

KING EDWARD THE ARBITER

Prerogatives of the Crown in Moments of Political Crisis, Such as that Now Existing in England.

By EX-ATTACHE.

Nothing contributed more to dispel the popular impression to the effect that constitutional monarchs are mere ornamental figure heads, than the part which they are ever and anon called upon to play in the moments of political crisis.

The role of that arbiter between the various factions of parliamentary life, in countries where the people have a voice in the government, the legislature is always divided up into a series of rival camps, and the cabinet is usually recruited from the one that can command the largest number of supporters in the lower chamber.

The sovereign is required by the spirit, and in some instances by the letter of the constitution, to refrain from displaying preference for any particular party, beyond co-operating with the one that happens to be in office.

Such a crisis has now arisen in England, where the Liberals, now in control of the government, are taking advantage of their numerical superiority in the House of Commons, to endeavor to secure the inauguration of an altogether new fiscal system.

The people at large, therefore, have never yet had an opportunity of giving expression to their views on the subject of the bills devised by the Welsh-born Chancellor of the Exchequer, Lloyd-George, and were the bills (which rob property-owners of their possessions by means of taxation, so onerous as to render them unworkable, and which, without further ado, it would prove a dangerous kind of class legislation, as well as a tyrannical abuse of power.

While the passage of the Lloyd-George bills through the lower house is assured, by virtue of the Liberal majority, there is not the slightest prospect of their being sanctioned in their present form by the House of Lords, the consent of which, as well as that of the sovereign, is indispensable, in order to convert them into laws of the land.

The lords insist that measures of so revolutionary a character, as those of the government, should be submitted to the nation, by means of a general election, for an expression of its opinion at the polls before being placed on the statute book.

The Liberals are, however, not content with this. There is considerable reason to believe that they fear defeat at a general election if it is fought out on the plain issue of the merits of the Lloyd-George bills. So they resort, in the event of a general election, to their platform, not merely their financial measures, but also an even still more revolutionary appeal to the people against the House of Lords, as an alleged obstacle to all progressive legislation.

Some of the members of the government even intimated that they would be disposed to advocate the complete reorganization, or fusing together, the abolition of the upper house of the national legislature.

Such action of their part would constitute a direct incitement of the masses against the classes, of the poor and penniless against the owners of property. The avowed object of the Lloyd-George measures is to tax property owners for the purpose of providing maintenance for the poor, in the shape of old age pensions and other equally socialistic schemes, designed to exploit the thrifty and the useful members of the community, possessed of vested interests, for the benefit of the improvident and the useless.

of public life, no one is able to say with any certainty that he leans to one or the other of the political parties, it cannot be denied that he is in a sense committed to certain of the least objectionable phases of the Lloyd-George bills.

While still heir apparent, he was appointed by the late Queen, and by her then premier, William Ewart Gladstone, to the membership of a royal commission, appointed to devise some better means for the housing and for the relief of the poor.

It is understood that the King, while at Balmoral, has taken the occasion to point out to the Marquis of Lansdowne, the Unionist leader in the House of Lords; to Lord Cowdor, the former Unionist lord of the admiralty, and to the former Liberal premier, Lord Rosebery, now an avowed opponent of the Lloyd-George programme.

They are believed to have become converted to his views during their stays on the Deeside, as his guests, and have informed him that the House of Lords, with the object of averting a deadlock, and of avoiding a constitutional crisis, would be willing to pass a number of the less objectionable clauses of the Lloyd-George programme, if the government would consent to postpone the consideration of the others until after an appeal had been made to the country, and the views of the people consulted about the matter at the polls.

If this were done, it would remove any pretext for an appeal by the Liberals to the masses against the House of Lords, as an obstacle to progressive legislation. The House of Lords would stand before the people as having consented to the major portion of the bills, and as having merely demanded a popular referendum with regard to certain clauses which they did not believe had been made sufficiently clear to the nation at large, and which they regarded as too revolutionary in character to be determined by any mere parliamentary majority, and therefore to be decided by the people as a whole.

It may be argued that Premier Asquith and his colleagues might be disposed to turn a deaf ear to these schemes of the King, for an understanding between the rival political parties, but this is improbable. For the prime minister, and the members of his administration, are

GRAFT AMONG VOTERS

Expense of a Seat in Parliament Getting Greater.

