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Real & Easterday

Stories of King George V., His Queen and Their Family



NOTWITHSTANDING the fact that King George V., as the new sovereign of the British empire will be known, is generally regarded as a colorless individual and has even been called dull he has not been without distinguishing traits. For one thing he is a good sailor, the most extensive traveler of all the royal personages of Europe, a capable business man, a devoted hunter and fisherman, a model husband and father, a quiet chap without fuss and feathers and withal on occasion a wit. The exhibitions of his humor have been rare, but that is not wholly a drawback. Here is one story that illustrates their quality.

Sample of His Humor.

He was present at one of the famous Savage club dinners, and, as is usual on such occasions, menu cards were circulated about the table for autographs. When a numerous signed card reached the then prince, with a generous space at the top for his signature, he ran his eye over the names upon it. Among them were Sir Henry Irving, James Bryce and Winston Churchill, and down near the bottom in a cramped handwriting was the autograph of Hall Caine.

"I am very glad to see that," the prince is reported to have said. "Now at least I can truthfully say I've read something Hall Caine has written."

He put his autograph on the card, and as he passed it he remarked: "I wish Mistress Correlli were here and had signed the card. Then I could stop having to say almost daily that I had never read anything she wrote."

In his early days as Prince of Wales it was his custom to stroll through the mall of St. James' park, which adjoins the rear gate of Marlborough House.

But one night he suddenly changed his usual course and turned into Pall Mall, to see before him a stout, bristling gentleman, plainly from the country, looking perplexedly about him.

"Young man, you can earn half a sovereign if you will take me to the Criterion," said the gentleman. "The policemen here try to direct me, but I

answered the prince. "How many have you?" "Thirteen, sir," answered the man. "That's funny," was the reply, "considering that I've shot only eight."

King George is a stamp collector and has one of the most extensive collections in the world, estimated to be worth half a million dollars. He used to exhibit it publicly. One day, examining the gallery, he noticed a sheet of early four anna Indian stamps which had been offered to him years before for \$750 and which was then worth about \$6,000.

"Ah," he said, "I have reason to envy Mr. Hansberg that sheet."

Prince Eddie, the heir apparent, is following in his father's footsteps as a stamp collector.

The new queen of England was the Princess Victoria Mary, daughter of the Duke of Teck. Before her marriage with Prince George she was engaged to his elder brother, Albert Victor, then Duke of York and second in line of succession.

Prince Albert Victor died on Jan. 14, 1892. The English people sympathized with Princess Victoria Mary, and on all sides people were saying that Prince George, the brother of the dead prince, ought to marry her, which he afterward did. In those days the new queen was most popular in England as the Princess May.

In her carriage and dress she resembles the present queen dowager, though she is not so beautiful or distinguished as the latter.

The new queen, like her mother before her, is a complete housewife. She is never without some form of needlework in hand to occupy fingers that shirk idleness. And she not only knits all the king's socks, but—and here is the touch—she sees that he wears them and makes him change them when he gets his feet wet.

Has a Menagerie of His Own.

Prince Edward is the eldest of the six children of the new king and queen. He will be sixteen years old in June and, with the other five children, has received a careful and common sense education, both mentally and physically. Prince Edward is as merry and light hearted a youngster as can be found anywhere. He has a

MARCO POLO'S BOOK.

It Gave Columbus the Idea For His Voyage of Discovery.

Medieval Europe knew but very little of eastern and northeastern Asia. Many of the most learned cosmographers of the time taught that Asia stretched eastward indefinitely, and no one imagined that it had an eastern coast washed by the ocean. It was seriously taught that eastern Asia was a land of vast swamps, inhabited by monster serpents and dragons. This was the opinion that still prevailed up to within 200 years of the time of Columbus.

At this time two Venetian merchants of the name of Polo went on a vast trading expedition to the uttermost parts of Asia. They were gone many years. Upon their return the son of one of them, a young man named Marco Polo, wrote out a full account of their travels, described the empire of the grand khan (the Chinese emperor) and revealed the fact that Asia was bounded on the east by a vast ocean. He described this eastern coast minutely, with all its vast cities and its wealth of precious stones and spices. It was from reading this book that the imagination of Columbus was fired, and he conceived the bold idea of reaching this eastern coast of Asia by sailing toward the west around the earth.

So when he discovered Cuba he had not a doubt that he had landed upon the coast of Asia and that he looked upon the same scenes that Marco Polo had gazed upon 200 years before.

HEIGHT OF ELEPHANTS.

In the Majority of Cases It Is Under Eight Feet.

