

# PRISONERS WHO HAVE SLEPT IN PRISON CELLS

LIKE BUNYAN AND DE FOE  
LIVING FAMOUS MEN PLANNED.  
THEIR GREATEST WORK WHILE  
THEY WERE BEHIND BARS

BY JOHN S. HAWWOOD.  
PRISONERS who have lived in the prison cell have often been the authors of some of the greatest works of literature. Bunyan and De Foe, living famous men, planned their greatest work while they were behind bars.

Francis Kossuth, the Hungarian statesman, who again has become prominent because of the dual empire and the racial problems, growing out of the spectacular acquisition of Bosnia and Herzegovina, obtained his earliest inspiration, as did his famous father before him, in the seclusion of a dungeon.

When only 8, in the year 1842, after the downfall of his father and the defeat of the cause of Hungarian independence, the younger Kossuth was taken prisoner and consigned to a cell in the fortress at Presburg. Though only a child, the ordeal made a lifelong impression upon his mind, and awakened his love of country far more than all the fiery words of his father uttered had done.

While at Presburg, the son of the patriot was put to a test which proved there was true Kossuth blood in his veins. A handkerchief, which was discovered pinned over his heart proved to be nothing more than a miniature Hungarian flag. He was seized forthwith and dragged into the fearful presence of the Austrian commander, who thundered:

"The boy must bear the flag to tatters or be torn into as small bits himself."

Young Kossuth thereupon took the handkerchief, opened the bosom of his shirt, and repined the cloth to his chest.

"Take him back," muttered the commander. "I only wish he was my boy."

Francis Kossuth did not rise to leadership in the fight for his country with the swiftness and vigor and the overwhelming enthusiasm of his father. Being less of an idealist, he hesitated before determining which was the more practical course to follow. Accordingly, he did not appear in Hungarian politics until long after his liberation from the Presburg prison, his exile in Asia Minor with his father, his years of education in England, his life as a civil engineer in Italy, from which he at last returned to Hungary upon his father's death in 1854, when he brought back the remains of the famous patriot, in accordance with the edict of his countrymen.

First a member of Parliament, later the leader of the party of independence, Francis Kossuth rose rapidly in influence and popularity. When the Hungarian parliament resisted encroachments upon its constitutional rights he was able to head the coalesced parties that formed the majority of the house. There was a diversity of opinion, however, as to whether the son has taken the place of the father in the hearts of the people. Some say his political sagacity is greater; others that he is lacking in depth, and affected, regarding himself as an aristocrat of the English lord type.

Although often blamed for conceding too much in his negotiations with the Ministerial party, he has persevered successfully in many of his efforts to obtain what the people have demanded. For example, he made a special issue of the imperial order that the German language should be used in the Hungarian army instead of Hungarian, and related Francis Joseph so firmly that the latter was compelled to abandon his purpose.

The younger Kossuth frequently has said that the goal of his ambition is the absolute independence of Hungary, but that this can be realized only by peace, not by war. Agitation and insurrection, he says, would only endanger Hungarian liberties and postpone indefinitely the day of Hungarian emancipation.

**Uncle Sam's Dusky Queen Prisoner.**

Even in the imprisonment of the dusky Lillookiani, who again has returned to Washington to press her claims against the United States, there were born certain fruits of fame, which the Hawaiian ex-queen has treasured greatly. During the few months that she was in prison she composed a number of songs, one of which is sung by her supporters as the national anthem.

At the time of her incarceration, however, "Queen Lili" as the last of the Hawaiian rulers was known by her American-born subjects, regarded her plight as infamous. Indeed, it was a striking contrast to her former grandeur. On her proclaimed queen on January 29, 1891, upon the death of King Kalakaua, her brother, in San Francisco, she sought still further to increase the splendor of her court. Her brother, after a trip around the world in 1881, had decided that the little one-story coral abode where he and his predecessors hitherto had ruled contentedly was too humble, even for a sovereign of only 53,000 people. Accordingly, he blossomed out in a brand new \$150,000 palace.