BUYING HOUSE OF COMMONS

Election Agent Declares that \$2,500 a Year is Needed to Retain a Seat.

Members Become Easy Marks for Grafting—Want Corrupt Practices Act Enforced.

London, Oct. 9.—With a general election staring them in the face, members of Parliament and would-be members are working overtime in that delicate operation known as "nursing their constituencies." With a bluntness almost amounting to brutality at such a time Dr. Lunn, Liberal candidate for Boston, Lincolnshire, has publicly declared that he does not intend to "shell out," as parliamentary candidates are expected to do, and declines "to give subscriptions to local objects" in order to ingratiate himself with his constituency.

One can only assume that Dr. Lunn either feels himself very sure of being re-

TURNED FOR BOSTON OR DOES NOT PUT THE VALUE OF A SEAT IN THE HOUSE OF COMMONS AT THE FIGURE AT WHICH IT IS USUALLY ASSESSED.

Of course, votes and seats are no longer bought and sold in the good old way. Probably in no country in the world are the laws against bribery and corruption more strict or more rigidly enforced than in this. A parliamentary candidate and his agents and canvassers must keep an Argus watch on every penny they spend. The purchase of one small pint of beer may mean ruin. To buy a carriage or automobile to convey the independent voter to the poll would mean the loss of the seat.

Many Buy Their Seats.

It is all beautifully pure, and none doubts that only an insignificant percentage of the 670 gentlemen who make up his majesty's commons have in the slightest way broken or even bent the stringent laws against bribery and corruption. All the same, the great majority of them have bought their seats and keep on paying for them in good hard cash. "Nursing a constituency" is only another way of buying it.

A few weeks ago Sir George Ketschew, M. P. for Exeter, complained that what he regarded as a constituency seemed to require was not so much a representative as a relieving officer.

"It is not only charities," grumbled a Conservative candidate the other day, "but a great many associations of all kinds of social organization—football and cricket clubs, smoking concerts, swimming matches, dances for the young, and dinners for the aged."

There is a growing suspicion that some of the associations for this, that, and the other which demand subscriptions are simply got up for the purpose of blackmailing me. If five individuals ask for a sovereign each and give it to me, both they and I are liable to be prosecuted and punished. But if those five individuals form a society and extort from me a subscription of £5, no illegal act is committed."

Base Hopes on Money.

A writer in the current number of the Fortnightly takes up the same question. He declares that the Conservatives are the greatest offenders and urges them to mend their ways. A Conservative himself, he says "the Conservatives believe in money, the Liberals believe in brains." He, too, assesses the average cost of a seat at £500 a year, and urges that those who can and will give the money are few, and "that of a seat is to increase the efficiency of the Conservative party in the House." He cites one county where all the divisions are perfectly safe Conservative seats, but in none of them will the Conservative Association "even consider the name of a candidate who will not pledge himself to spend £1,000 a year."

So far from merely railing at the power of money in the Conservative party, the writer deplores the fact that the Conservatives will not use their enormous money power in a scientific manner. The present system of "selecting untried checkbooks as candidates" does not bring representatives of any kind into the House, as is proved by "the enormous disproportion between the Conservative intellect in the country and in the House of Commons."

He writes: "I do not think that a Radical would deny that three-fourths of the educated intelligence of the nation are Conservative. Take the squires, lawyers, clergymen, doctors, engineers, merchants, financiers, and the great majority of professors, and men of science will any one deny that 75 per cent of these people are Conservatives? Less than a fourth of the present House of Commons is Conservative, and of that fourth it is doubtful if 10 per cent can be ascribed as men of real political ability."

Would Provide Fund.

His plan for the political regeneration of his country is a simple one. Conservatives are rich. Let every man and woman of them with £1,000 a year subscribe £1, those with £500 a year 10 shillings, and those with £250 a year 5 shillings, and "a central political fund of £1,000,000 would be put up, which would allow £2,000 being spent in 600 constituencies beyond and apart from the candidate's expenditure." Such an income, properly administered, would "sweep the board."

ST. PETER'S WILL BE REPAVED.

Each Old Stone Will Be Replaced with Similar One.