The average term of an elephant's life, although there is no precise information on the point, is seventy or eighty years. The elephant is not in full vigor and strength till thirty-five. The most ready way of forming an approximate idea of the age is by the amount of turnover of the upper edge of the ear. In young animals, sometimes up to the age of eight or nine years, the edge is quite straight. It, however, then begins to turn over, and by the time the animal is thirty the edges lap over to the extent of an inch, and between this age and sixty this increases to two inches or slightly more.

Extravagant ideas are held as to the height of an elephant. Such a thing as an elephant measuring ten feet at the shoulder does not exist in India or Burma. Sanderson, an admitted authority on the subject, said the largest male he ever met with measured nine feet ten inches and the tallest female eight feet five inches. The majority of elephants, however, are below eight feet, and an animal rarely reaches nine feet, the female being slightly shorter than the male. The carcass of an elephant seven feet four inches tall weighed in portions gave a total weight of 3,900 pounds, so an elephant weighing two tons should be common enough. The skin was about three-fourths of an inch thick.

Kind Words Mean Much.

Cultivate kindness of heart; think well of your fellow men; look with charity upon the shortcomings in their lives. Do a good turn for them as opportunity offers and, finally, don't forget the kind word at the right time. How much a word of kindness, encouragement or appreciation means to others sometimes and how little it costs us to give it. We do not need to wait for some special occasion. When calamity overtakes a friend words of sympathy and encouragement are offered sincerely enough, yet in certain respects as a matter of course. Such an occasion calls for expression on our part, and we naturally respond. But why wait for occasion? Why not speak the kind word when there is no special occasion?

The Roman Senate.

The Roman senate had for many centuries but 300 members, selected from the patricians, or aristocrats. The office of senator was for life. The body was practically supreme in matters of legislation and administration. The majority of votes decided a question, and the order in which the voting took place was invariably determined by rank, beginning with the president and ending with the quators. The senators wore on their tunics a broad purple stripe—a badge of distinction, like a modern decoration—and they had the exclusive right of precedence at theaters, the amphitheater and all other public gatherings.

What She Wanted.

"Are you fond of etchings?" asked the young man who had taken the hostess' pretty niece down to supper. "As a general thing, yes," she answered, looking up into his eyes with an engaging frankness that threatened havoc to his heart, "but," she added lastly as he started to say something pretty, "not any tonight, thank you; it is rather late. A small piece of cake will be sufficient."

Prima Facie Evidence.

The late Lord Morris on one occasion gave a characteristic illustration of the meaning of "prima facie evidence." "It," he said to the jury, "you saw a man coming out of a public house wiping his mouth, that would be prima facie evidence that he had been having a drink."

Friendship.

False friendship, like the ivy, decays and ruins the walls it embraces, but true friendship gives new life and animation to the object it supports.



THE NEW KING AND QUEEN IN FANCY COSTUME AND THEIR CHILDREN.

am sure to lose my way, and I am afraid to trust myself to chance guiding. But you seem to be respectable."

The heir prince burst into a laugh and said, "I accept the commission," and then led the countryman along Pall Mall to the door of the Criterion. "You've well earned that money," said the countryman, putting the golden piece in his hand. "Be careful to make good use of it."

"I am extremely obliged to you for the tip," said the prince, "still more for the accompanying advice," and, jumping into a hansom cab, he bowed merrily back to Marlborough House.

Hater of Toadyism.

It is said that the new king hates toadyism. A few years ago he was taking part in a shoot. Early in the day a man came up to him and said, "I've been picking up your royal highness' birds." "That's all right," an-

whole menagerie of his own, to which he is devoted, and he is an ardent advocate of kindness to animals.

In 1908 he entered Osborne college, following the steps of his father along the paths that lead to the navy. He did not "put on any side," according to the young naval cadets at Osborne, and is exceedingly popular with his associates.

Prince Edward is not a brilliant scholar, but he is a hard worker. He is a healthy, wholesome looking lad of the Hanoverian type, with light hair and a somewhat plain, good natured face.

Albert, the second boy, is fourteen; Princess Mary, the only girl of the six children, is twelve; Henry, the third boy, who is a great reader, is ten years old; Prince George is eight, and Prince John is four and a half years old and is learning to ride.

Farmers should eat more oatmeal.

Although the farmer of today is able to buy almost anything he wants to wear or to eat he isn't paying enough attention to food values when it comes to his own table.

He feeds his stock carefully, avoids over-feeding and selects the stock food that he believes will give the best return in strength and general efficiency.

If he has been watching the extensive researches and experiments on the question of the best human food for muscle and brain he will heed the advice from all sides to "eat more Quaker Oats."

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