Vanderlip Pictures the Plight of Europe and Points the Way Out

Financier Suggests Federal Bank of Europe as Instrument to Bring Order Out of Chaos

Frank A. Vanderlip's Hope For the Building of a New Europe

"While I believe the situation in Europe is extremely grave, it certainly is not hopeless. There are inherent possibilities of building a new Europe which would be more prosperous and comfortable in every way than the old Europe has ever been. The prerequisite for that is a change of spirit, and I believe we can do a great deal to allay the suspicions, the hatreds and the selfishness of European people.

"We can help them see the necessity for unity; help them apprehend the terrible cost of selfishness. They must understand that the reconstruction of Europe is a comprehensive task. Only united effort and a recognition that the welfare of individual nations can be achieved through general international good will can accomplish it. We could largely aid in developing such a spirit.

"Our first duty is to understand."

By Garet Garrett

IN THAT fragment of the earth's land area which is Europe five hundred million people are practicing political and economic insanity. It is a grievous, exciting malady. But people have been mad before. What gives this occasion its ghastly peculiarity is the fact that they know it and are yet helpless. This, so far as we know, has never happened before.

Imagine an asylum, with the gate wide open and people within wildly importuning passersby thus:

"Help! Help! We seem to be insane because we do mad things. But we do them because we can't get out. Help us to get out."

The passerby says: "The gate is open. Walk out!"

They say: "We can't."

"Why not?"

"Why, because to go through the gate we should have to stop doing the things that make us seem mad. That would be fatal. Help us to get out some other way."

If you can imagine it, that is Europe.

Substantially that dialogue took place between the mentality of the self-incarcerated Old World and Frank A. Vanderlip, formerly president of the National City Bank, a sane and sympathetic passerby. He has set it down tremendously in his latest book, "What Next in Europe?" (Harcourt, Brace & Co.)

The maddest single procedure in the Old World Asylum is that of debasing the currency. "Europe's present plight," says Mr. Vanderlip, "is not in the main the result of the losses entailed by war; it is rather the result of the disorganization of the machinery of our modern world for the exchange of goods." The cause of that disorganization is primarily money inflation. "Of all the visitations of evil upon human society as it is now organized," he says, "those that follow in the train of unlimited currency inflation have the profoundest effect. It brings on the people of a nation, through every level of society, an endless chain of misery and suffering.

Money Inflation One of World's Greatest Curses

He finds in the dusk of a Warsaw street an old paper woman whose receipts in the form of phantom money, held down by a stone, make a pile as high as her stack of newspapers. In Constantinople he is offered 1,000,000 Wrangle rubles for a dollar bill. When Germany entered the war the total circulation of paper marks was [illegible],000,000,000. Now the German government's presses print 4,000,000,000 or 5,000,000,000 a week. "There are many aspects," he writes, "from which to view this monstrous creation of paper money . . . There follows such a breakdown of the virtues of industry, thrift and forethought for the future that the result in the way of a deterioration of moral fiber may well class inflation as one of the greatest curses that has ever fallen on mankind. It has been discovered that the very foundation of the capitalistic order can be attacked by this insidious means of confiscatory taxation, for that is one of the effects of inflation. . . . But more important, perhaps, . . . is the barrier which inflation erects in the way of industrial and commercial relationships."

Who is responsible?

The governments are responsible. They print the money in this inebriate manner. Government printing presses run day and night. It is the only very flourishing industry in Europe. Then are the governments crazy? Are their finance ministers and banking counselors mad, ignorant, cynical, Bolsheviki? Or infamous, perhaps? Not at all. Mr. Vanderlip talks with them.

He says: "But this is suicide!"

They say: "Yes. We know it."

He says: "Why don't you stop?"

They say: "We can't stop. There has got to be some form of government. Whatever it is, it must pay its bills. No government can raise enough money by loans and taxation to do that. Therefore we have to print the money to pay with."

He says: "But this is suicide." worse it will be."

They say: "We know that, too."

Then Mr. Vanderlip asked himself what he would do if he were a government in those circumstances, and he felt obliged to answer that he would probably do the same thing. "The finance ministers who have been responsible for the disastrous inflation of currency," he says, "have had no other course open to them. . . . They have not been fools. They have been victims. They are not blind. They are helpless, and one after another they are being drawn into a vortex from which they have no means of escape in their own power."

