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KING EDWARD ABROAD.

King Edward is not only a great traveller; he is a sovereign conspicuous for his habits of order, method, and exactitude, and before he leaves England for a diplomatic visit or a holiday an immense amount of planning and arrangement has been gone through, and has obtained His Majesty's approval. A French writer, who has evidently obtained his information at authoritative sources, asserts that one of the King's journeys demands almost as much in the way of preparation and detail as a military expedition on the frontiers of India. Lord Knollys knows something of the work entailed by his royal master's Continental excursions, and if the wheels of the machinery put in motion are not apparent to the public, if King Edward is able to travel with the liberty of an American millionaire, it is because His Majesty's sagacious secretary has acquitted himself with skill and prudence of the important functions devolving upon him. Suppose that in the month of April the British Sovereign announces his intention of paying a visit to Germany in August. He names several towns as possible stopping places, and gives Lord Knollys one or two approximate dates. It is for the secretary to do the rest. So inquiries and investigations are at once set on foot. Royal messengers familiar with the tastes and habits of their master are despatched to explore the ground which His Majesty's visit will cover, to inform themselves regarding the royalties, high personages, and society the King is likely to encounter, and to draw up a list of the theatres, concerts, race meetings, and other disreputable which should His Majesty so desire, may help to render his sojourn agreeable.

Then the hotel-keepers have to be seen and interrogated. In most of the German spas there is a palatial hotel with special apartments reserved for Royalty, and the highest ambition of their proprietors is to place them at the disposal of Edward VII. The fact that the King of Great Britain has stayed at a hotel on the Continent gives it an invaluable "cachet," and for years after all classes of tourists will pay any money for the privilege of sleeping in the King's bed. But, says the writer quoted, the privilege is a vain one, for the King always brings his own bed with him. However wide-awake and perspicacious the hotel-keepers may be, the Royal couriers endeavour to conceal the identity of the high personage in whose name they are making inquiries, and their investigations and questions are generally made on behalf of a supposititious nobleman. When a list of the suites available has been drawn up, with a plan showing the disposition of the main apartments, the "dossier" is completed and forwarded to King Edward, who, with Lord Knollys, goes carefully through it before selecting the establishment to be honoured with His Majesty's patronage.

A courier is then dispatched to the district chosen, and the name of the royal guest is revealed to the hotel proprietor, who takes a solemn engagement not to disclose it. This precaution is necessary to prevent an invasion of inquisitive people and snobs, who, as soon as the King's plans become known, flock to the district he is expected to visit. Furniture from Buckingham Palace, detectives from Scotland Yard, and various advance officials attached to the royal personnel begin to arrive at the hotel. If an important banquet is to be given by the King during his stay, M. Ménanger, the royal chef, takes charge of the arrangements; on ordinary occasions two or three of his principal assistants, accompanied by an army of scullions, are sufficient. They arrive perhaps a fortnight in advance of the King, for the kitchens must be installed to their satisfaction, and from then until the date of the King's coming there is a constant procession of valets and domestics. Enough baggage to equip a regiment is unloaded and stowed away in the royal suite, and with a view to facilitating the King's movements his two favourite automobiles are sent ahead and kept in readiness for their august owner.

But in spite of all the trouble and anxiety of months of preparation, with the object of accomplishing the King's good pleasure, it sometimes happens that His Majesty is grievously disappointed. The "first gentleman of England" cannot always secure the privacy he so ardently desires, and,

notwithstanding every precaution on the part of those whose one desire is to meet His Majesty's wishes, the public will insist on getting as near to the King as possible. It is a compliment to the Monarch's popularity, but it is a compliment he would rather go without. In Paris, at Biarritz, at Marienbad, and elsewhere, it is the same story. Ill-mannered people will annoy the King by crowding round him, and those who are worse than ill-mannered step out in front of him and snap their cameras in his face. It is not the first time that King Edward has turned his back on a district which has shown itself so unmannerly that he was kept a prisoner in his hotel, and it is stated that His Majesty was so much annoyed by the persistent persecution of the public at Marienbad last year that he decided not to return there. His Majesty's physicians, however, overcame his reluctance, and, if the inhabitants of Marienbad and its visitors will only learn to respect the King's inognito, it is possible that they may have the honour of his company for many years to come.

AMERICAN FEELING FOR ENGLAND.

