

The Kaiser as I Knew Him For Fourteen Years

By ARTHUR N. DAVIS, D. D. S.—American Dentist to the Kaiser from 1904 to 1918

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CHAPTER III—Continued.

The purpose of this announcement, of course, was to forestall the storm of condemnation which the Germans knew would follow their use of the bombs on London—a ruse which they had invariably employed whenever they contemplated some fresh violation of the rules of international law and the dictates of humanity.

It happened that one of my patients who resided in Baden-Baden called to see me the day after the bombs had been dropped on her town, and she told me all about it.

"The airplanes which dropped the bombs had been flying over the city all the morning," she declared. "We thought they were our own machines out for practice and paid no particular attention to them. Then they dropped the bombs and they landed in the woods, and we knew we had been attacked. What a dreadful thing for them to do!"

What a foolish thing for allied airplanes to do—to spend a whole morning studying the layout of the town and then to drop those deadly bombs on a clump of woods where they could not possibly hurt anyone, and how careless of the Germans not to molest them while they were engaged in their devilish work!

But the point I wanted to bring out was this: these gas bombs were never used on London!

"Just as everything was in readiness for the raid," the officer told me regretfully, "we received orders direct from the kaiser to hold off—I saw his signature to the order. Of course, there was nothing for us to do but comply, but if we had had the kaiser there, I believe we would have strung him up by the neck! We still have those bombs, however, and you may be sure they will yet be used!"

For some unknown reason the kaiser stopped the use of those lethal gas bombs for the time being. Why didn't he move to save the women and children on the Lusitania?

When I went back to Berlin in the fall of 1915, after a visit to the United States, the kaiser was very anxious to ascertain from me just how America felt towards the war.

I told him that before the sinking of the Lusitania American opinion had been divided. There had been many who were strongly pro-ally, there had been others who were openly pro-German and there had been still others who maintained an absolutely neutral attitude. After the Lusitania tragedy, however, there had been a distinct change in public feeling, I told him, practically the whole country having become decidedly anti-German.

"Perhaps if the U-boat commander had known so many women and children were on board," was the kaiser's only comment, "he might not have sent forth the torpedo which sent the vessel to the bottom, but what he was thinking of most, of course, was the 5,000 tons of ammunition on board which were destined to slaughter my people!"

Of course the kaiser knew that if the U-boat commander's orders were to sink the Lusitania, disobedience upon his part would have left but one course open for him: suicide. If, on the other hand, the kaiser meant to intimate that the U-boat commander sank the Lusitania on his own initiative or without special instructions from his superiors, the fact still remains that the kaiser could undoubtedly have prevented the tragedy and didn't.

But if there can be any doubt as to the kaiser's direct responsibility for the sinking of the Lusitania, certain it is that he fully approved, openly defended and even exulted in the murder of women and children by Zeppelin raids on London, Manchester, Liverpool and other non-military cities and towns.

"England expects to starve my women and children to death," he declared to me early in the war—long before we in Germany had begun to feel the slightest effect of the diminishing food supply, "but our Zeppelins will give their women and children a taste of war, too. Confound them! They sit on their island and try to starve us; we will give them a taste of what war is!"

This was the man whose various acts of consideration towards me, whose talents and personal charms, had made such a favorable impression upon me! How trivial and inconsequential they all seemed now! Clearly, they were all a part of the role he had been playing for years. While he was outwardly displaying all the earmarks of a gentle character, he was inwardly plotting to dominate the world. For twenty-five years he maintained the peace of Europe, he frequently boasted. He maintained peace just long enough to complete his final preparations for the wickedest war that was ever waged!

And yet strangely enough, even after the war had revealed the kaiser to me in his true colors and had shown him to be capable of deeds which I should have thought were foreign to his nature, his presence always had a most favorable effect upon me.

I have a vivid mental impression of him now as I write. He is standing in the center of my room, drawn up to his full height, his shoulders thrown back, his left hand upon the hilt of his sword and his right emphasizing his remarks, protesting in the most earnest manner that it was not he who was responsible for the war and all its horrors, but that it had come upon the world despite all he had done to prevent it. His ready, well-chosen words entrance me, I feel that this man must be telling me the truth and I am ready to believe that before me stands the most unjustly judged man in the world.

