

King Albert and his Royal Family Without A Home



From the Bust by Victor Rousseau.
Albert of Belgium, the King Without a Country

AN entire royal family without a home, a King without a kingdom, and he, King Albert of Belgium, justly the most admired and applauded of all living monarchs—that is the most spectacular, and one of the most pathetic, results of the first three months of the European war.

Like the humblest of his subjects, who fled from their homes at the approach of the German army, King Albert was driven forth and his country forcibly taken away from him. Queen Elizabeth and her three young children were hunted from the royal palace to Brussels, to another palace in Antwerp, and then driven to seek safety for the children in a foreign country—England.

Queen Elizabeth, no more than a soldierly King Albert, was looking for safety for herself. As soon as she had placed her children in sympathetic English keeping she hurried back to the little corner of Belgium which the Germans had not yet conquered, to cheer the King and the remnant of his army while they made their last stand upon their native soil.

And all this has happened to a King, a royal family and to an entire nation through no fault of theirs. The very nation that now occupies Belgium is one of those which promised to protect them against the misfortune that has overwhelmed them.

While King Albert, without a kingdom and his family homeless, remains with the undaunted remnant of his army at the battle front the three Emperors and one President who made the war continue to live in luxury, surrounded with pomp, ceremony and safety to their persons.

Although his country is held by the enemy and thousands of his people are starving refugees, Albert is still a King, and the head of a formal government. While he is at the front fighting with his soldiers his ministers and all the paraphernalia of the nominal Belgian Government are established at Havre—Belgium is the guest of France.

Just as Germany punishes King Albert and the whole Belgian nation for having denied him the convenience of turning their country into a German camp, France offers them not only limitless hospitality, but acclaims Albert as the kindest of modern monarchs. In Paris it is reported that the heads of ancient

noble families, who have never become reconciled to the idea of a French Republic, would welcome King Albert to a French throne built on the pattern of that of the Bourbons.

It is natural that sympathy should pour out most freely to homeless Queen Elizabeth and her children. This royal family is closer to the people than any other. Both the King and the Queen are more than royal—they are enthusiastic and well-trained workers. Elizabeth is the daughter of the late Duke Karl Theodor of Bavaria, who was a distinguished ocellist. The Belgian Queen herself studied medicine and holds her degree of M. D. One of her first acts after her marriage to King Albert was to found in Brussels a dispensary for the treatment of poor consumptives, to which she never ceased to devote her personal services. She is a most accomplished housewife as well as a celebrated patron of art and letters. In recognition of all these solid attainments His Holiness the Pope conferred upon her the jealously restricted Order of the Golden Rose.

As the Belgian Queen, while the boom of German guns sounded in her ears, was leaving the royal palace at Brussels to accompany the King and his Government to Antwerp, she was photographed with her three children. All over Belgium other mothers and their children were figuring in a similar scene. Undoubtedly in future years that photograph will have extraordinary interest for the children of Albert and Elizabeth.

The eldest is Prince Leopold, Duke of Brabant, aged twelve. His brother, Prince Charles, Count of Flanders, is ten years old. Their sister, Princess Marie Jose, is eight. All are sturdy, handsome children, who already show the results of their mother's training in the practical things of life, as well as in literature and music. The Crown Prince is said to have real musical talent, playing violin duets with his mother with excellent taste and execution.

These are rather serious-minded royal children, as is natural, considering the solid attainments of their parents. Since Albert came to the throne the spirit of frivolity has been absent from the Belgian court. Early in his reign the King set his face against gambling, and when the Queen turned her influence against the tango and other modern society dances he heartily supported her.

