handed in a water color drawing wherein the dwelling was painted green, the sky scarlet, and the roses blue.

The postoffice authorities once discovered that a clerk was short in his accounts by reason of the fact that he was unable to distinguish the different colored stamps.

A sedate Quaker has been known to purchase a green coat for himself and a red gown for his wife, believing that both were brown.

It remains to be explained why women's eyes are less defective in the matter of differentiating colors than those of man. There is no difference between the eye of the male and that of the female, yet woman's superiority in matching colors has always been recognized, even in cases where man had the advantage of long experience.

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