Nevertheless, there it is.

This inflation which nobody can stop "undermines the morals of the people, makes a jest of thrift and industry," sends those who have hitherto lived respectably on their savings to the public soup kitchens and destroys the very ground upon which recovery might take place. "Future contracts cannot be made with safety. Mills stand idle because it takes time to turn raw products into manufactured goods, and although unemployed workmen may crowd at one gate with hands outstretched for doles to keep them alive and customers clamor at another for the goods they wish to purchase, the manufacturer banks the fire and turns the key in the door. From experience he knows too well the utter insecurity of selling goods for future delivery at a price which when paid becomes a mockery to his industry."

Stranger consequences are to appear.

Elemental Problem of Europe One of Food

Europe's elemental problem is one of food. The spectre of famine is always near; often it is actually there. Therefore you would suppose that prodigious efforts had been made to increase the food supply by agriculture. Not so. Much of Europe is wretchedly cultivated, by primitive methods, and not only is nothing done to improve these methods under stark necessity, but as a fact agriculture is now in worse than a normal state—worse than before the war. Why? Well, for several absurd reasons.

In the cities industrial workers are unemployed because production cannot proceed with the means of modern exchange in ruin. Yet they must be fed. The governments have to feed them somehow. That means printing more money, more and more and more, so long as it has any buying power at all. With this fantastic money the governments buy food and bring it to the cities and either give it away to the unemployed who cannot buy it or sell it to them at a loss. Thus wheat is ruinously imported on the government's vanishing credit and sold in the cities at prices with which the farmers of those countries cannot compete. This is the notorious "food subsidy." Fancy the United States government printing money to bring wheat from Argentina and selling the wheat in New York City at 50 cents a bushel, or at half price. What would the western farmer do? He would not sell his wheat. He couldn't afford to sell it. And he would plant next year much less than last year, perhaps only enough to feed his own family. That is what farmers are doing in central and eastern Europe. With the cities hungry and the governments going headlong into bankruptcy to keep them from starving, grain is hoarded on the farms, even in Russia and Austria, and now planting is curtailed precisely for the reason that manufacturing is curtailed, namely, that the farmer no more knows than the manufacturer what his goods will be worth when they are ready for sale.

So you have the spectacle of Europe, with idle labor, idle factories and idle land, yet sunk in misery and despair, imploring the world to save it.

To save it from what?

From itself.

From treaties that cannot be enforced.

From debts that cannot be paid.

From thoughts of revenge.

From the fear to be rational.

From national megalomania.

Of the treaties that cannot be enforced, meaning all of them, Mr. Vanderlip says they were "conceived in hatred and malice." He understands how they were made. Men were human. He cannot understand how "a continent afflicted with them can recover until they are rewritten."

Now we touch the malady again. Though every thinking person were of this same opinion about the treaties, yet nothing could be done.

"There is an amazing situation surrounding those treaties," says Mr. Vanderlip. "I will make the assertion that there is not a well informed man in Europe who will whole-heartedly defend them. I mean this sweeping statement literally. Nevertheless, the treaties stand sacrosanct. They are holy and cannot be altered in a letter. Nobody believes in their wisdom and justice, and nobody believes in the political possibility of revising them by agreement."

The spell is upon all of them alike—victors, vanquished and Bolshevik.

"Germany," says Mr. Vanderlip, "is headed toward financial ruin." This, if it happens, will be a common disaster, engulfing everybody, yet apparently the Germans, the English, the French, the Italians, are all as helpless onlookers. Nothing can be done. Germany cannot pay. France says it shall pay and then takes measures that make payment impossible, for if Germany is let to become strong enough to pay she may be strong enough to take Prussian revenge. Great Britain's case is parlous. If economic sanity is not soon restored Mr. Vanderlip believes "the great tragedy of Europe might still be in the future and that its scene would be in the British Isles." But economic sanity cannot be restored until the treaties are rewritten, and nobody can imagine how that shall be done.

There is need of heroic co-operation, moral, political and economic, among the strongest powers of Europe. What is the case? The two strongest powers are in a state of disamity. Mr. Vanderlip heard that, much as France hates Germany, there is among the French people "less antagonism toward Germany than toward Great Britain," and he thinks it is true. Every French thought has two poles invariable. One is "France is first," the other is "there is first France."