There is no denying the necessity for such a book as the carefully written yet outspoken study of the modern inhabitant of the New World which Mr. H. Perry Robinson has given us in his book entitled "The 20th Century American." It is a hard thing for an Englishman to read that "in spite of the improvement which has taken place in the feelings of the upper classes in America, the fact still remains that, with a large portion of the people, war with England would be popular." It is a startling sentence; but, if such are really the feelings of a large portion of the American people towards England, it is well that Englishmen should know it—if only so that they may take such steps as seem suitable for the removal of a feeling so dangerous and so foolish. It is even less agreeable to find that England's calm, common-sense reception of the calculated blusterings of the late President Cleveland over the Venezuela question thirteen years ago was attributed by a large section of the American public to cowardice; and that the services which it was in England's power to render America during the Spanish war—services which have more than once been suitably acknowledged by distinguished citizens of the great Republic—did not prevent England's own subsequent troubles in South Africa being hailed with a large measure of American popular exultation. Matters are improving, says Mr. Perry Robinson; and, indeed, the average Englishman, instead of brooding on such incidents as these, will prefer to recall, among public events, the sorrow expressed all over America when Queen Victoria died (if ever national sympathy seemed sincere, this did), and, among personal experiences, the strong impression of honour, manliness, and culture he has received from the companionship of many an American gentleman. As to the dislike of England to which Mr. Perry Robinson refers with such startling plainness, it, of course, has its historic causes. Some of these may strike the Englishman as deserving of a different interpretation from that given them by the American. At any rate, it is as well that each should examine them from the point of view of the other as well as from his own; and towards the performance of that task this book is a notable aid. We have never seen a fairer, more eloquent, or more comprehensive attempt to reveal not only the true American to the Englishman, but the true Englishman to the American, and the whole tendency and trend of the volume is humanitarian and wise. One of its many shrewd sayings is the following: "It is because the peoples (American and English) rely on individual effort and not on the State that they have become greater than all other peoples." The truth of that cannot be too strongly insisted on, particularly in Great Britain, where there is a growing party that is all in favour of throwing upon the State countless burdens that should be borne by the individual. Needless to say, there is a limit at which the adoption of this unmanly and decadent policy might conceivably render a people not only unworthy of an alliance with any self-respecting country, but certain of a speedy and not unmerited abasement before the world.—P. G.

GENERAL NEWS.

NEWS FROM ENGLAND.

PRINCE OF WALES' RETURN.

The "Indomitable," with the Prince of Wales on board, reached the Solent at 9.40 o'clock on Monday evening. Wireless messages from the cruiser, received at Portsmouth the same morning, showed that the great vessel had made a record passage. The Prince was not expected until Wednesday.

The town of Cowes and the yachts in the roads were brilliantly illuminated, and the roaring of the guns was not only a welcome to the Prince of Wales, but a fitting celebration of an historic voyage across the Atlantic.

Although the Admiralty is naturally reticent with regard to the matter, there is little doubt that the intention, when the new cruiser began her homeward voyage, was to test her speed to the utmost, a procedure which it need not be added had His Royal Highness's entire approval.

During her trials the "Indomitable" reached 28 1/2 knots, or over 30 miles an hour, but if she has managed an average of only 24 on the voyage across the Atlantic she will have shown herself to be indubitably the fastest, as well as the most powerful, cruiser afloat.

According to the reports which were received at the end of the week the weather in the Atlantic was anything but favourable to rapid steaming, the fogs off the Newfoundland coast and gales in mid-ocean having been the prevailing condition since the "Indomitable" sailed.

The Portsmouth naval authorities understand that the "Indomitable" has made the passage from Quebec at the high average speed of 26 knots.

MR. ASQUITH ON FREE TRADE.

London, August 5.

The Prime Minister, proposing the toast of the evening at a dinner given by the Cobden Club in honour of the International Free Trade Congress, said he was glad to find himself in agreement with foreigners who believed that free trade served the best interests of the world. He went on to speak of the growing community of interests brought about by the great and ever increasing development of means of communication, which leads to closer mutual dependence among the nations. Commerce should be free to take its natural course; it would then extend and enlarge the common property in wealth and prosperity.

MR. CHAMBERLAIN'S HEALTH.

REASSURING STATEMENT.

London, August 4.

The *Central News* says:—It is learned from an authoritative source that the somewhat pessimistic accounts of Mr. Joseph Chamberlain's health recently circulated are far from being accurate. The right hon. gentleman was seen by an eminent Harley-street practitioner a couple of days ago in conjunction with the doctor who has been attending him since the beginning of the year at Cannes and Aix-le-Bains, and they found him better in every respect. He is a little thinner, but one of the objects of the course of baths at Aix was to lessen his weight. His mind is as quick and strenuous as ever, and he walks better, eats better, talks better, and sleeps better.

Mr. Chamberlain stood the long journey home surprisingly well. He is, of course, not a young man, and things move slowly in his case, but his steady progress, not, perhaps, to complete recovery, but to comparative good health and activity, is sure. At Aix and at Ouchy he dined in the public salons. He sees many friends, with whom he discusses all manner of topics, and he intends to take a more active part in politics again.

INDIAN MISSION STATION ATTACKED.

Bombay, August 5.

A band of Hindoos have attacked the mission station at Pandharpur, in the Poona district, and severely wounded the missionary's wife with sticks and stones. Many arrests have been made in connection with the incident. No further details are as yet obtainable.

(Continued on page 2.)