"Queen Lili" however, had lived too long at the Palace Hotel in San Francisco, and carried back to the mid-Pacific too many bargains from New York, and so she was satisfied even with the luxuries which King Kalakaua imported. Aspiring to more power and revenue, she attempted at last to abolish the constitution. Her own downfall was the result, being forced from the throne on January 30, 1893, when a provisional government was set up, and annexation to the United States proposed.

Under the extreme penalty of a \$500 fine, and five years' hard labor, this ambitious woman was compelled to change her palace for a prison, where she was not at first permitted to have even a scrap of paper to write on. But there was no peace within the four walls of the place until writing materials were supplied, and as they were.

All her imperial demands for musical instruments, however, proved unavailing. The Queen even being told by one Irish guard that her playing might make the prison too popular. Accordingly, she spent her time humming the melodies that came into her head, jotting down her composi-



MAXIM GORKY



FRANCIS KOSSUTH

LADY COOK, FORMERLY TENNESSEE CLAFIN.

tions upon paper as fast as she composed them.

Not only are the songs of the ex-queen to be heard in the land where she once ruled. There are regions in the United States where they long have been popular. Some of the songs came from the Hawaiian Islands as converts of Mormon missionaries. When "Queen Lili" accepted the invitation of her Mormon country folk, and visited Salt Lake City in 1904, the bands in welcome played her own compositions.

"Queen Lili's" melodies might only persuade the United States Congress to give back the million acres of crown lands she would find herself enriched to the tune of \$20,000,000. On her dethronement the land was appropriated by the provisional government, which later turned it over to the United States. Although she has a small private fortune, she always has insisted that she should get back her own crown lands, or an allowance equal to the one she received as queen. The Hawaiian Legislature voted to give her \$20,000, but Governor Dole vetoed the bill. Today she is asking Congress for a beggarly \$20,000 to support her in her old age.

**When Lady Cook Was a Prisoner.**

Two other women who have spent time in prison for political reasons, though under far different circumstances, and who have again been brought to public attention by the recent suffragette outbreak in New York city, are Mrs. Victoria Clafin Woodhull Martin and her sister, Lady Francis Cook.

Last October a number of women, including Lady Cook, besieged a registration place in New York with the demand that they be permitted to vote. Finally the police had to be summoned to quiet the excitement. As the women withdrew Lady Cook exclaimed:

"Let us at least be thankful that they do not dare arrest us, as they did when my sister and I, more than 30 years ago, tried to vote at a booth only a few doors from here."

It was in 1872 that Victoria and Tennessee Clafin, the two daughters of Reuben Clafin, of Homer, O., were carried off in a patrol wagon and thrown into Ludlow-street jail, because they insisted upon casting the ballot. In the 1872 campaign Victoria Clafin ran for President on the woman's suffrage ticket. Both sisters were determined to vote, and so vigorously did they fight for their alleged rights at the polls that they were ordered arrested by John A. Shields, United States Commissioner, and held in \$500 each.

In Ludlow-street jail the two women were confined until the newspapers began to call it persecution, and demanded that the sisters either be tried upon some stated charge, or the authorities cease from arresting them every time they made speeches, committing them until bailed out and then returning them to Ludlow-street jail upon a bailiff of the Jefferson Market Court stepped forward and announced he had a warrant for their arrest.

It has been the contention of the Clafin sisters that women of the United States should have the same rights under the Constitution. Accordingly, it is the duty of the women to compel men to grant them the exercise of their rights. In 1870, when the movement began to attract public notice, Victoria Clafin, who then was about 30, became the leader and enlisted as supporters of the cause such distinguished women as Susan B. Anthony, Isabella Beecher Hooker and Elizabeth Cady Stanton.