Rome, Oct. 9.—An important work in St. Peter's has just been begun, and will occupy about ten years. It is the repaving of the vast edifice which the feet of the crowds visiting it during centuries succeeding have worn away. It is estimated that it will cost about 200,000 to restore the 12,000 square meters of pavement damaged, and this only represents about one-half the total surface.

The restoration will be a work of patience, for it is intended to supply the place of each old stone with one precisely similar. But it is a beauty which presents itself. Where are the marbles to be obtained?

Many of the species used for the original pavement are no longer obtainable. They came from the ancient Roman temples, from the columns and tablets found buried in the earth, and to-day such finds are very rare. Nevertheless, the Chapter of St. Peter's has been able to acquire some of these rare marbles. The remaining portions will have to be sought from the quarries of Carrara.

KING USES AUTOMOBILES.

Italy's Ruler Abandons Horses and Carriages.

Rome, Oct. 9.—The King of Italy has practically abandoned horses and carriages, except for state occasions, and makes exclusive use of automobiles. He is reported to have given three reasons why he prefers motoring to driving.

The first is that motoring affords him a great deal of liberty, and prevents him being recognized. Second, it enables him to run away from the police escort which follows him everywhere for protection. The third reason, and undoubtedly the most important, is that motoring is safer and diminishes the risk of an anarchist attempt. He is convinced that had his father used an automobile instead of a carriage, he would not have been assassinated.

King Umberto, like his son, hated to be followed by a police escort. The present King, unlike his father, does not neglect precautions for his safety, but moves from the police he trusts to his automobile.

The Thief of Time.

From the Cleveland Leader. Teacher—Johnny, what is the meaning of the word "procrastinate?" Pupil—To put off. Teacher—Right. Use it in an original sentence. Pupil—"The brakeman procrastinated the tramp from the train?"

TAFT SAW GIANT TREES

Mariposa Grove and Yosemite Valley Offered Thrills for the President.

By CHARLES DEHAVEN BULLA.

Shakespeare makes his banished duke in the forest of Arden to say: More free from peril than the envious court! And thus our life exempt from public haunt, Finds tongues in trees, books in running brooks, Ferns in stones, and good in everything. I would not change it.

When President Taft entered the Yosemite National Park last week he saw two of the wonders of the world: the Mariposa Grove of big trees, and Yosemite Valley. The park is a domain of thirty-six by forty-eight miles in the heart of the Sierra Nevada Mountains in Central-eastern California. This tract of land was ceded by Congress in 1864, to be held for public use, resort, and recreation, and was managed by commissioners appointed by the governor.

It was retroceded to the United States in 1890. The park is guarded every summer season by detachments of United States cavalry. The man who would see Yosemite must rough it. Grit and rough shoes are about the only essentials. When Gen. Ewell started for Winchester in the Valley of Virginia, his orders were, "You cannot bring tents. The road to glory cannot be followed with much baggage."

The Big Trees.

There is the Mariposa grove of big trees, discovered by Galen Clark in 1837. Clark went to Mariposa County in search of gold in 1834. In April, 1837, he built a log cabin on the South Fork of the Merced River, where beautiful Wawona

(Indian for big trees) now stands. In the summer of that year he discovered the big trees. He opened a trail and built a log cabin in the grove for the comfort of visitors. The cabin became known as Galen's Hospice.

It is a pleasant drive of eight miles from the Wawona Hotel to the grove of four square miles on the west slope of the Sierra, an altitude of from 5,500 to 7,300 feet. There are 600 Sequoias in the grove. The trees were named after Sequoia, a Cherokee Indian born in Alabama about 1770, who prepared an alphabet and written language for his tribe.

The Sequoia is an evergreen. The body is bare for nearly 100 feet. It requires a much greater quantity of moisture than other forest trees. The foliage is scanty and the roots not extensive, and it is said that the enormous growth is due to their deep breathing of mountain air. The cones are about the size of a hen's egg. It takes two years for the seeds to mature, and another year before these mature seeds fall from the cone.

There are but few young Sequoias to be seen in the grove. It is because the surface of the ground is so deeply covered with the fallen matter and dead vegetation that the seeds seldom get into the soil.

Symmetrical in Form.

The average diameter of these Sequoias at the base is about twenty feet; the average height, 235 feet. They are so symmetrical in form and height that their size is deceptive. The illusion is dispelled when they are measured by some familiar object.