There is another thing that Europe needs to be saved from. That is the passion of the strong to exploit the weak. Mr. Vanderlip writes: "Bulgaria is under the tutelage of an Allied commission, but the various members do not work in harmony. French and Belgian capitalists, with the aid of the French government representatives at Sofia, almost concluded arrangements for a very large loan for railroad construction. A study of the terms of the loan would open the eyes of any American bond house to undreamed-of possibilities in contracts. When the facts reached the attention of the British representatives there was a great row, not because the terms were harsh but because arrangements had been so nearly completed without England being informed. The negotiations were summarily halted. Subsequently English capital offered a loan of twice the amount, but also on terms that included many arrangements besides the mere contract to lend money."

How Can World Effect Salvation of Europe?

However, assuming that for both selfish and romantic reasons it is the business of the world to save Europe, what are the means to that end?

Mr. Vanderlip comes to this in the latter end of his book.

The two primary conditions of salvation are, first a stable medium of exchange; that is, a kind of money in which things may be sanely priced, and, second, some rational treatment of those enormous, preposterous war debts which cause people collectively to sit in listlessness, saying: "What's the use? We never can pay."

The first problem is financial. The second is political and psychological.

To stabilize Europe's currency Mr. Vanderlip proposes a Federal reserve bank of the United States of Europe, with a billion dollars of gold capital, to be furnished forthwith, subject to repayment, out of the great surplus gold fund existing in the United States of America. This bank would have branches in the various countries and function somewhat as our own Federal Reserve Bank system functions—lending money to other banks on good commercial paper. Mr. Vanderlip is conscious of the danger that if you drop a billion dollars of gold in this maelstrom and begin to issue currency, redeemable in gold, people instead of employing it properly will be tempted to draw out the gold and hoard it. To guard against that fiasco he proposes that the trustees of the Federal Reserve Bank of the United States of Europe shall have the power in their discretion to suspend gold payments—that is, to refuse to redeem its currency in gold. But, obviously, if it came to that you would have only another unstable money medium, in addition to all the others, namely—gold currency of the Federal Reserve Bank of the United States of Europe which could not be redeemed in gold. What would that money be worth? It would go to a discount in terms of gold.

Such a system would work if Europe were financially sane. But if Europe were financially sane it would not need the system.

Creditors Cannot Afford To Receive Payment Now

When he comes to the question of those colossal war debts owing by countries to one another, a situation unique in all history, Mr. Vanderlip faces squarely the great modern paradox, which is this:

The debtors cannot pay. "In their own counsels nearly every nation blandly admits inability to pay." But the creditors, on the other hand, cannot afford to receive payment.

Why?

Well, take it from our point of view. The debts owing to this country by Europe amount to $11,000,000,000. The debtors say they cannot pay. But suppose they could and would. They would have to pay in goods, and goods in such quantities coming from abroad would swamp our own industries. Mr. Vanderlip says: "The full consequences would be profound if the payments could be made and were made with any degree of promptness. We need not look further than to contemplate the receipt of $500,000,000 a year of interest. If that came in the form of goods our industrial situation would be upset in a way and to an extent we have not heretofore experienced. [illegible] upon our industrial situation and the consequent social problems which would be raised would be menacing."

So now we have the case of Europe, to a state of hopeless insolvency by reason of being unable to pay us back a sum which we cannot afford to receive. It seems almost arguable that the whole world is a little mad.

But what is to be done about it?

Europe's solution is very simple. Let the United States forgive the debt—wipe it off the slate—charge it off as the cost of making the world safe for democracy. That would enable Germany's creditors to forgive her a debt she cannot pay, and everybody would pay to the United States of America "Thank you so much. Anyhow, we couldn't have paid you. And you made enough out of the war as it is."

Mr. Vanderlip has no such idea. He has a vision. He sees an opportunity for America to make "a grand gesture in international relationships." He sees, in fact, how the debt may be paid and yet not be paid.

