

FAVORITE STUDIES OF ROYAL READERS

MANY OF THE YOUNGER BORN TO THE PURPLE ARE FINE STUDENTS

IN THE good old days Kings and Queens were not expected to know anything about literature; it was one of the prerogatives of royalty to be ignorant. The past century has changed all that. A King has to be a walking encyclopedia; a Queen wins admiration from her people when it is known that she loves books and has a cultivated taste.



"CARMEN SYLVA," QUEEN OF ROUMANIA



PRINCE OF MONACO

The Reigning King of ITALY

under an English protectorate. It is none less true that the young Khedive possesses one of the profoundest minds of his day. He is modern to the finger tips, but steeped also in the lore of old times. A highly skilled administrator under difficult conditions of international interference, but at the same time a dreamy Oriental philosopher and a minutely learned Egyptologist, capable of disputing the family history of dead and gone Pharaohs with the profoundest of German savants. The wild Arab tribes over whom his rule extends reverse and fear Abbas Hilmi.

In a downtown Syrian cafe of New York I have heard a dark-eyed ex-son of the desert solemnly declare that the Abbas "Great Father" was a reincarnation of Solomon, the mystic doctor of all Syrian and Arabian mythology. "He has the key of Solomon and the Solomon Magic, because he is Solomon's soul, Abbas Hilmi," asserts the newly naturalized citizen, telling us of "Yousouf" in Roosevelt street wild stories of the wondrous doings of the mighty Egyptian magician and Prince. The Syrians and the Arabians gathered there to smoke the perfumed narghah together, and in the squalid new world cafe to tell stories of the old life of the mountain and of the desert, solemnly asserting to us cynical newspaper impressionists that he was the "Soul of Solomon, Abbas Hilmi."

He may not be that, but he is a wonderfully cultured man, a most learned and cultured that ever wielded princely power. He is skilled in all the knowledge of the modern world, has in his palace in Cairo as fine a library as any European capital. London, however, seems and turns readily from administrative work concerning irrigation and rebellious Arabs to grind like a university professor at the reconstruction of the past of Egypt, or at the deepest problems of modern thought. He has acquired as much from the elevation of his character as from his practical administrative ability. He has taken the sciences of the turbulent tribes of the North African hinterland. They say of him in their metaphorical style, "You go into his presence as a raging lion, and in his presence you become a lamb." He tames them by the magnetism of his lofty personality.

Learned Prince of Monaco. Another learned prince is Prince Charles of Monaco. He draws his income from the gilded hell of Monte Carlo—"fattening on the ruin of the gamblers of the world," as an American diplomat put it in a memorable discourse; but personally he is an estimable man, a slave to the curious conditions by which alone his little principality has been able to flourish. He has taken the sciences of his playground, is constantly reading German and English periodicals dealing with nature research, and has himself published rare treatises on astronomical questions and on various curious researches he has made into tidal laws and into the flora and fauna of the sea.

FOR THE SCRAP BOOK

Coleridge's Hymn. (Before sunrise in the Vale of Chamouny.) Hark! those charms to stay the floating star In its steep course? So long he seems to pause On the bold, awful head, Oh sovran Blanc! The Arve and Arveiron at thy base Have ceaselessly; but thou, most awful form! Riserest from forth thy silent sea of pines, How silently! Around thee and above Thee as the natural form, well wadded black, An oblong mass; methinks thou piercest it, As with a wedge! But when I look again, It is thine own calm home, thy crystal shrine, Thy habitation from eternity, O dread and silent mountain! I gazed upon thee, Till thou, still present to the bodily sense, Didst vanish from my thought; entranced in prayer I worshipp'd the invisible alone.

SOME ROYAL PERSONAGES DEVOTED TO LITERATURE

times; in nearly every case the younger sovereigns and royalties generally are highly cultured, devotees of learning and literature, while the older crowned heads are as empty of book knowledge as so many ploughboys. Take the English royal family for an example. The late Queen Victoria was undoubtedly a woman of great brain power and character, she probably knew as much about the ruling of her immense possessions as any of her ministers, and sometimes ran very close to violating the unwritten English constitution by putting direct personal restraint upon the responsible heads of state departments. She read a good deal of Tennyson, no doubt, but it was mainly because of a certain sentimentality in which her poet laureate met her own womanly feeling; what was really fine and great in Lord Tennyson's work almost certainly left her unmoved. Her diaries—written mostly for publication by a titled secretary—show that she had no sound literary judgment. And her later reading was either in books of devotion and sermons, or in novels of the least intellectual order. Her indirectly expressed approval of a book several times sent up sales, as in the case of Rhoda Broughton or "Rita," but it almost always meant that the book was devoid of all real value. The old Queen read simply to while away the heavy hours. She belonged to the age of uncultivated royal persons. To her son, the present King, belongs practically to the same period; he is not in the first bloom of his youth and he, too, is no great reader, certainly not a thinker or a critic. Much less able than his mother, he is practically an uneducated man, except in the sense that he is a man of the world and knows life very thoroughly in all its phases. It is nowhere recorded

