

Coronation of the Boy King of Spain

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BORN under an unlucky star, the uncles and crown in Europe, Alfonso XIII is about to come officially to his own. The tall, slim, nervous looking man, who writes after his name the unluckiest of all the numbers in the records of Spain comes of age today when he will assume in his own person those ancient rights and privileges to which he was born 16 years ago. Then the only unmarried king in Europe and the youngest king in the world will sit on the throne in Madrid.

The southeastern peninsula of the continent of Europe has produced its full quota of the potentates in pinafiores, who have helped rule the world. In the last sixty-nine years, counting Alfonso in the ranks of the interesting little company, Spain and Portugal between them have seen two queens in thy short dresses and two kings in Eton jackets. Modern history numbers thirty-six such small monarchs, Brazil, Greece, France, England, Scotland, Sweden and Austria each contributing to the total of twenty-five royal girls, most of whom lived unhappy lives, and many of whom met untimely or violent deaths.

Why Alfonso is the Thirteenth.

It was the will of Christina that gave to Alfonso the unlucky XIII. The combined superstitions of superstitions Spain was opposed to the numeral. Ministers and statesmen pleaded that this shadow should be withheld from the young king. But the queen was unmoved in her determination to prolong in the child the honorable name of the father who had died before his long-hoped-for son had come to gladden his heart. Christina also wished to compliment, through the numeral, Alfonso's godfather, Pope Leo XIII. "Since his holiness has so marvelously withstood its malignant influence," she said, "I have faith that my son also will be able to withstand it."

If an almost perfect education can help the young monarch in this he will be fortunate and happy as even a mother-love could wish. Since he could lisp he has been in the hands of tutors, the wisest men of Spain. He knows Latin, the root of all the romance languages; Spanish, the tongue of his people; French, the glib medium of European diplomacy; German, the language to which his mother was born in Austria, and English, which even the Spaniard realizes has become the language of commerce and advancement. He has studied religion as thoroughly as though he were to take orders, and has been schooled fully in geography, history, mathematics, literature, chemistry, physics and drawing. He plays so well on the piano that what was once a task has become as much of a recreation as



DR. J. L. M. CURRY, ONE OF THE OFFICIAL WITNESSES TO THE BIRTH OF ALFONSO XIII.

the riding or bicycling or tennis playing or photographing, in which the boy king has found his pleasures.

Coming Ceremonial.

There will be no coronation, of course, for there has been none in Spain for hundreds of years. The ceremony will resemble in many ways that which marked the coming of age of the young queen of Holland. The crown of the realm, a circle of gold, richly decorated with jewels and precious stones, adorned with eight leaves and closed with four arches, will be borne before the young king in the procession and placed on a cushion beside him when he takes his seat on the throne, the royal scepter in hand. Then he will take oath to observe the constitution, and the president of the Senate, while all the thousands there stand uncovered, will proclaim that Alfonso XIII is the rightful and duly constituted king of Spain.

Among the dozens of royal personages that will witness the ceremony—the duke of Connaught, Prince Albert of Prussia, the Archduke Frederick, the duke of Genoa, Prince Christian of Denmark, the crown prince of Sweden, the Grand Duke Alexis, the duke of Oporto, the Prince Nicholas of Greece—there will be one who can take so peculiar and personal an interest in the proceedings as Dr. Jabez L. M. Curry of Virginia, who will be present as the minister plenipotentiary and envoy extraordi-

nary from the United States of America. Dr. Curry is a persona gratissima at the court of Madrid, for it was he, just sixteen years ago today, who served as one of the official witnesses at the birth of Alfonso.

Dr. J. L. M. Curry's Story.

The narrative of his experiences when he first landed in Spain as the minister from this country is one of interest. He stepped ashore just an hour before the death of King Alfonso XII and participated in the solemn functions attending his funeral. "About two months later," he continues, "I received, as did all other foreign representatives, a notice to be prepared to be present at the birth of an heir to the throne. A day later another official notice came to me, brought by a royal courier. This was a very important looking document in a huge envelope, tied with ribbons of the royal color and bearing the seal of the lord chamberlain. On the third day came from the royal palace a messenger, accompanied by a guard of soldiers, to tell me I was wanted at once. The previous message had instructed me to wear court dress at the time of my visit, and I remember how anxious I thought it was to appear in full evening outfit at breakfast time, for my final summons had arrived while I was still at coffee. But a 'swallow tail' is the only court dress an American diplomat can wear, so I put mine on and accompanied the royal messenger back to the palace."