And then he shakes his hand in farewell and is driven away, and as I gaze at the spot where he stood, there comes before my eyes the desolation of Belgium, the tragedy of the Lusitania, the despoliation of France and Poland, the destruction of women and children in London and Paris and a thousand and one other atrocious deeds which belie the kaiser's fair words, and I realize that I have been talking to the world's most finished actor and have simply been bewitched by the power of his personal magnetism.

CHAPTER IV.

America Disappoints Kaiser.

The kaiser ascended the throne in 1888. For twenty-six years his reign was unmarred by a single war, although twice during that period, once in 1905 and again in 1911, he nearly succeeded in precipitating a conflict. Subsequent developments have brought out clearly enough that during all these years of peace, the kaiser was only awaiting the opportune moment to bring on war.

Germany's preparation consisted not merely in building up her army and navy and developing a military spirit in her people, but in trying to establish friendships abroad where they would do the most good in the event of a world war.

The German military preparation was more or less obvious. The kaiser was always its warmest advocate and frankly admitted that it was his intention to remain armed to the teeth, although he protested to me many times that his sole object was to maintain the peace of the world.

In 1913, for instance, I was in The Hague when Carnegie delivered a speech at the opening of the Peace Palace, in the course of which he declared that the kaiser was a stumbling-block in the way of world peace. When I got back to Berlin I mentioned the fact to the kaiser, hoping to draw him out.

"Yes, I know exactly what Carnegie said at The Hague," he replied rather testily, "and I don't like the way he spoke at all. He referred to me as the 'war lord' and said I was standing in the way of world peace. Let him look at my record of twenty-five peaceful years on the throne! No, the surest means to maintain the peace of the world is my big army and navy! Other nations will think twice before going to war with us!" The fact that he had previously accepted 5,000,000 marks from Carnegie for the furtherance of universal peace didn't seem to occur to him.

And the world at large learned more or less of German intrigue and propaganda since the war, but it is not generally known that the same sort of thing was going on even more actively in time of peace. Countless measures, of the most subtle and insidious character, were taken to lull into a sense of false security the nations she intended eventually to attack and to inspire fear in or command the respect of nations which she hoped would remain neutral or might even be induced to throw in their lot with hers in the event of war.

In this phase of Germany's preparation for war, the kaiser took a leading part.

It is a fact, for instance, that practically every officer in the Chilean army is a German, and the kaiser has spared no pains to foster the friendship of the South American republics, commercially and diplomatically.

One of the South American ministers told me of an ex-president of Peru who had visited Berlin. This Peruvian had previously visited London and Paris and had received little or no official attention in either of those capitals. For reasons best known to himself, the kaiser decided to cater to this gentleman, and accordingly arranged an audience.

In the discussion which took place when they met, the kaiser displayed such a remarkable acquaintance with Peruvian affairs and the family history and political career of his visitor that the South American was stunned. When he returned home he carried with him a most exalted idea of the all-pervading wisdom of the German emperor. To what extent the kaiser had spent the midnight oil preparing for this interview I have no knowledge, but knowing the importance he placed upon making a favorable impression at all times I have a mental picture of his delving deeply into South American lore in preparation for his guest.

There is nothing dearer to the kaiser than caste and social distinction. Morgantic marriages were naturally abhorrent to him. Nevertheless, before Archduke Franz Ferdinand, the successor to the Austrian throne, was murdered, the kaiser not only recognized his morganatic wife, who was only a countess, but went out of his way to show her deference. He placed her at his right at all state functions which she attended. To bring Austria and Germany closer together, he was willing to waive one of his deep-rooted prejudices.

The significance of the kaiser's many visits to Italy, his presentation of a statue to Stockholm, his yachting excursions in Scandinavian waters, his flirtations with Turkey from his castle on the Island of Corfu, and similar acts of ingratitude, becomes quite apparent in the face of more recent developments, but his efforts to curry favor with America during all the years of peace which preceded the war were so much more elaborate that they deserve more than passing mention.

No more subtle piece of propaganda was ever conceived than the kaiser's plan of exchanging professors between the United States and Germany through the establishment of the Roosevelt and Harvard chairs at the University of Berlin and corresponding chairs at Harvard and other American universities. Ostensibly the purpose of the project was to foster good-will between the two nations. Actually, it was intended to Germanize Americans to such an extent that their co-operation might be relied upon in the event of war for which Germany was sedulously preparing.

It was believed that the exchange of professors would accomplish the German purpose in two ways: not only could the professors the kaiser sent to America be depended upon to sow German seed in American soil, but the American professors who were sent to Berlin, it was hoped, could be so inoculated with the German viewpoint that when they returned to their native land they would disseminate it among their associates and students.