Going to and from Europe, especially central and eastern Europe, he has noticed how backward people are and with what crude methods they have been acting on their environment. They need to be educated, organized, electrified, irrigated, enlightened and brought up to date; they need to have tools set in their hands and ideas put in their heads. But, alas, the capital and the imagination are both wanting. Private capital seeks only those forms of self-employment which immediately pay, and governments are too much occupied with to-day and to-morrow. Who will finance civilization, the future of mankind in Europe, and be willing to wait for the returns? America can do this. It can say to the debtor countries that owe us $11,000,000,000 which they cannot afford to pay and which we cannot afford to collect—we might say to them, "You must pay. It is a just debt. But we will not receive payment, at least not yet. If you pay, every pound, franc, lira will be immediately spent, under our directions, upon works, institutions and ideas tending to promote culture, prosperity and happiness in Europe. You must pay in full, but the money will be left with you. We mean to use it to underwrite civilization in Europe and if we use it wisely we shall get it back in time out of the fulness of its fruits and you will never miss it."

A splendid vision!

Europe's reactions to it remain to be heard.

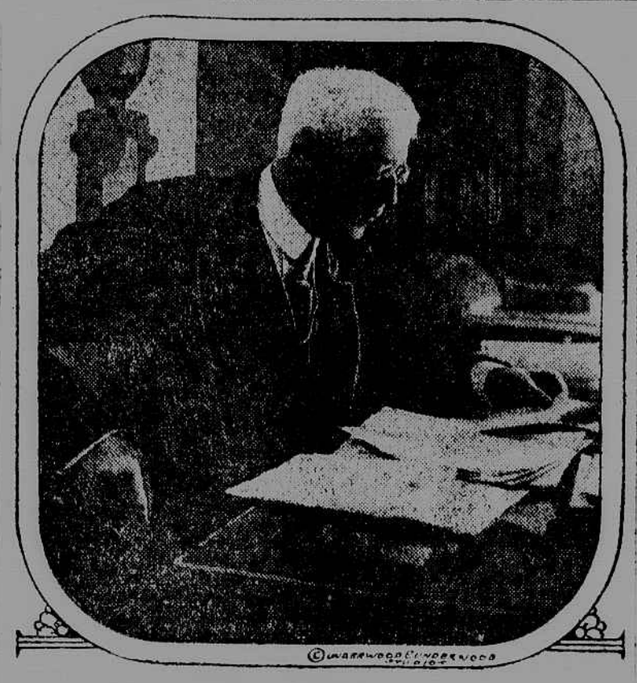
Mr. Vanderlip implicitly assumes that in the dueness of time, when all of Europe shall have become rich and efficient according to our plan, and is both able and willing to pay us back in goods, we shall be in a position to receive the goods without injury to our industry or any profound consequences of an adverse nature whatever. That lies in the future.

There are many immediate difficulties to be considered—difficulties of pride and vanity. It happens that of the $11,000,000,000 owing to us by Europe $10,000,000,000 is owed by three countries, namely, Great Britain, France and Italy. They might think it was their business more than ours to underwrite civilization in Europe. They might even resent our way of doing it and prefer their own.

These difficulties undoubtedly have been considered by Mr. Vanderlip. To mention them seems only to criticise, and, as he says, "an attitude of criticism is not sufficient in the face of the existing situations." What will you do with the facts? "If we insist to the letter upon our claim, our claim will in all probability never be paid," he says. "If we insist upon it selfishly we shall realize in hatreds but not in cash."

So why stand haggling at the gate?

Inflation of Currency Leaves Old World Governments Powerless Under the Conditions



Frank A. Vanderlip

Echoes from Abroad

Persia Greets Ireland

THE Irish Free State already has secured international recognition. Routine of the provisional government's work was broken when, complete with fez on head and scimitar at side, a representative of the Shah of Persia visited the City Hall, where the government is at present established. He came to offer to Arthur Griffith, as president of the Dail, and to Michael Collins, as head of the provisional government, flowery congratulations on this "glorious epoch in Irish history," coupled with the hope that Ireland may be "one of the happiest and most progressive countries of the world."

Griffith and Collins in their replies said that they were very much touched by the message from such an ancient and famous nation, and hoped that the future would afford many opportunities for the two nations to help each other. It looks an empty compliment, but Ireland and Persia are not so very far apart after all.