The President saw Grizzly Giant, the patriarch of the grove, which is 104 feet in circumference at the base, 33 feet 7 inches five feet from the ground, and 224 feet in height. A limb 90 feet from the ground measures twenty and a half feet in circumference. According to the estimate made by the examination of the annual ring growth, this tree is thought to be 400 years old and contains 1,000,000 feet of lumber, sufficient to build fifty six-room houses.

The Mariposa was pointed out as the finest tree in the grove; circumference, 130 feet; height, 255 feet. President Taft drove through a tunnel ten feet high, through Wawona tree, which has a diameter of twenty-eight feet. He saw Fallen Monarch, twenty-six feet in diameter and 300 feet long, prone upon the earth, and listened to the story of how a six-horse stage was overturned on the tree.

He also saw trees with familiar names: Washington, Lincoln, Garfield, McKinley, and Hay; Grant, Sherman, Sheridan, Logan, Robert E. Lee, and Stonewall Jackson; Francis Scott Key, Longfellow, and Whittier. Admiral Dewey has a tree named after him, the only instance of a living man having a Sequoia namesake.

Trees Are Old.

Who can tell the ages of these trees? In examining the fallen trees it is found that the annual ring growth near the heart numbers ten to the inch, and near the outside surface, fifty to the inch. The average rate of growth is estimated at one inch of diameter for every twelve years.

There is an annual inside growth of bark, formed in contact with the new outside growth of wood. The cinnamon-colored bark is from one foot to three feet in thickness. The bark acts as a guardian. Fire does not reach the heart of the tree. The Sequoia has no disease, does not decay, cannot be blown down, and is irrepressible vitally.

One is filled with veneration as he realizes that he stands in the presence of the oldest living thing on earth! Majestic old Sequoias, tell me, were you alive when Adam was put into the Garden of Eden to dress it and to keep it? Did the wild murmuring of a requiem among your branches that dark, yet moonlit, night, when the lonely, homeless Prophet of Galilee prayed under the olive trees in Gethsemane? Patriarchs of a peaceful solitude, farewell! In your venerable presence I bow the head in reverence, and wonder if you will be swaying in the Snowy Range when the clock of time strikes at the last. The only living link from the tree of life in Eden to the tree of life in the midst of the paradise of God!

My heart is awed within me when I think Of the great miracle that still goes on In silence round me—the perpetual work Of thy creation, finished, yet renewed Forever. Written on thy works I read The lesson of thy own eternity.

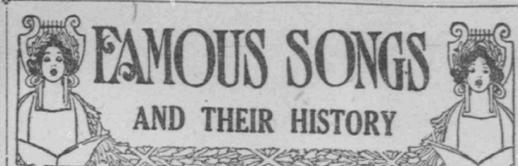
Life mocks the idle tale Of its arch enemy, Death—ye, seats himself In the triumph of his ghastly foe! Makes his own nourishment. For he came forth From this own bosom, and shall have no end. There have been holy men who hid themselves Deep in the woody wilderness, and gave The generous boon with their own senses. Less sacred than the holy trees and rocks Around them; and there have been holy men Who deemed it were not well to pass life thus; But let me often to these solitudes Retire, and in thy presence reassure My feeble virtue.

Lantern Slides Rotate.

A new electrically operated advertising device rotates lantern slides before a self-centering arc light so that the pictures are projected upon a ground glass screen from which all light except that coming from the arc is excluded.

Keep Still.

From the New York Times. The man who has the greatest command of language is the one who knows when to keep still.



FAMOUS SONGS AND THEIR HISTORY

No. 14.

"MY OLD KENTUCKY HOME."

STEPHEN COLLINS FOSTER.

The sun shines bright in the old Kentucky home; 'Tis summer, the daisies are gay; The corn-tops ripe, and the meadows in the bloom, While the birds make music all the day; The young folks roll on the little cabin floor, All merry, all happy, and bright; By-and-by hard times comes a-knocking at the door— Then my old Kentucky Home, good-night!

CHORUS. Weep no more, my lady; oh, weep no more to-day! We will sing one song for the old Kentucky Home, For the old Kentucky Home, far away.