Some time before the kaiser conceived the scheme of the Exchange Professors, he sent his brother, Prince Henry, to this country to draw the two nations closer together and to instill in the heart of every child born in America of German parents an abiding love for the fatherland.

Just before the war broke out, he was planning to send one of his sons here with the same object. He told me of his project and asked me to which part of the United States I thought he ought to send the prince. "That depends, your majesty," I replied, "upon the object of the visit. If the purpose is to meet American society, I would recommend such places as Newport in summer and Palm Beach in winter. To come in contact with our statesmen and diplomats, Washington would naturally be the most likely place to visit."

The kaiser thanked me for the information but did not enter into further details as to the object he had in mind or which son he had planned to send across.

It was to curry favor with America that the kaiser had his yacht Meteor built in our shipyards, and it is a fact that more American women were presented at the German court than those of any other nation.

When he presented a statue of Frederick the Great to this country, in McKinley's administration, it created a great stir in congress. What could be less appropriate, it was argued, than the statue of a monarch in the capital of a republic? The statue was not set up in McKinley's administration, but Roosevelt accepted it in the interest of diplomacy and had it erected in front of the Army building.

Seeing that his gift had had just the opposite effect to that intended, the kaiser reprimanded his ambassador for not having interpreted American sentiment more accurately.

A few days after the death of King Edward, Roosevelt arrived in Berlin. Despite the fact that all Europe was in mourning, the kaiser arranged the most elaborate military dress review ever given in honor of a private citizen to celebrate Roosevelt's visit. The review was held in the large military reservation near Berlin. More than 100,000 soldiers passed in review before the kaiser and his staff and their honored guest.

How far the kaiser would have gone in his attentions to Roosevelt had he not been in mourning it is impossible to say, but I don't believe he would have left anything undone to show his admiration for the American ex-president and to curry favor with this country.

But Roosevelt was not the only American to whom the kaiser made overtures. He was constantly inviting American millionaires to pay him yachting visits at Kiel or wherever else he happened to be.

He sat for a portrait by an American painter, which was exhibited with a large collection of other American works under the kaiser's auspices.

There was nothing that the kaiser did not do in his efforts to ingratiate

himself with this country in the hope that he would reap his reward when the great war he was anticipating eventually broke out.

Taken individually, these various incidents seem trivial enough, but I have every reason to know that the kaiser attached considerable importance to them. I know that there was a good deal of chagrin in the trades he delivered to me against America for her part in supplying munitions to the allies—chagrin at the thought that the seed he had sown in America had failed to bring forth better fruit.

When we finally entered the war and he realized that all his carefully nurtured plans of years had availed him naught, he could not restrain his bitterness nor conceal his disappointment.

"All my efforts to show my friendship for America—exchanging professors with your colleges, sending my brother in your country, all—all for nothing!" he exclaimed, disgustedly, after we had entered the war.

On another occasion he showed even more clearly how far America had fallen short of his expectations:

"What has become of those rich Americans who used to visit me with their yachts at Kiel and come to my entertainments in Berlin?" he asked, sarcastically. "Now that we have England involved, why aren't they utilizing the opportunity to serve and to make their own country great? Do they think I put myself out to entertain them because I loved them? I am disgusted with the whole Anglo-Saxon race!"

The kaiser couldn't understand why the United States did not seize both Canada and Mexico. Apparently, from the way he talked from time to time, if he had been sitting in the White House he would have grabbed the entire Western Hemisphere.

That the kaiser followed American politics very closely, especially after the war broke out, was very natural. The fact that there was a great German-American vote in this country was not overlooked in Potsdam, and I haven't the slightest doubt the kaiser imagined that he could exert considerable influence in our elections through his emissaries in this country.

I returned to Berlin late in October of that year. Within a day or two after my arrival I received a telephone message from the Reichskanzler von Bethmann-Hollweg to the effect that the kaiser had sent him word of my return and that he would like me to call at his palace either that noon or at four p. m.

I was ushered into a very large room in the corner of which was a business-like looking flat-topped desk, but which was otherwise elaborately furnished. The Reichskanzler, a tall, broad-shouldered, handsome specimen of a man, came over to me and, putting his arm in mine, walked me to a seat beside the desk. He asked me what I would smoke, and upon my taking a cigarette, he did likewise.