In other ways than in politics these two unusual women have shown their desire to fill the sphere of men. Before their imprisonment they had started New York by opening a brokerage and banking house in Wall street, known as Woodhull, Clafin & Co. Dr. Woodhull was Victoria's first husband. The sisters also studied law in their father's office, and for five years they kept the press on the vive by plunging in the stock market, starting lawsuits and expelling their fellow women from the campaign platform to seize the ballot. Later they resorted to England, where both married. Victoria to John Bidolph Martin, and Tennessee to Sir Francis Cook. Both are widows and wealthy. Julia Maud Wood-

hull, daughter of Victoria by her first marriage, has taken up her mother's work, and besides actively campaigning in the cause of woman's suffrage she finds time to write scientific books and psychological dramas.

**Bebel and Kropotkin, Ex-Prisoners.**

The prison often has been called upon to check the tide of Socialism, but thus far it has appeared only to strengthen the convictions of Socialist leaders. This has been particularly true of August Bebel and Prince Kropotkin, who originally were Conservatives.

Bebel, unlike the Prince, however, was cast upon his own resources early in life. Born in Cologne on February 22, 1840, he lost his father when only 2 years old. After a short schooling he was apprenticed to a turner and wood carver, and at the age of 23 he threw his knapsack over his shoulder and tramped the roads of Germany in search of work. When 24 he opened a little shop of his own in Leipzig. Bebel is a strong advocate of equal suffrage and equal legal rights, as a citizen, for woman, and his opinions are gaining ground in the Fatherland. He was a bitter enemy of Bismarck, and led the Socialists of the Reichstag in refusing to send congratulations to the "man of blood and iron" on the 80th birthday of the former Emperor William insane for giving the secrets of the German War Office to the press.

Kropotkin was a Conservative by inheritance. His family had claims to the Russian throne which some say

are as well founded as those of the Romanoffs. In 1873, when Kropotkin was 31, he was arrested and locked up in the dungeon of the historic St. Peter and St. Paul. Although for a time it was feared by his friends that the confinement would kill him because of his poor health, his three years' incarceration in fact proved a boon to his mental self. During that time he was able to write several valuable scientific articles for the Encyclopedia Britannica, in addition to two volumes on his glacial observations. So suddenly did the socialistic Prince depart from prison that he left behind the second volume of this work. It took him 20 years to get it back.

Kropotkin found that imprisonment greatly depressed him, because of lack of exercise. So he used the heavy stool of the cell for a ball, and would toss it from one hand to the other until fatigued. It was ten steps across the room, and by pacing back and forth a thousand times each day he figured it out that he thus walked nearly five miles.

In spite of his heroic efforts to remain well, the Prince at last fell ill, and was ordered transferred to St. Nicholas hospital. There he obtained leave to walk as much as he pleased in the open courtyard. A sentinel kept watch but did not interfere because the prisoner was supposed to be dying. One day a gate was left open for gangs of men to bring in the winter supply of wood. He got word to friends outside, who posted a carriage near, and when no one was watching he darted out, jumped into the carriage and escaped.

The discovery that Kropotkin was a Socialist was even more dramatic. After serving some time in Siberia, in investigating prison conditions for the Governor, he appeared at the court, until he became disgusted with its intrigue and superficialism, quarreled with his father, who cut him off, leaving him to work his way through the university himself, studied socialism and anarchism in Switzerland, as well as its glacial, and then returned to St. Petersburg to inherit the enormous fortune which his father had just left him.

About this time a remarkable agitator, by name Borodin, began to stir up the working classes of the Russian capital to revolt. The police searched for him high and low, but just as they were about to lay hands on him he seemed to vanish in thin air. Finally they seized him as he was leaving a revolutionary meeting to step into a carriage bearing the imperial arms of Russia. Borodin was Kropotkin.