that he ever expressed an opinion of a book; probably he has read very few. Certainly his poor attempts at speech-making show him to be completely out of touch with the world of thought. He represents fairly well the jovial mediæval monarch who paid learned men to "know things" for him while he himself went his way in contented indifference to all the intellectual life of his day. Prince of Wales and the Kaiser. The contrast of the order with the new becomes evident in the case of his son, the Prince of Wales. The Prince is not a conspicuously learned man, nor perhaps a brilliantly gifted man, but he is far ahead of the King in his interest in letters and thought. To hear him speak in public, if only at some absurd unveiling ceremony or the laying of a foundation stone, is to recognize at once a man fairly abreast of the intellectual achievement of his day, a man of personal convictions acquired by reading and matured by meditation. He is a well-educated, cultivated man, representing the new generation of royalty. On about the same intellectual plane stands the much-talked-of Kaiser, he, it is true, is not a great reader of books. He has been called the "yellow journalist of royalty," on account of his love for ultra-modernism. His passion for splurge and display. Naturally he is a great reader of newspapers and magazines; he prefers to get information rapidly and in the vivid popular form in which the ready writer for the press serves it up. He lets other people do the work of research for him, he gets his learning at second-hand, but he lets nothing escape; he is in the closest touch with modern science, art, literature, politics and personality. He has heard a member of the German embassy at Paris say the Kaiser's ready memory, diligently furnished by years of newspapers and magazine reading in four languages, enables him to pour out streams of talk for

hours without ever being detected in error of fact, though touching on nearly every phase of human activity in the past hundred years. The Kaiser thought, by the way, that Wilhelm had little or no practical acquaintance with the history of the world in former ages—except in so far as his fetish, the house of the Hohenzollerns, was concerned. The Kaiser is a man of his own day, intensely interested in the present and the possibilities of the future, but cold towards the past. His press bureau, by the way, is possibly the best equipped in the world; a numerous staff of "imperial readers" wades through German, French, English and American and Oriental papers every day to clip for him editorial matter and articles on literature and science which may interest him. As a sort of side-dish, he devours also fact-articles dealing with sport, especially, I have heard, with pugilism. The Kaiser does some boxing himself in the privacy of Potsdam; it is very probable that Prince Henry of Prussia returning from the United States trip brought a good deal of ring-gossip with which to regale the leisure of his imperial brother. Italy's Well-Read King and Queen. The same contrast that I have pointed out between the older and younger generations of royalty in the case of English reigning is exhibited also in the Italian court. It is well known that old King Humbert contemptuously "left books to those who liked them," and contented himself with being a mighty hunter on the Alps. Queen Marguerite was equally indifferent to literature. She cared for nothing but works of piety, and simple little stories such as children read. Their son, the present King, is of another way of thinking. He is a student, almost a scholar, a meditative, deeply read man, while the new Queen Helena, daughter of the queer old Prince of Montenegro, is as learned a woman as lives today.

In Roman society, where deep culture is looked upon as something almost uncanny, she is pronounced a pedant. The Roman ladies that wait on her complain of having to read to their royal mistress the best equipped in the world; a numerous staff of "imperial readers" wades through German, French, English and American and Oriental papers every day to clip for him editorial matter and articles on literature and science which may interest him. As a sort of side-dish, he devours also fact-articles dealing with sport, especially, I have heard, with pugilism. The Kaiser does some boxing himself in the privacy of Potsdam; it is very probable that Prince Henry of Prussia returning from the United States trip brought a good deal of ring-gossip with which to regale the leisure of his imperial brother. Italy's Well-Read King and Queen. The same contrast that I have pointed out between the older and younger generations of royalty in the case of English reigning is exhibited also in the Italian court. It is well known that old King Humbert contemptuously "left books to those who liked them," and contented himself with being a mighty hunter on the Alps. Queen Marguerite was equally indifferent to literature. She cared for nothing but works of piety, and simple little stories such as children read. Their son, the present King, is of another way of thinking. He is a student, almost a scholar, a meditative, deeply read man, while the new Queen Helena, daughter of the queer old Prince of Montenegro, is as learned a woman as lives today.