"The kaiser's been telling me, doctor," he said, "of your recent visit to America, and I would like to ask you a few questions."

I said that I was always glad to talk of America. Indeed, I was particularly glad of the opportunity to speak with the prime minister of Germany at that time.

Then followed a bewildering succession of questions, the purpose of which was not at all clear to me. We had a peculiar conversation—half in German, half in English. The Reichskanzler did not speak English particularly well.

"How are things in America?" he asked. "Did you have any opportunity to gauge the political situation? Who do you think will be the next president? Do you think that Americans are opposed to peace because that would end their chance to make money out of the war? Are your people so mercenary that they would like to see the war prolonged for the sake of the money they can make out of it?"

"No, your excellency," I replied, "you are quite wrong if you imagine that my countrymen would like to prolong the war for the sake of war-profits. That is very far from being the case. On the contrary, the country at large is anxious for peace."

"Don't forget your people are making a lot of money out of this war," the Reichskanzler persisted. "They are becoming very rich. They will soon have all the gold in the world. Putting an end to the war would be a great extent end American opportunities for making money on this enormous scale."

"That may be all true," I replied, "but fortunately my countrymen think more of the blessings of peace and liberty than they do of war and profits, and the sooner peace can be brought about on a basis which will have some assurance of permanency the better we will like it."

"Wilson has the greatest opportunity presented to a man to make his name immortal—by bringing about peace in the world," he went on. "We feel now that he is not our friend, but friendly to the allies, but nevertheless he may be able to see that if this war is prolonged indefinitely it will mean the destruction of all the nations involved in it. Do you think there is any possibility of America entering the war?"

"That, of course, will depend, your excellency," I answered, "upon developments. I don't believe my country is anxious to fight, but I'm quite sure that nothing in the world will keep us out of it if our rights as a neutral nation are not respected."

"We certainly don't like the way Hughes has been talking on the stump," declared the Reichskanzler,

"Did you hear any of his speeches or any of Wilson's?"

I said I had had no opportunity to hear any of the campaign speeches, but that I had followed them in the newspapers.

"Well, did you gather from what you read that the American people want to see peace in Europe or do they want the war to go on so they can continue to make fortunes out of it?"

Again I replied that I was certain our country would never be influenced by such sordid considerations as were implied in the Reichskanzler's question, but that if the right kind of peace could be brought about the whole country would eagerly embrace it.

The subject of the U-boat campaign was never mentioned and it was not until several months later when the submarine warfare was started again on a greater scale than ever that I realized that the whole purpose of this interview was to ascertain if they could, without telling me their intentions, who was the candidate, Hughes or Wilson, who would be least dangerous to them if more American vessels were sunk in the ruthless submarine campaign they were then contemplating.

The election was drawing close; it was necessary to notify Von Bernstorff of Potsdam's preference; the kaiser believed that perhaps he held the deciding ballot in his hand in the shape of the German-American vote and he didn't know how to cast it. Hence the eagerness with which they interrogated me upon my return from the "front."

The interview with the Reichskanzler and the fact that it was instigated by the kaiser indicated to me that America occupied a most important place in the kaiser's plans. When, a few months later, we declared war against Germany, however, all the kaiser's planning and plotting of years collapsed. The edifice he had been so confidently erecting came crashing to the ground because it was built upon a false foundation. How elementary was his expectation that his efforts to win the friendship of the United States in time of peace could avail him anything in the face of his barbaric methods of making war!

"International law! There is no such thing as international law any more!" That was the answer of the kaiser to the suggestion that U-boats were bound by international law to stop and search vessels at sea to determine their status before sending them to the bottom of the ocean. Doctor Davis, in the next instalment of his story, tells how the kaiser defended the inhuman methods employed by the German soldiers.

(TO BE CONTINUED.)

HEINZ'S GREAT COLLECTION

Ivory Carvings Owned by Pittsburgher Are Declared to Be Almost Priceless.

During many years H. J. Heinz of Pittsburgh has gathered together one of the finest collections of ivory carvings in America. There are probably a dozen notable collections of this sort in the country, and among them the Heinz group of 1,300 pieces holds distinguished rank, says a writer in Scribner's.

As a rich and fascinating field for a discriminating collector, ivory carvings are perhaps without a peer. Executed in a material that has always been costly, too rare, as a rule, to be subjected to poor or mediocre workmanship, they may well be considered as typical of the artistic development of the time in which they were produced. They represent the art, moreover, not of one people, of one period, but, it is scarcely an exaggeration to say, of all peoples and all periods.