Probably there never reigned a

The King of Belgium in the Trenches, the Queen Living in a Hospital Tent Nearby, the Two Little Princes and the Baby Princess Being Cared For by Strangers in England



The Royal Family Now Without a Home, Photographed in Front of the Palace at Brussels. From Left to Right: Crown Prince Leopold, Aged Twelve; Prince Charles, Aged Ten; Queen Elizabeth, and Princess Marie Jose, Aged Eight. The Children Are Cared For in England

King and Queen whose hearts were more set on peace and the peaceful, prosperous development of their country than King Albert and Queen Elizabeth of Belgium, who have suffered more by war thrust upon them than any other royal couple in all history. Almost from the moment when he was sixteen years old, that fate called him to future kingship. Albert began preparing himself for that responsibility in the most thorough and practical way.

In his early boyhood he had no expectation of ever being called to the throne. The heir apparent was his father, King Leopold's brother,

and there was an heir presumptive, his elder brother, Prince Baldwin. Albert's brother died first, and in 1891 the death of his father, the Count of Flanders, cleared his own way to the throne.

Up to that time Albert had received no training in kingship. Now he went to work with energy to overcome that deficiency. He passed through the Belgium military school, entered the army and was rapidly promoted. In the meantime he went almost daily to the Foreign Office to learn diplomacy. It was characteristic of him to combine this study with hard reading and practical ex-

perience in sociology. No kind of knowledge that bore upon the interest of his country and its people did he neglect.

By the time he reached his majority King Leopold's activities in the



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Queen Elizabeth of Belgium, Who Stays with Her Husband at the Battle Front

Congo had produced results in the way of atrocious treatment of the natives that made a world scandal. Much to the King's displeasure he made a visit to that country, investigating the conditions thoroughly. One of his first cares on succeeding to the throne in 1909 was to institute reforms there that were so much needed.

A year before his accession Prince Albert came to this country, where he was a most indefatigable student of our industrial methods. He spent some weeks in the steel mills of Pennsylvania. He was unattended save by a physician and a Belgian army officer. His manners were as democratic as possible; he mixed with captains of industry and art-

isans with equal ease, making valuable lessons from both. When he went home he carried with him a more accurate knowledge of our commercial resources than any but native experts have.

A few years before his accession to the throne he travelled extensively in Europe. In Bavaria he met the daughter of the scientifically famous Duke Theodor. She was not beautiful, but her tastes were thorough and serious, like his own. It was a love match. They were married shortly.

During the next few years they roamed all over Europe, and even in the East, accompanied only by a maid and a courier, always mixing with the people and studying their needs.

When Albert came to the throne there appeared to be no breakers ahead. In his first speech from the throne he said: "We must continue our unshakable attachment to constitutional liberty and the love of independence, and thus hold sacred our patrimony while advancing toward the peaceful conquests in the fields of labor and science."

No one in the kingdom was more faithful in setting that example than were the new King and Queen. They had no fear that quarrels between their powerful neighbors would disturb the peaceful progress of their country, for Belgium was assured by treaty with all of them of all the advantages of neutrality.

That treaty was the now famous "scrap of paper" which the German Kaiser tore up when King Albert, insisting on respect for its provisions, refused permission to the German armies to pass through his domain into France. Otherwise those armies would first have to demolish all the strong fortresses on the French frontier. This permission being refused, the Kaiser proceeded to smash the strong fortresses of Belgium, and the Belgians, in spite of signed pledges of neutrality, became the first victims of the war declared between Germany and France.

How they fought against those tremendous odds and are still fighting against all hope has won for them the admiration of the civilized world.

King Albert himself is often in the trenches with his men, splashed with mud, thrown up by German shells, like them often lacking the ordinary comforts of life. Only a few weeks ago, when his soldiers protested against their monarch taking such risks, he said to them: "My skin is of no more value to my country than is yours. My place is on the firing line."

No one knows better than does King Albert that if Germany wins in this war Belgium as a nation will cease to exist. Along with part of France it will become part of the German empire. But he also knows that France and England and Russia, too, are making common cause with him, and that if the allies win his Belgium will become a greater Belgium than ever before.

So Albert may not continue to be a King without a country, nor the Belgian royal family a family without a home.



