

PRISONER OF DEVIL'S ISLAND

Historical Review of the Celebrated Case of Captain Dreyfus.

CONSPIRACY APPROACHING AN END

Unraveling of a Plot Based on Forging, Race Hatred and Military Pride—Change of French Sentiment.

Several correspondents request a short history of the Dreyfus case, which has astonished France and attracted world-wide attention during the last three years.

Prof. Cohn writes as follows: Late in the fall of the year 1894 a Paris newspaper, which had then gained neither the notoriety nor the circulation it now possesses, La Libre Parole, announced that a Jewish officer, who belonged to the office of the general staff in the War department, had been put under arrest and was soon to undergo trial under an accusation of treason.

Although La Libre Parole was known to be a fanatical anti-Semitic newspaper, and as such had time and again leveled at members of the Jewish race accusations which had proved totally groundless, the statement at once produced in France the greatest excitement.

It was soon learned that the statement of La Libre Parole was correct. The name of the suspected officer was Alfred Dreyfus. He had already been incarcerated in the military prison of Cherche-Midi for more than two weeks.

The military tribunal met on December 19, 1894. The proceedings were secret. It was said that a publication of the evidence might have brought about a declaration of war of Germany against France.

What had thus far the attitude of the man who had just been declared by his peers a traitor to his country? Consistently, continuously, he had protested his innocence, and no word had escaped him which might be construed into an admission of guilt.

On the whole, public opinion in France accepted the verdict as a just one. There was no disposition to doubt either the correctness of the proceedings or the intelligence and honesty of the military judges.

It was known, moreover, that at the war office, everybody was convinced of the guilt of the members of the war office was then universal in France. Here and there only some of the co-religionists of the degraded captain refused to believe in the guilt of one of their race; and it was soon known in France that two of them, at least, were firm believers in his innocence.

military prison of Cherche-Midi, Major Forchett, but, in spite of these scattered expressions of dissent with the finding of the court, there was really no discussion of the merits of the case, of which, moreover, very little was known; and what interested the public was to learn how the sentence that had just been passed would be carried out.

Chief among those who considered him a victim either of a mysterious fate or of a base conspiracy were, of course, the members of his family. That the principal held about the case, no words of praise could more than simple justice to the admirable wife whose faith in him never wavered for a moment and whose efforts in his behalf have known neither rest nor discouragement.

From that moment the question of Dreyfus' guilt or innocence was before the public. Outside of France opinion seemed to be almost unanimous that the military court had sentenced a guileless man. The government, in France and in other countries which were believed to have been the beneficiaries of Dreyfus' treason, took pains to assert that they never had had the slightest dealings with him, and it was even reported that the German emperor had gone so far as to state that he knew Dreyfus was innocent.

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There was, therefore, from the start in the case a mysterious element. What motives could have induced Dreyfus to betray his country, which in spite of its annexation to Germany? What motives could have induced a Hebrew to betray the country which of all countries in Europe had proved most generous to his race?

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SOLVING THE RACE PROBLEM

Two Noted Southerners Discuss the Cause of the Trouble and the Cure.

RECENT OUTRAGES TAKEN AS A TEXT

White Man's Government at Any Cost—Advocated with Fervor Earnestness—Views of a Leader of the Colored People.

According to ex-Governor McCorkle of West Virginia and many other prominent southerners, both white and black, negro suffrage is now the most serious problem confronting the American people.

These two men represent the most advanced thought in the south on the race problem. W. A. McCorkle is the ex-governor of West Virginia, a lawyer by profession, and he probably will be a United States senator in the near future.

What Ex-Governor McCorkle Says. "Let us look at the inciting cause of the recent trouble, Wilmington is a very beautiful town, inhabited by the best and most cultured white people on this continent."

These men, without regard to politics, determined that this negro rule should then and there cease. They notified the negroes plainly that they should not continue this kind of a rule.

Question of Life and Death. "In the splendid state of South Carolina there are 200,000 negroes in the white man's charge."

Views of a Negro Leader. Booker T. Washington writes as follows: "It was unfortunate that my people permitted themselves at the close of the civil war to be led in such a wholesale manner into politics."

Let me give you some other plain facts. In two years the negro government of Louisiana was dissolved. It was a \$25,000,000 and I was there when negro soldiers marched into the state house and took the speaker away from his desk and broke up the assembly and turned the members out of doors.

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