Mr. Curry then relates how he was conducted to the queen's bed chamber, where the ambassadors and ministers of foreign governments and the high court officials were all assembled. The room was a large one and across one end heavy curtains had been drawn to hide the royal bed. After the group of diplomats had been waiting for some time a courtier appeared from behind the curtains and cried out in a loud tone, "Long live the king!" He announced that the heir to the throne was a boy. Soon after a lady-in-waiting appeared bearing a huge silver platter in her arms, on which lay the baby king amid laces and frills.

The diplomats formed in a semi-circle, and the court ladies, bearing the infant monarch, passed around the line to permit the officials to gaze upon the child. She had got but half way around when the youngster set up a lusty howl and she beat a hasty retreat behind the curtain. Dr. Curry said that this incident did not occur until after the infant had passed before his eyes and he had performed his duty as witness at the first public appearance of the monarch who will soon become the king of Spain—Alfonso XIII.



ALFONSO XIII OF SPAIN AND THE QUEEN MOTHER.

Americans Who Will Figure at Crowning of Edward VII

(Copyright, 1902, by Charles Appleton.)

THE United States has never been so well or so numerously represented at any foreign court as it will be in June during coronation week in London. The exodus of Americans bound for the coronation began last month and there has been a steady stream of fashionable folks and plain folks streaming England-ward ever since. America is not to be represented by her people of fashion alone at this crowning of a new English king. The steamship lists show that many men and women of comparative social obscurity are going there, too, and while the smart set will be the portion of the American contingent most on view, there will be hundreds of quieter Americans who will view the royal procession from private houses and who will participate, if only mildly, in the many interesting functions which have been arranged as a part of the greatest week of celebration that the present generation of English men and women has known.

The number of Americans who will witness the royal procession and who will take part, as far as the rather stringent laws of England regarding this solemn event will permit in the event preceding and following the actual crowning of the king in Westminster Abbey, has been variously estimated at from 10,000 to 15,000. If the latter figure is an exaggeration it is a slight one, for in the societies of both eastern and western cities there are few of prominence who have not already decided to attend the coronation festivities.

It is going to take a great many good American dollars to take all the Americans who want to go to the coronation there in the way that most of them have cleared to go. The sum total will reach well up in the millions. If only \$500 is spent by each American visitor the total will be \$7,500,000 if there are 15,000 of them. It costs money to hire a fine old British residence for weeks at a time and it costs more than a trifle to conduct such a home as it will have to be conducted during coronation week if the occupants are to cut any figure. The English tradesman may well chuckle over the American invasion, for he knows that the arrival of the American means the arrival of the man with dollars, which he is quite willing to spend.

Americans will undoubtedly take a conspicuous part in the social events that have been arranged as part of the week of celebration, for there are enough American women of title in London today to insure a warm welcome to those from the States of established social position who desire the entree to London's best society. Only those American women who have



MRS. WHITELAW REID.

married English titles can hope to witness the actual ceremony of the coronation in Westminster Abbey. With sixteen inches of sitting room to a peeress (that is actually the allotted space) there is no room for outsiders, and wealth and position and influence will avail nothing in this instance. But the United States will have at least two representatives at the actual coronation to every one that any other foreign country has. Uncle Sam has enough titled daughters to give him more than an adequate representation. With such women as the duchess of Marlborough, Lady Naylor-Leland, the duchess of Manchester, the countess of Essex and Lady Stafford to represent the beauty, the wit and the wealth of the United States, the American people may feel well assured that their representation inside of Westminster Abbey on this momentous occasion will reflect credit on this country.

Lavish American Entertainments.