They hunt no more for the possum and the coon On the meadow, the hill and the shore; They sing no more by the glimmer of the moon, On the bench by the old cabin door; They day-gow by like a shadow o'er the heart, With sorrow, where all was delight; The time has come when the daisies have to part, Then my old Kentucky Home, good-night!

The head must bow, and the back will have to bend, Whenever the darkey may go; A few more days, and the trouble all will end, In the field where the sugar-canes grow; A few more days for to tote the weary load— No matter, 'twill never be light; A few more days till we totter on the road, Then my old Kentucky Home, good-night!

In the entire galaxy of songs reflecting the spirit of the Southland, there is none of them more beautiful than "My Old Kentucky Home," notes that came to him, and words to fit them, little dreaming that he was arranging one of the most beautiful songs ever written. After he had finished the first verse, his sister, who has been engaged in reading a book, stopped for a time to look over the penciled page, and being the possessor of a sweet and sympathetic voice, she began to hum the melody.

When she had finished Foster was much pleased with his effort, and his sister so enthusiastic over the song, that she persuaded him to continue while she resumed reading. In a short time Foster had completed a second verse, and this he himself sang to his sister, as he was also the possessor of a good singing voice of the bass quality.

He then set to work upon the last verse. In the meantime the daisies were returning from work. They were laying aside their rakes and hoes. The little tots ran out to meet them and coming back went bobbing about the sheltering trees, with the black mammals peeping from behind the corners of the house watching so that they would not overstep the bounds of propriety expected of them.

It was these daisies, these black mammals, and the other accessories to the scene, which gave Foster the inspiration for his third verse. And it is needless to say, with such material, he was able to find his sequel to the other two verses with little difficulty. After it was finished both brother and sister sang the third verse, and then together, after inviting the colored people to come and hear his effort, the three verses were sung to them.

As the song was finished, it is said, tears flowed down the old people's cheeks; the children crept from their hiding places behind the trees, their faces wreathed in smiles, and even the mocking birds flitted about the trees chirping as if to join in the melody.

Foster wrote both the words and music of all his songs. His method of composition was to jot down the melody as it came to him, and thereafter to invent suitable words. He adhered to simple chords for accompaniments, and kept the airs within the range of ordinary voices. The subjects appeal to home life and popular taste, and the versification is smooth and musical. His negro ditties are characterized by humor, humor, and unusual refinement. He was born in Pittsburg on July 4, 1826, and died in New York City on January 13, 1864. He was a man of culture, familiar with the French and German languages, and a respectable artist in water colors.

The old Kentucky home of the Rowans has had lots of attention brought to it through its having been the scene of the writing of this beautiful song. Since the death of Foster an imposing monument has been erected to his memory, but no shaft of marble, however delicately chiseled or wonderfully built, can be more enduring than this one of the many musical legacies he has left us—"My Old Kentucky Home."

One bright morning, it is related, while the slaves were at work in the corn fields, and singing the darkey plantation songs at their work, young Foster and his sister wandered out upon the lawn of the Rowan homestead. From a rustic bench, upon which they seated themselves, they could command a fine view of the plantation.

The sun was shining, the cool southern wind was waving the golden grain. The trees all about were in their best of foliage. Flitting about were the mocking birds warbling their dulcet notes. The mellow song of the thrush added to the music of the scene, and altogether it was an ideal day for an inspiration such as came to Foster for the writing of his "My Old Kentucky Home."

A number of small negro children were playing about the place. Foster was very observant of everything that was going on about him, and as was his habit, he never was without pencil and paper. He had received a good public school education and had devoted much time to the study of music. He had learned unalloyed to play on the fiddle, and thrummed the guitar.

WOMEN'S LEGAL STATUS.

Clay Tablets Show that Dowry Was Known 550 B. C.

London, Oct. 9.—Among the Babylonian clay tablets in the British Museum are two which throw light on the legal status of women in ancient Babylonia, and show that the married woman's property act was in force in that country as early B. C. 650-538.

The proceedings to which these documents refer were taken by a woman against her brother-in-law to regain possession of certain property left her by her husband. The facts of the case were that a man from Babylon had married a woman from Borsippa, and with the money of her dowry he had bought an estate. After a few years they adopted a son, and shortly after this the husband mortgaged the estate.