From prehistoric ages down through the civilizations of Egypt and Assyria and of classic Greece and Rome have come priceless examples of sculptured ivories. The dark ages of Europe, so meager in artistic treasures, have bequeathed us an unbroken chain of ivory carvings. Much of the most interesting of such work must be accredited to the centuries of the Gothic revival, the thirteenth, fourteenth and fifteenth. The Renaissance and the centuries succeeding have yielded a wealth of carved ivories of great richness and beauty. From India, China and Japan come ivories of deep historic interest and especially in the work of Japan, of genuine artistic achievement.

Periods of exceptional turbulence, such as the fall of Constantinople, the reformation in England and the French revolution, have caused the destruction of incomparable treasures. That so much has survived seems cause for wonder. The explanation lies in the very nature of the carvings.

Drop in Irish Birthrate.

The Irish registrar general's return for the first quarter of this year shows a drop in the Irish birth rate of 3.6 below the average for the previous ten years. The marriage rate is practically stationary. The death rate is 3.3 below the average.

The general prosperity of Ireland is reflected by the fact that the returns on Irish pauperism show a decrease of 3,122 in the average number of workhouse inmates.

Repulse Faults With Virtues.

The cardinal method with faults is to over grow them and choke them out with virtues.—John Bascom.

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CHURCHES NOT HARD TO FILL

Religious Edifices in England Where the Congregations Are of Necessity Rather Small.

There are many churches that attract attention by their size and grandeur. There are a few that are remarkable by reason of their smallness and simplicity. One of these is at Lullington, Sussex, England.

It is a primitive and quaint stone building with a roof of red tiles and a tiny weatherboarded turret at its west end. This miniature church is only 18 feet square.

Its pulpit is a pew with paneled sides and door and the furniture is of the plainest. Five narrow, diamond-paned windows give light to the interior. When the church is full 30 persons are gathered together.

Only a little larger is the meeting house at Crawshawbooth, a village near Burnley. It is known as the Friends' meeting house and is covered with ivy and surrounded by a well-cared-for burial ground. Inside may be seen half a dozen oak benches that could, if necessary, accommodate 60 persons. The attendance is rarely more than six.

Somewhat smaller than this chapel is one that has been called the shrine of Quakerism. It is in the hamlet of Jordans, in Buckinghamshire. Thither in June of each year come Quakers from all parts, for here lie the remains of William Penn. If this were not enough to make the place interesting, it has the further attraction of being the neighborhood in which Milton lived after writing "Paradise Lost," a cottage in the vicinity affording him a resting place.

EVIDENCE OF LITTLE WORTH

Illegibility of Shakespeare's Signature Does Not Prove He Did Not Write the Immortal Plays.

Some years ago, when the Shakespeare controversy was at its height, one of the contentions of the party who declared that the bard not only had not written the immortal plays but could not even write his own name, gave as evidence the existing signatures that are of undoubted authenticity.

On the same grounds it might be argued that Richard III was unable to write, if one decided the matter from the signature to a treaty of peace with Francis, Duke of Brittany, which is reproduced in a London dealer's catalogue just received.

It is a mystery how the cataloger managed to make "Richard Rex" out of the shaky scribble which is likely to stand for Will Shakespeare, were it not that the smaller word stands second and the larger one first.

Hypodermic Syringe in Crime.

Du Chailion, who invented the hypodermic syringe, seems to have been a sort of Fagin. He established in Paris a school of crime from which such youngsters as "Charley Bates" and the "Artful Dodger" graduated. Stimulated by an injection of zoorphine or some other drug, they went out to do great deeds in the criminal line. When the "school" was raided the principal escaped, but evidence was found to show his part in some daring crimes. Physicians attached to the criminal bureau saw the great advantage of the hypodermic syringe, and it has ever since been a recognized agency in medical practice.

Quit Your Spattering.

To prevent an automobile spattering mud upon pedestrians there has been invented a flexible metal ring to be attached close to a tire.

Catching Turtles.

A curious mode of catching turtle is practiced in the West Indies. It consists in attaching a ring and a line to the tail of a species of suckerfish known as the remora. The live fish is then thrown overboard, and immediately makes for the first turtle it can spy, to which it attaches itself very firmly by means of a sucking apparatus arranged on the top of the head. Once attached to the turtle, so firm is its grip that the fishermen on drawing the line brings home both turtle and the sucker.