The Belgian Queen and Princess Marie Jose, When the Latter Was a Baby

What December Has in Store for Us as Foretold by the Stars

THERE is a martial trend to the December full moon, which rules the first half of the month, with the luminaries unfavorably related by aspect to that planet. This opposition is likewise in affliction with the place of Uranus in the Government horoscope.

This is not a propitious figure, though not without some favorable features. Saturn opposes the midheaven, thus affecting in some disagreeable manner the affairs of State, both national and local.

After the New Moon on the 16th, Death shall be way down the corridors of the Capitol, as indicated by the position of Saturn.

Mars afflicts the maritime interests in the way of fires and accidents, and a destructive conflagration is quite probable

along our wharves. This arbuter likewise bears unfavorably upon the scientific and religious worlds. Deaths in financial circles are also noted, including that of a prominent woman of wealth.

School buildings, theatres and hotels are jeopardized, through fire or falling walls. Danger attaches to females in the first half of the month in the Eastern and Middle States.

There will be extreme cold at opening of the month, more particularly about the 4th and 5th, attended by electrical storms in southern sections, and devastating phenomena in the North and East. A more pleasant atmosphere is promised for the 11th, under a Sun-Jupiter aspect. This is followed by intense cold, which will be noted particularly near the 16th, and still

more so between the 20th and 26th, when there will be blizzards, under a Saturn regime. The close of the month is less tempestuous, and the month is less eventful.

Specific incidents may be expected on or near the following dates:

December 1—A marriage in legislative circles is solemnized with great pomp.

December 8—A period for conflagrations, and fire-fighters much hampered through accidents. One of these will be along the water front; another on a coastwise vessel. A railroad casualty also probable about this time.

December 11—The elevation of some one to a cabinet position or the diplomatic service. Foreign relations much benefited, and no cause for apprehension in this respect during the month. Legislation affecting Wall Street probable.

December 14—Some important electrical improvements announced; perhaps some development in wireless telephony.

December 18—A theatre or hotel fire. The criminal underworld will be unusually active.

December 21—Unusually rigorous weather, and many cases of suffering will be reported. The death of a statesman threatened, as well as that of a prominent actor.

December 26—Speculations in financial matters will come to light; also a notable forgery case.

The mighty Jove smiles benignly this month upon those born in 1843, Spring of 1847, Spring or Summer of 1851; Winter or Spring of 1855, 1859, 1863 and 1864; Winter of 1867 and 1870, Fall of 1874 and 1880, Winter of 1885, Fall of 1888, 1887, 1889

and 1898; or in the second week of February, April, June, October or December of any year. Favors will come to them unsolicited, and any opportunity must not be neglected. Women born in the second week of February or June will receive offers of marriage.

Quite the opposite will befall those born in the Fall of '44, Winter of 1849, Fall of 1853, Summer of 1855, Spring of 1856, Spring of 1870; Summer of 1874, 1877 and 1885, or Winter of 1900; or if near the 20th of March, June, September or December of any year. A crystallized condition surrounds the affairs of these natives. Health and business must be safeguarded and treachery and secret enmity avoided.

Very erratic influences will prevail this month if born in the last ten days of January or at the close of April, July or Oc-

tober. Business men will have unexpected difficulties, and the fair sex will suffer domestic or affectional grievances. Unmarried women will be unduly impulsive, and may expect lovers' quarrels. All these natives must avoid changes or journeys.

The first day of December is a favorable anniversary for actors, artists, musicians or dealers in ornaments or wearing apparel. The 11th and 19th are good for bankers and business people generally; the 11th to 14th show pleasant promises for the coming year. If born on the 4th, 5th, 26th or 21st of December, expect bereavement. Ill health and business losses. Accidents or feverish complaints are in store for those whose natal day comes between the 23d and 26th, inclusive. The closing days of the month are good and all favorable anniversaries.