THE OUTCASTS OF POKER FLAT

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 25.) The snowflakes were sifted over the land, Day by day closer around them drew the snowy circle, until at last they looked from their prison over drifted walls of crystalline white that towered 50 feet above their heads. It became more and more difficult to replenish their fires, even from the fallen trees beside them, now half buried in the drifts. At last, on the tenth day, the lovers turned from the dreary prospect and looked into each other's eyes and were happy. Mr. Oakhurst settled himself coolly to the losing game before him. The Duchess more cheerfully than she had been, assumed the care of Piney. Only Mother Shipton, once the strongest of the party, seemed to sicken and fade. At midnight on the tenth day she called Oakhurst to her side. "I'm going," she said, in a voice of querulous weakness, "but don't say anything about it. Don't wake the kids. Take this bundle from under my head and open it." Mr. Oakhurst did so. It contained Mother Shipton's ration for the last week, untouched. "Give 'em to the child," she said, pointing to the sleeping Piney. "You've starved yourself," said the gambler. "That's what they call it," said the woman, querulously, as she lay down again, and turning her face to the wall, passed quietly away. The accordion and the bones were put aside that day, and Homer was forgotten. When the body of Mother Shipton had been committed to the snow, Mr. Oakhurst took the innocent aside and showed him a pair of snowshoes which he had fashioned from an old pack-saddle. "There's no chance left a hundred to save her yet," he added, pointing to Piney, "but it's there," he added, pointing to Poker Flat. "If you can reach there in two days and make a night out, I'll give Tom Elmsom, 'Til stay here," was the curt reply. The lovers parted with a long embrace. "You are not going, too?" said the Duchess, as she saw Mr. Oakhurst apparently willing to accompany him. "As far as the canyon," he replied. He turned suddenly and kissed the Duchess, leaving her pallid face aflame and her trembling limbs rigid with amazement. Night came, but not Mr. Oakhurst. It brought the storm again, and the whirling snow. Then the Duchess, feeding the fire, found that some one had quietly piled beside the fire enough fuel to last a few days longer. The tears rose to her eyes, but she hid them from Piney. The women slept but little. In the morning, looking into each other's faces, they read their fate. Neither spoke; but Piney, accepting the position of the stronger,

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

LETTERS asking for general information will be answered in these columns. Letters should be written on one side of the paper, and must be accompanied by the name and address of the writer, not for publication, however. All letters without the name of the writer go to the waste-basket. Paper Car Wheels. What per cent of the car wheels manufactured in the United States are made of paper? N. T. No statistics are at hand telling what per cent of the car wheels of the United States are of paper, but it is small. The paper car wheel industry has been declining for the past 10 years or so, and the leading manufacturers of paper car wheels are now making steel wheels also. With the lessening cost of steel it is driving paper wheels out.

Land Department to have Congressional township sub-divided by the same parties who ran out the exterior lines of such townships? 2. How many standard meridians are used in the United States public surveys? 3. Are the "correction lines" and "guides" meridians 24 miles distant uniformly or do they vary in this particular? 7. If I am informed correctly it was by act of Congress desired that townships should be 36 miles square. Were any lands so surveyed? 1. Yes. He was chairman of the first Congressional committee on the subject. 2. No special reasons, except that such points are prominent geographical features. By starting near the mouth it makes a more convenient line for farming lands through the Willamette Valley. 3. Yes. The Elliott line is the meridian to which the first surveys are referred. Townships east of Setoto River are numbered from south. 4. No. 5. Thirty-two principal meridians, not counting a number of guide meridians. 6. They vary. 7. The first report to Congress was for 10-mile townships, but it was amended. No lands were so surveyed. Savvie's Island. How did the name, "Savvie's Island," originate; also, how is "Savvie" pronounced? J. J. C. The island was called by the Indians

Wapato Island, on account of the wapato which grew there. It received its present name from a French Canadian trapper who settled there; at least this is the theory generally accepted by old-timers. "Saw-vee" is probably the correct pronunciation, though many pioneers call it "So-vee," and there are still others who say "Sophie's," holding that the island was named for the wife of the white settler. Real Estate Held Jointly. Can real and personal property be held jointly, the real estate by deed of course, in this and other states in such a manner that in the event of either the husband's or the wife's death its title will vest in the survivor absolutely without probating executors or other vexatious and costly processes? I have been told that this is the case. If it be true just how is it managed? S. A. T. When real estate is deeded to husband and wife jointly, they are tenants by entireties and upon the death of either the other takes the whole estate. This rule does not apply to personal property. To prevent an estate from going through the Probate Court, it is necessary, where one is free from debt, to make an absolute gift and an unconditional delivery, during life or at the time of death. Still the words of Jesus, Son of Sirach,

Wills Must Be Witnessed. Can a man write his own will and file it away, or should it be witnessed and put on record to make it legal? L. R. A will need not be recorded. In Oregon it must be signed by two persons as witnesses, whether written by the testator or by some one else. It is never safe for a man not versed in the law to draw up his will. When lawyers meet at banquet they never forget a toast to "the man who makes his own will." Irrigated Lands. I understand you can give correct information in regard to irrigating ditches in Eastern Oregon. If so, will you please tell me if they are in operation and if there is any land to be had along or in

reach of the water. Also any other information in regard to the matter will be thankfully received. A. E. Eastern Oregon is a pretty wide and varied country. There are numerous irrigating ditches in operation in it, and land is to be had under any of the ditches. If the inquirer means Government land it may be said that there is none reached by the present ditches. Irrigating works require the investment of considerable sums of money, and capitalists do not spend their money for the benefit of the public domain. By purchase or through grants they first obtain control of the land, then invest their money in reclamation works, which make valuable the land that was previously worthless. There has recently been a good deal of activity by irrigation enterprises in the Deschutes Valley, and if they succeed there will be several large areas brought under water there and offered for sale on easy terms. A similar project is under way in Harney County. To Various Correspondents. A boat of inquirers—The "dime of 1864 (not 1830) commands a high price from collectors. Klondike—The highest flood in the Columbia was in June, 1894. Pioneer—The Pioneer's reunion will be held June 18, this year, the 15th falling on Sunday. The Bues canal was begun in 1850 and finished in 1850.

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