It is generally accepted that the center of American social activity in London during coronation week will be Brook House, the magnificent home of Lord Tweedmouth, which has been taken for a period of six weeks by Whitelaw Reid, the special ambassador of the United States. Mr. and Mrs. Reid will entertain lavishly at Brook House and an invitation there during coronation week will establish the claims of any American visitor in London to general social recognition. Brook House is at Brook street and Park lane and faces Hyde



CORA, COUNTESS OF STRAFFORD, FORMERLY MRS. SAMUEL COLGATE.



MRS. W. K. VANDERBILT, JR.

park. It was put up by the first Baron Tweedmouth thirty-two years ago and is not a handsome building from the outside, being built of red brick, like many of the best London residences. In its interior fittings, though, Brook House is one of the



MRS. KERNOCHAN.

finest places in London and it is particularly well adapted for entertaining. Pictures and statuary abound in the halls and reception rooms and in the main hall, fastened to the ceiling balustrade, is one of the proudest possessions of the Tweedmouths, the first Boer flag brought to England. It was captured by the eldest son of the house, Hon. Dudley Majoribanks, from a wagon near Krondstad. There is a ballroom at Brook House, the walls and ceilings of which, painted by Fragonard, were transferred to this house from a French chateau; there is a wonderfully handsome staircase and one of the finest dining rooms in England.

Mr. Reid takes Lady Tweedmouth's staff of servants, accustomed to the waiting on royalty as royalty should be waited on, so that nothing is lacking in the equipment of the American headquarters to make it one of the finest places in London during the coronation week and a place well worthy to house such a distinguished party as that making up the special embassy from the United States.

But the Reids will not be the only Americans in London especially for the coronation to entertain on a lavish scale. Mrs. Ogden Mills, with her two daughters, Miss Gladys and Miss Beatrice Mills, and her mother, Mrs. Maturin Livingston, will be there also and in London will be the guests of Mrs. Mills' twin sister, Mrs. Cavendish-Bentwick, unless they decide to take a London house themselves. Both Mrs. Mills

and her sister plan to entertain extensively during coronation week and as there are no better known or more popular American society women than these two twin sisters, the houses that they occupy are sure to be centers of social interest for Americans abroad.

Mrs. William Astor, the leader of New York society, is in Paris just now, but she will be in London during coronation week at the residence of her daughter, Mrs. Haig. William K. Vanderbilt, who has been cruising in his yacht, *Valliant*, with Mr. and Mrs. Oliver Harriman, and Winfield Scott Hoyt will go to the coronation with his entire party. Mr. and Mrs. W. K. Vanderbilt, Jr., will have a house in London, where they will do a great deal of entertaining. The duchess of Marlborough will spend much of her time with her brother and the younger set of American society people in London will undoubtedly make the Vanderbilt place their headquarters during the coronation festivities.

Mrs. Frances Ormond French, Mr. and Mrs. Amos Tuck French and Mr. and Mrs. Alfred Vanderbilt will be the guests of Hon. and Mrs. Herbert F. Eaton of Hyde park. Mrs. Eaton is Mrs. French's daughter and is a sister of Mr. French and of Mrs. Vanderbilt and she will do a great deal of entertaining for these young relatives during the week of celebration. Mrs. O. H. P. Belmont, Mrs. Herman Oelrichs and Mrs. Stuyvesant Fish will be among a large number of American society women who will take hotel apartments during coronation week.

Among other Americans who have taken houses are: Mrs. Charles T. Yerkes, Mrs. Elisha Dyer, Jr., Mrs. Albert O. Brown, Mr. and Mrs. Elbridge T. Gary, Mr. and Mrs. George Crocker of San Francisco, J. Henry Smith, Lispenard Stewart, Mrs. Gouverneur Kerrington and Mrs. James E. Kernochan. William C. Whitney will be in London during coronation week, but has not decided whether to stay, see the show and mingle in the social whirl, or to get out into the quiet of the country until the turmoil and excitement attending the crowning of a king is over.

The socially conspicuous Americans who are already in London or soon will be include people from all of the larger cities in the country, and their names would make a very long list. The amount of the fuss and the bother and negotiation which the preparing, sending and housing of this army of Americans has entailed is incalculable. There is one real estate broker in New York who for some time has had a dozen commissions in his hands to secure London houses for Americans who want to do the coronation comfortably.