They say, dear Moore, your lays are sung—
Can it be true, you lucky man?
By moonlight in the Persian tongue
Along the streets of Ispahan,

sang the Irish poet Luttrell to Tom Moore, recalling his associations with the East. And the most famous rendering of Omar Khayyam into English was by the Irishman Edward FitzGerald. A translation of Omar into Irish was published last year by Professor O'Donoghue, of University College, Cork. It only remains to add that Anglo-Persian oil shares stand at a premium on the Dublin Stock Exchange.

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A French Acrostic

The acrostic is invoked by Masque de Fer, in "Le Figaro," to inspire hope that the new ministry in France will realize the needs and purposes of that country in the present emergency. What is it, he inquires, that France asks? In two words, Reparations, Security. Note, then, the prophetic lettering of the names of the nineteen ministers and under-secretaries, with M. Poincare himself at the head:

POINCARE
BERARD
PEYRONNET
BARTHOU
RAIBERTI
MAGINOT
LE TROCQUER
VIDAL
CHERON
EYNAC
SARRAUT
STRAUSS
REYBEL
COLRAT
MAUNOURY
RIO
VIOR
LAFFONT
DE LASTEYRIE

After which Masque de Fer adds, "Let us hope" . . .

* * *

A Divorce Stirs Japan

Mme. Aki-ko Ito, in English "the white lotus," the cousin of the Emperor of Japan and leader in the struggle for the emancipation of Japanese women, by her breaking of the marriage fetters that tie her to an unloved husband, has established a precedent that is the talk of the day of Tokio society. No attempt at breaking an old Japanese tradition until now has created such a sensation and given rise to such lively debates as this bold woman's divorce. For was it not hitherto the sole privilege of the Japanese husband to ask a divorce from his wife? For the first time a woman has now dared to take a like step.

This also explains why the case of "the white lotus" has become the center of general interest. An endless stream of letters, the writers of which take sides in this affair, pours forth in the Japanese papers. Many of these letters are written by women who approve Mme. Ito's bold act, but the majority come from the pens of conservative men and women, who declare that the social life of the country will fall into ruin if women are permitted to proceed against their husbands with divorce suits.

This opinion was also given at a meeting of women in Tokuoko, the residence of the couple who have started the controversy. A unanimous resolution expressed to the lady thanks for having left the town, for "her abominal act was only calculated to corrupt the good morals of the other women."

The "Osaka-Ashi" pleads for Mme. Ito mitigating circumstances, emphasizing that her husband had expected her to tolerate geishas in her company, "a lack of fidelity," adds the paper, "that would have brought many a woman to desperation." The paper furthermore points out that Mme. Ito contracted her first marriage at the age of fifteen and that nine years later she concluded the second, from which she now asks a divorce, only upon the urgent insistence of her family.

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The Evil Eye Itself

A strange story of sorcery and the evil eye has been told by a man named Soucaret who has just been arrested in connection with the murder of his son-in-law in Garonne.

Soucaret has declared that the death of Delias, his son-in-law, is directly due to the influence of an old man named Faget, who has been known for many years throughout the countryside as a soothsayer, charm-worker and general cure-all. Faget is nearly eighty years old and for some time past has been unfortunate in the matter of bad crops and the loss of sheep and cattle. Soucaret says that Faget at last pronounced Delias to have the evil eye, maintaining that the latter was the cause of all his misfortunes. He then called a family council, at which the wife of the murdered man and several farm hands were present, and so, says Soucaret, it was one of these latter who actually struck the death-blow.

Faget is protesting his innocence, saying that he has been a medium and clairvoyant all his life. He has several offices and people came long distances to consult him about law suits lovers' quarrels and every sort of ailment, bodily or other. When the police were searching his house at Auviller they found a great carved cupboard which contained herbs and many letters, mostly from women. One wife asked that Faget should make her husband hate a woman who was causing her unhappiness. Another wrote: "All my thanks. Things are going better. She is dead."

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The Super-Buyer

For some weeks "The London Daily Express" has been conducting a vigorous campaign, the burden of which is "Buy Now." "The public can help the trade of the country by buying anything and everything they want now—don't save your money, spend it and so help to bring about the long-desired revival of trade in England," etc.

One man, a fruiterer in the Tottenham Court Road, has been so stirred by these appeals that he has decided to equip completely his large store, to have it repainted from top to bottom, to buy two new cash registers, buy overalls for all his staff (numbering about seventy) and employ three new hands.

