

The Toughest King Job in All The World

Embarrassing Situation of the Cultured New Rulers of Albania, Who Have to Kiss 100 of Their Bearded Subjects Every Day, Whose Guests Eat with Their Battle Knives and Whose "Royal Palace" Is an Insanitary Hovel

The Prince is very rich, and his palace of Newid is a magnificent place. This must make the change to the rough and barbarous conditions of life in Albania all the more disagreeable. Evidently the glamor of a crown and the romance of the position have led him to face all its dangers.

Prince William is the nephew of Queen Elizabeth of Rumania, the celebrated "Garmen Sylva" of literature. She was born a Princess of Wied. It was Queen Elizabeth who suggested to her nephew the possibility of becoming King of Albania, and coached him in the ways of getting around the many difficulties of the situation. The Prince's nationality made him acceptable to Germany and Austria. He made a good impression by his tact on Russia, England and the other Powers interested in settling Albania.

One obstacle to be overcome consisted of Essad Pasha, the leading Mohammedan of Albania and a fighter of the most savage character. Essad Pasha could probably have been selected king by his rifle-carrying friends in the mountains, but the principal Powers would not permit his selection.

Essad Pasha was persuaded that it would be better to elect an unobjectionable gentleman as king, and to exercise his own power as the king's right-hand man. Essad headed the deputation that formally invited Prince William of Wied to accept the throne.

The King designed a special uniform for himself to be worn in his new kingdom. It is of the hussar style, but unlike any other European uniform in color. It is of gray cloth with green trimmings. The green is designed to placate Turkish sympathies, and the neutral gray is supposed to be acceptable to all elements.

The King's formal entrance into his dominions was made by embarking on a yacht at the Austrian port of Trieste, on the Adriatic, and then proceeding to the Albanian port of Durazzo, half a day's journey away. An escort of foreign warships accompanied the yacht.

Durazzo was chosen as the capital of the new kingdom because it is on the seacoast and has a comparatively civilized population. In case of distress the King could make a quick escape from here to Austrian territory. Scutari is the largest town, but it is in close proximity to the mountains and their dangerous inhabitants.

The house selected as the King's palace had belonged to a well-to-do merchant. There was not sufficient time to put it in repair or furnish it suitably for a king, and besides there was no money for the purpose.

The King must depend on customs duties for any revenues he hopes to obtain in Albania. It is impossible to collect the taxes from the Albanians, who live in the mountains and have always a rifle ready for an unwelcome visitor.

The correspondents observed that Queen Sophie, the wife of the new King, looked extremely pale as she made her entrance into her new dominions. She is a delicate, graceful woman, and, in addition to other attractions, dresses charmingly. She is well fitted to be a

leader of refined and artistic society. In order to maintain his position in Albania, the King will have to receive the leading mountaineers freely in his palace, and to entertain them hospitably. The mountaineers always go visiting with their guns and their knives. It is supposed that the King's servants will invite the visitors to leave their guns outside the palace door before entering the reception room or the dining room.

It is said that when an Albanian has once



Interesting Dinner Scene in the Albanian Palace, Based Upon a Sketch from Life by Caton Woodville, the Famous English Illustrator.

eaten salt with you, he will not shoot you without warning, but up to that point he feels free to act as he pleases. Hence it will be to the interest of the King to dine with as many of his subjects as possible.

It is customary among Albanians to kiss a visitor heartily on both cheeks when welcoming him to the house, and the King will have to observe this custom with the leading chiefs. Before noon of his first day's rule he kissed more than a hundred of his force of retainers in order to make himself popular.

The homes of the mountaineers are regular fortresses. They are built of stone and situated in the most unassailable spots in the mountains. They have no glass windows, but narrow openings in the walls give ventilation and are useful as loopholes for rifle shooting. Within these walls the Albanians live in a barbarous and picturesque manner. The women of their harems make all their clothes and most of their articles of daily use.

King William will make visits among these picturesque people, and here his perils and hardships will be numerous. There are no roads in the country and only two bridges, although the rivers are many and deep. Rifle shooting is the principal sport of the mountaineers, and the King will be expected to witness exhibitions of their skill without showing any nervousness, and to make presents to the most expert.

