

Wheaton was recognized; his name was passed to those who did not know n, and everybody applauded. He

was really imposing in the robes of his kingship. He walked with a fitting deliberation among his escort. He was conscious of the lights, the applause, the music, and of the fact that he was the center of it all. The cheers were subsiding as the party neared the throne.

Is the Noble King Frightened? "I'll wager he's badly frightened,"

said Raridan to Saxton. "Don't you think it," declared Sax-ton, "he looks as cool as a cucumber." "Oh, he's cool enough," grumbled Raridan.

"You see what envy will do for a man," remarked Saxton to Miss Mar-shall. "Mr. Raridan's simply perishing because he isn't there himself. But what's this?"

The king had reached his throne and faced the audience. All the knights bowed low; the king returned the salutation while the audience cheered.

"It's like a comic opera," said Miss Marshall,

The supreme knight advanced and handed Wheaton the scepter and there was renewed applause and cheering.

"Only funnier," said Raridan. "Yell, Saxton, yell!" He rose to his feet and led his end of the house in cheering. "It makes me think of old times at foot ball," he declared, sinking back into his chair with an air of exhaus

tion, and wiping his face. The king had seated himself, and expectancy again possessed the hall. The band struck up another air, and



forward and read the proclamation of Saxton. The king and queen, leading the Knights of Midas, announcing the march, were passing under the that the king had reached their city, box.

The grand chamberlain now stepped

and urging upon all subjects the duty "The king really looks scared," reof showing strict obedience. He read marked Miss Warren. formula to which Evelyn and brilliants upon a richly embroidered fore her, she placed it upon his head. Raridan as he beat his own hands to- Porter leaning against one of the rude his face was white and his lips were

"Yes; he's rather conscious of his Wheaton made responses. A page clothes," said Raridan. "His train stood beside the queen holding a crown, which glittered with false them and laughed and nodded. brilliants upon a richly embroidered Before the march broke up into pillow, and when the king knelt be-dancing they went down from the gallery. On the floor the older people were At this there was more cheering and resolving themselves into lay figures handclapping. Saxton glanced toward against the wall. They found Mr.

gether, expecting one of Raridan's supports of the gallery, wondering gibes at the chamberlain's bombast; whether he might now escape to the but there was a fierce light in Rari-retirement of the cloak-room to get dan's eyes that Saxton had never seen his hat and cigar. The young people there before. He was staring before burst upon him with congratulations. him at Evelyh Porter, as she now sat / "You must be dying of pride," ex-beside Wheaton on the tawary throne: claimed Miss Marshall. claimed Miss Marshall.

"Evelyn never looked better," de

"Mr. Raridan's torribly severe," said

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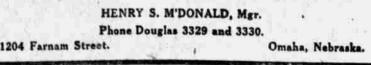
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