He says that after reading "The Daily Express" he decided that he "would not stop buying until I had secured everything that my business or my family could possibly use. I am going to buy dresses for my wife and suits for myself and boy. I am going to buy shoes and underwear all round as well.

"On Thursday I am going to give a banquet to my staff. I had my photograph taken to-day. I will have my windows cleaned to-morrow. I am going to buy new mats and brushes. I am going to order ten copies of 'The Daily Express' hereafter instead of one.

"I am going to turn my shop inside out to help along the campaign. I am going to buy, buy, buy!"

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Dogs With the V. C.

The English in asking that the Victoria Cross be awarded to the cat which so heroically saved her young during the fire of the Printemps only follow an example given by the Queen of England herself. To appreciate the value of this reward we must remember that the Victoria Cross is for a soldier, general or private, the highest military order.

In the last war at the utmost fifty have been awarded. However, several dogs belonging to the British army have received this honor. These were: Bob, of the Royal Berkshire, which in the Afghanistan war saved the life of several soldiers; Jack, which accomplished the same feats at the battle of the Alma, and Jerry, a hero of the Crimean War, which received from the city of Dublin a medal and—a dinner. The odds are that the mess made the dog happier than the medal.

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A Pleader for Death

A strange request has been made in a Berlin court by a blacksmith, Paul Walter, who has been passing himself off in Berlin as Prince Pless. He and four friends were on trial for burglary and the blacksmith demanded:

"I request that I be condemned to death; if not, then send me to prison for life, so that I shall be rendered harmless to society."

When the surprised judge said he could not grant such a request Walter said:

"Well then, put me under police supervision for twenty years and I think you will see I won't do anything wrong again, but will reform myself. If I don't, then sentence me to death next time."

The judge sentenced him to prison for eighteen months and passed sentences varying from three months to two and a half years on the others. All the prisoners then thanked the judge, and the blacksmith added that he and his friends gladly accepted the sentence.

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The Country of Mothers-in-Law

China until recently was the country of mothers-in-law, where they reigned and used their power to make martyrs of their daughters-in-law. One cannot imagine to what point this ferocious authority was carried. But their good time is nearing an end; the young wives have liberated themselves in the Chinese Republic.

The feminists of Canton have won a "glorious victory":

First—There is no longer any marriage code.

Second—The wife has the right to keep all she has earned.

Third—The divorce laws are the same for the two sexes.

It would be interesting to know what is thought of all this by the old mandarins with crystal or mother of pearl buttons.

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A Legend for Book Borrowers

A "bibliophile legend" containing a profound meaning for every book lover is told in the "Inselschiff."

In the seventh century there lived in an Irish cloister a monk named Killianus who was far famed for his high art of writing and illuminating books. While working one day diligently on the ornamentations of a Bible that was to be the most beautiful of all he heard the call of death.

Pious and resigned to the will of God as Killianus was, he nevertheless would not part with the precious treasure, whose gilded pages gleamed before him in the last rays of the sun. He concealed the book in a hidden fold of his cowl, in which, in obedience to the rule of the order, he was buried. The book was not found on his person, and so it was buried with him.

When, three centuries later, the grave of the saint was opened the precious book was found clasped in his hand and, despite all efforts, they could not free the volume from the clutch of his bony fingers. Only when a solemn vow was made that the Bible should never be sold, lent, pawned or given away the dead Killianus complied with the desire of the living monks, and thus the marvelous book is now preserved in the library of his cloister.

The legend, retold for the benefit of every true book lover, contains a good moral: If the tempter some day should seek to prevail upon the book lover with threatening or enticing words to lend him a book, then let him think of this legend and the solemn vow which alone could bring about the miracle of inducing St. Killianus to give up his Bible.

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Broken-Hearted Harlequin

Harlequin flitting across the stage, light and gay, while he hugs a private sorrow which eventually breaks his heart, has been the theme of many stories, but has become a fact in Liverpool.

Fred Leonville, a veteran actor of sixty-five years, who has been playing the rôle of Harlequin in "Aladdin" at the Olympia, has just died of a broken heart, the result of the loss of his wife a week previously. Mr. Leonville continued appearing in his rôle until the day of ris wife's funeral, and, although he sometimes broke down in his dressing room, no one who saw him on the stage, where he was the delight of the children, guessed that he was concealing a poignant bereavement.