The King has been diligently studying the Albanian language, and at last accounts had mastered two words meaning "Albania forever!" These he repeated three times on every possible occasion, as follows:

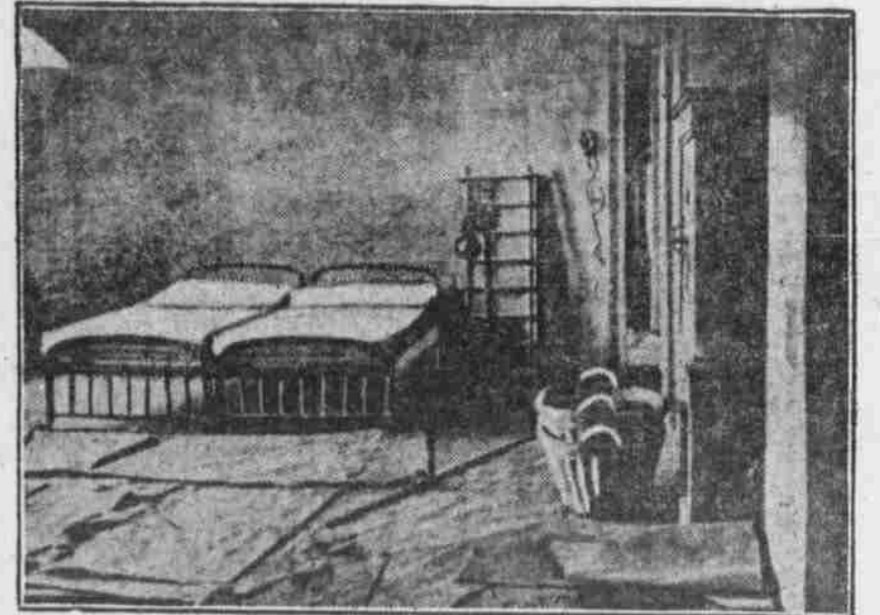
"Rnoft Shkypnya! Rnoft Shkypnya! Rnoft Shkypnya!"

Queen Sophie has learned to squat on the floor in the Mohammedan fashion and to wear the veil and trousers of the Mohammedan women. She will endeavor to win the friendship of the wives of the leading Mohammedans by showing a familiarity with their customs.

There is no gas, no electricity, no railroads in the whole of Albania. It is not necessary to say that minor luxuries, which are not considered necessary to the happiness of civilized people, are also missing. An automobile would be useless there because there are no roads.

The horse is the only efficient means of travelling there, and one needs a well-hardened horseman to make use of that.

There is one luxury, however, that King William and Queen Sophie can enjoy as long as they are in residence at Durazzo. They can step on board their yacht and immediately escape from their rather terrible dominions.



The Astonishingly Unroyal "Royal" Bedroom of the New King and Queen of Albania.



A Photograph Showing the Great Height of the New King—The Main Reason He Was Chosen.



The First Thing in the Morning Will Be the Royal Rat Hunt.



And by Noon the King Must Have Kissed One Hundred of His Bearded Retainers.



Shooting is the Prime Sport in Albania, and There is Every Indication the King Will Be a Frequent Target.

WHEN the new King of Albania reached his palace the other day he found that the bedsteads had not been put up. The rats began to scamper about the room as the King and Queen threaded their way among the ramshackle furniture of their new home.

The Queen then went downstairs and found the kitchen decorated in black, a result of the kind of fire that was used there and the grease that had accumulated on the walls.

Everything about the house was in a similar state of dirt and unpreparedness. Even if the place had been in spick-and-span order it would not have been very inviting.

These and other circumstances connected with the new King's rule have led an American observer to describe it as the "toughest king job in the world."

Disagreeable as the King's experience seems likely to be, that of the Queen, his wife, will be even worse. A refined American housewife would surely rebel at the thought of living in a country where there are no bathtubs and similar conveniences, and where the average citizen eats at table with his battle knife.

Albania is the country that was the greatest bone of contention in the recent war of the Balkan States against Turkey. Before that war it formed part of the Turkish Empire in Europe. It contains about 1,500,000 inhabitants. Of these the greater number are Mohammedans. They live in the mountains and are very nearly savages. Along the coast there is a sprinkling of more civilized people, some of them Catholics and of Italian origin.

At the end of the war Montenegro occupied Albania and nearly split Europe into two warring factions by the action. All the Powers combined and put Montenegro out. Then it was agreed to settle the question by making Albania an independent kingdom.

Then began the hunt for a king. To start with, the great Powers objected to a Prince from any one of their reigning families taking the position. Of the remaining Princes outside that group nearly every one refused the crown.

In the end Prince William of Wied was found to be the only suitable Prince who would accept the new throne. In the eyes of the Albanians his chief recommendation was his great height. He stands six feet seven inches high, and is probably the tallest man in his new country. He belongs to an ancient German family, which, though possessing no territories, is recognized as having rights of social equality with reigning families.



The Beautiful and Delicate New Queen of Albania, Who Will Have to Forget Every Civilized Custom.

Science Explodes the Old-Fashioned Belief That We Are "Marked" by Pre-natal Impressions

By Prof. EDWARD K. STRONG, Ph.D., Fellow in Psychology at Columbia University.

A CONSCIENTIOUS acquaintance of mine was expecting her first baby. Naturally she wanted that baby to have and be the very best of everything. So she spent a good deal of the time she could spare from sewing in reading deep scientific works. She did not always understand them and they made her head ache, but what matters that? The little son might turn out a great scientist!

As it happened he turned out to be a little daughter, but even if he hadn't, would his chances of being a scientist have been improved by his mother's self-sacrificing reading? I doubt it.