He died leaving it mortgaged, and then the husband's brother wanted to claim it. The woman took her case to the court at Borsippa, but it was beyond their jurisdiction, so it was referred to the High Court at Babylon.

The judge examined the documents relating to the case, and decided that as the property was the husband's, the widow could have it on paying off the mortgage, and that the husband's brother had no claim. Eventually, the estate would be the property of the adopted son.

It is interesting to note that it is distinctly stated that the lady pleaded her own case, without the assistance of a scribe or lawyer, and judgment was given her in favor.

QUEEN'S HEALTH IMPROVED.

Visit to Norway and Denmark Beneficial to Alexandra.

London, Oct. 9.—Those who have seen Queen Alexandra lately say that her health has been materially improved by her visit to Norway and Denmark, and it is hoped that before her return to England she will have entirely thrown off the unfavorable symptoms that manifested themselves toward the close of the London season, the fatigues of which were too much for her. Indeed, there was for some days fear of a serious nervous breakdown, which has now happily passed away.

The Queen, who will be sixty-five years old on December 1 next, is now in better general health than she has been for a long time. In future her duties during the London season are to be lightened. There is talk of cutting down the number of courts and other state functions next year, while the Princess of Wales and the Duchess of Connaught will undertake many duties that have been carried out by the Queen in the past.

Possibly. A friend of a little five-year-old boy was trying to interest him in the robin. She asked him if he had ever seen a robin pull and pull at a stubborn worm, until the bird lost its balance. With an admiration as bright and as glowing as that, for an absurd situation, the child said: "Yes, and if it turned a somersault there might be another worm in front of it."

LATEST FASHIONS.



TWO SIMPLE DESIGNS FOR CHILDREN. Paris Patterns Nos. 2989, 2560

All Neams Allowed. Never have the designers turned out prettier clothes for the little ones of the family. The girl's dress is especially smart. It is made with a broad tuck over the shoulders, which is graduated toward the waistline and stitched its entire length, this tuck meeting the tuck at either side of the skirt, in the front and giving the effect of a semi-princess dress. The skirt is attached to the waist under a narrow belt of the material, and if desired, may be made with low neck and short sleeves. The pattern is in 5 sizes—6 to 14 years. For a girl of 10 years the dress requires 4 1/2 yards of material 24 inches wide, 3 1/2 yards 27 inches wide, 2 1/2 yards 35 inches wide, or 2 1/2 yards 42 inches wide.

The blouse of this jaunty little boy's suit, which is adaptable to serge, flannel, pique, duck or heavy linen, is made up in the regulation navy style, which has long seamless shoulders, and is slipped on over the head. The removable shield—which is nearly always made of white linen, regardless of the material of the suit—and the left sleeve are embroidered in colors, and the tie is always of black silk. The full knickerbockers are gathered about the knees with elastic, which is run through the hem-casing. The sleeves are plaited to cut depth and finished with narrow wristbands. The pattern is in 5 sizes—4 to 12 years. For a boy of 8 years the suit requires 4 yards of material 27 inches wide, 2 1/2 yards 35 inches wide, or 1 1/2 yards 42 inches wide.

Washington Herald Pattern Coupon. Name..... Address.....

Size desired..... Fill out the numbered coupon and cut out pattern, and inclose with 10c in stamps or coin, addressed to Pattern Department, Washington Herald, Washington, D. C.

No one is more keenly alive to the alarming possibilities of the present situation than Edward VII. That is why he has taken advantage of his sojourn at Balmoral, to confer with a number of the leading statesmen of England, who are not in office. And that is why, too, after conferring with them, he on Tuesday last summoned the premier in English hot haste to his Highland home, that Mr. Asquith was compelled to leave the House of Commons in the middle of a debate, and to start north without a moment's delay by special train.

It is no secret that the King's object is to avoid war between the House of Lords and the Liberal majority in the House of Commons, and that he is above all eager to avert any appeal by the Liberals to the masses against the upper and senior house of the national legislature. The only way of accomplishing this is by means of conciliation, and by inducing the Liberals on the one hand and the Unionists on the other, as now represented by the House of Lords, since they are in a numerical minority in the lower chamber, to consent to mutual concessions.

No one is better qualified for this difficult task than King Edward. For, while he has been so tactful and discreet, both as Prince of Wales and as King, that after the lapse of nearly half a century