The actor and his wife were deeply attached to each other, and on those few occasions when he gave way to his grief, while making his stage preparations in his dressing room, he repeated, over and over again, "My wife was the best pal a man ever had."

The day of the funeral came, and afterward a member of the company found Mr. Leonville in the street, in a state of collapse. He was taken to his rooms, and seemed to regain self-control. This was on Friday. On Monday he suddenly became very ill and died, his friends say, of a broken heart.

All Her Namesakes in Empire To Give Mary Wedding Gift

LONDON, February 2.

ONE of the many gifts which Princess Mary will receive on her wedding day will be one from her namesakes in Great Britain, the Marys, Mays, Marions, Maries and Miriams. The scheme has made such a universal appeal that virtually every county in England, Wales and Scotland has its own organizer, and thousands of contributions, varying from a few cents to $2, the limit imposed for subscriptions, have been sent to the Hon. Mrs. Geoffrey Hope Morley, who is chairman of the committee, and its treasurer, the Dowager Countess of Minto.

The scheme is not confined to Great Britain. Newfoundland has telegraphed that she is organizing a committee of Marys, and a large response is expected from this part of the world. Lady Reading, the wife of the Viceroy of India, is herself organizing that country, and Lady Jellicoe has undertaken the same task in New Zealand. Lady Stubbs, wife of Sir Reginald Stubbs, Governor of Hongkong, is working enthusiastically in that colony, and the Marys of Malta are rallying around the Baroness Inguanez D'Amico. South Africa has Mrs. Smuts as the leader of her band and Ceylon, Jamaica and, of course, Australia are all busily organizing their share in the gift.

Additional interest had been added by the fact that various representative groups of Marys are being included in the donors. For instance, there is the group, the Marys of the Stage, which Lady Wyndham (Miss Mary Moore) is organizing; and there are the Office Marys and the schoolgirl Marys, numbering many children from leading public and private schools all over the country. The princess is intensely interested in children and girl workers both in and out of the professions, so that these groups will make a special appeal to her.

Another feature of the organization is the large number of very young Marys who are taking a leading part. Lady Mary Crichton-Stuart, the fifteen-year-old daughter of the Marchioness of Bute, has made herself responsible for the whole of Ayrshire and Glamorganshire and is also helping in Bute itself. Among other young workers are the ten-year-old daughter of the Countess of Onslow, Lady Mary Onslow, and Lady Mary Howard, the Duchess of Norfolk's little girl.

London itself presented a problem which has been successfully solved by, in many cases, the Mayoress of the district undertaking the collection of contributions. This has been the case in Kensington, Hampstead, Westminster, Wandsworth and Paddington. In those few districts which have no local organization the contributions are sent direct either to Mrs. Geoffrey Hope Morley or the Countess of Minto, so that both are having their time fully occupied.

The Longest Lawsuit on Record

Since the year of our Lord 1529, hence for 690 years, the two communities of the French Jura Department, Menssia and Charchilla, have been carrying on a lawsuit for the possession of a forest before all possible courts and under the most different governments. After a great number of judgments have been pronounced and an equal number of appeals entered, the suit came finally before the Court of Appeals of Besançon, and as this court declared itself incompetent, before that of Nancy.

The judges have now passed judgment to the effect that one-third of the forest should go to Charchilla and two-thirds to Menssia. The costs of the many hundred years of litigation must be borne by both communities and they are, of course, much greater than the value of the forest. But the suit has with this decision by no means come to an end, for there still remains the motion to declare it non-suit.

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A Gentleman Thief

Serge de Lenz, known to the French police as "the gentleman thief of France," has just been arrested in Paris. He had already been sentenced four times and though he has nearly twenty burglaries to his credit he is only twenty-seven years old.

Among his victims are a Russian prince, half a dozen viscounts, three generals and a number of actresses and well known courtesans. He had made it a rule only to "visit" the aristocracy and was always well groomed. When he was arrested he was smartly clothed and sported a monocle, but his pockets contained some silver forks, spoons and salt cellars which he had intended selling to a receiver of stolen goods.