The question of the limits and nature of prenatal influence is an interesting one. But I feel sure that much of the popular literature on the subject lays its emphasis in quite the wrong direction.

One article in particular has been ranking in my memory for some time, and I am glad to have a chance to free my mind concerning it. It appeared over a year ago in one of the leading periodicals for women. In it were recapitulated the old theories that an expectant mother's thoughts, no unpleasant sights, think no unpleasant thoughts, hear no unpleasant news. But instead of giving the real reason for these beliefs—namely, that an emotional disturbance might upset the health of the mother and so affect the nutrition of the child—it based its objection on the ground of "mother's marks." It actually declared that if an expectant mother should see a club-footed man, she would run a good risk of having a club-footed child.

Now, in my opinion, there is no justification for this

having ever been printed. It was criminal in its sentimental exaggeration and ignorance of fact.

The only way the mother can affect the child, once it has begun to develop, is in the giving of nutrition and the removal of waste. A healthy mother can give the right quality and quantity of nourishment and absorb the waste products of the expected little one. But if the mother's physical condition is impaired, then the child is insufficiently fed and so cannot develop strength. Or, perhaps, the mother is unable to remove the waste and the child is poisoned.

Consequently desirable prenatal influence means good health on the part of the mother. Everything conducive to good health should be an object to her. She should keep calm and cheerful because the state of her nerves will affect her digestion. She should have good air, good sleep and good food for the same reason. If she likes music, listening to it will be a good influence for the child, because it will tend to keep up her general well-being, not because it will make the child a Caruso or an Eames or a musician of any kind.

Now, bearing these facts in mind, we can see how absurd are such ideas as that held by my conscientious acquaintance and that of the woman's article. There is no connection whatever between the nervous systems of mother and child. So how can scientific reading on the part of one affect the brain of the other? And as for the sight of a club-foot producing a club-foot, it seems almost too ridiculous to argue against it.

"What man by taking thought can add one cubit to his stature?" ask the Scriptures. And surely it is far more impossible to suppose that a woman by taking thought can modify an organism quite distinct from her own!

Now right here I will answer an objection which may be made to my statement. "We know an actual case

of the sort," some one will say. "We know a woman who saw a club-footed man and had a club-footed son." Perfectly possible. Coincidences will happen.

The point is, however, that coincidences are always noticed, the lack of coincidence seldom. It is extremely probable that every expectant mother has looked upon some deformity or other. But what a small per cent of deformed beings there are. And every time a perfect child was born the mother forgot the blind or lame or distressed persons she had seen, while on the contrary, whenever a defective child was born the parents searched their memories for some past incident which would explain it.

For example, a friend of mine tells me that he was born with five little red spots on the back of his head. And his mother claimed it was because she had once sat with her hands behind her head wishing for currants. She would certainly have forgotten that wish if he had not been so marked. But she will now add her testimony in favor of "mother's marks." While all the women who wished for automobiles to take an airing in while their babies were coming and then bore babies unbranded by license numbers will attach no importance to such lack.

The government has recently issued a very sensible bulletin ("Prenatal Care," by Mrs. Max West, Children's Bureau, Department of Labor), on the subject of prenatal influence, and in it the matter of mother's marks is disposed of as quite without foundation in fact.

Thus the absurdity of such articles as the one I have described is apparent when we realize that it is contradicted by physiological fact. On the same grounds must its real harmfulness be also evident.

For conceive of an easily impressed, imaginative, expectant mother reading that article and believing it. And then imagine that one day upon the street she

passed a hunch-backed woman, or that a legless peddler tried to sell her shoe strings. Such episodes are common—most of us hardly notice them. But this woman would notice the occurrence, if she had believed the article. And she would worry about it. She would be afraid for her child. Her mind would dwell on the subject and always with fear and trembling. And finally her digestion would be affected. And then the child would be injured, not because his mother had seen an unpleasant sight, but because she had been led to think too much of that sight. He would in all likelihood not be born with a hunched back or without legs, but he would be undernourished and under developed. And all because of an unscientific hysterical article in a woman's paper.

No, the time to exert prenatal influence is before one gets married. A wise choice of husband or wife will best any amount of study later on. For the woman who marries a man with natural scientific tastes stands a good chance of having a child with scientific tastes, just as a woman who marries a man with criminal tendencies runs the risk of having a criminally disposed son. And the acquired habits of those mothers just before the little one is born can do nothing to alter the nature of their offspring.

I would make two commandments for those who wish to exercise desirable prenatal influence on their offspring. And I think they are scientifically sound:

1. First, marry one who shows evidence of good innate tendencies and capacities. Such a one will be most likely to give his child a good physical, mental and moral equipment.
2. During the period of expectant motherhood endeavor to keep well and happy. If anything unpleasant happens to you just remember that it can't affect your child unless it affect your health, and then forget it.