While in France in 1882, with his dying brother-in-law, Kropotkin was arrested, charged with being implicated in the anarchistic riots in Lyons. He was removed to large airy quarters at Clairvaux, the ancient abbey of St. Bernard, where he fell ill with malaria and scurvy. The vault-like cell of St. Peter and St. Paul, he often said, was far preferable, for its utter solitude inspired a higher degree of mental concentration than he had ever reached before or since.

**Gorky's Strongest Dramas Planned in Prison.**

In utter contrast to Kropotkin, Maxim Gorky rose from the depths of life before he became a prisoner because of his political beliefs. Alexei Maximovitch Pieskov was his given name, but as Pieskov means pawn in Russia, he changed it to Gorky, meaning bitter. To him life was indeed bitter.

Beginning his career as a shoemaker, Gorky ran away and obtained work as a designer. Later he found employment in the shop of a painter of images. After that he became a galley boy on a Volga River boat.

The boat was a sort of prison for him, and its confinement proved a blessing. He developed a love of reading, and as the cook happened to be the owner of quite a library he found opportunity to delve deep into all sorts of books, legends of the Saints, folk lore and the novels of the elder Dumas.

After that time, no matter what was his work, even while he was a gardener's apprentice, a baker's helper, a porter, a bookbinder, a chorus singer, or a newspaper reporter, he spent every available spare moment in reading.

In 1892 a broke-down student advised him to write, and he took the guidance of Korolenko. Gorky soon became as popular with the masses as he was hated by the bureaucrats. In 1899 and 1905 he was imprisoned for short terms, but so poor was his health and so greatly was public indignation aroused that each time he was liberated promptly.

Yet in these brief intervals within prison walls Gorky obtained the inspiration for two of his strongest dramas.

The recent attempt to assassinate Albert Dreyfus on Devil's Island, where the victim of the most tragic army scandal of modern times was confined from 1895 to 1899, imprisonment, however, brought to Dreyfus only gray hair and a premature feebleness of body. In the tropical climate of the Caribbean, under the depressing influence of a guard always lurking at his elbow, Dreyfus found little opportunity to do more than brood over the crimes committed against him.

When Dreyfus returned to Rennes in 1899 for a new trial, he appeared like a stoop shouldered, and broken in spirit. He was tried, convicted to six years' imprisonment, then the dignity of a general was bestowed, and immediately pardoned by President Loubet. On regaining something of his old self, Dreyfus joined with his friends in bringing about his trial in 1906 when at last the Court of Cassation quashed the former verdict, and the Senate and Chamber of Deputies pronounced him to a major.

General Flouquet, an army's head who was a prisoner, who was involved in the Dreyfus scandal, has been said to owe his present position of French Minister of War to his prison experience. It was a test which proved that Piquart would not shield those he knew were guilty by falsely accusing Dreyfus. So nobly did he bear up throughout this ordeal that he became recognized as one of the strong men which the French army needed. Clemenceau, on becoming Premier, recognized this, and made Piquart head of the Department of War.

At the time the Dreyfus scandal broke, Piquart was a Lieutenant-Colonel in charge of the Secret Intelligence Bureau. He maintained that Dreyfus was innocent

and Esterhazy guilty. He was charged with forgery and locked up in the Cherche Midi Military Prison. There was talk that Piquart might commit suicide, as did Colonel Henry, a bitter anti-Dreyfusard, who had confessed that he had committed forgery to shield those guilty. Piquart heard the rumor concerning himself, and, believing it meant a plot to murder him, he sent a thrill through the courtroom as they led him out by exclaiming:

"I wish to declare that if I find in Cherche Midi the rope of Lambercier (Piquart a murdered police spy) or the razor of Colonel Henry, it will be murder. I have no idea of committing suicide."

Piquart was released after 330 days' imprisonment, the German Government having made public the fact that the "petit bleu," which it was alleged Piquart forged, was the handiwork of Colonel Schwarzkoppen, a German officer.

The French Republic also derived benefit from the imprisonment of the Duke of Orleans. The Duke also profited by the experience. His confinement at Clairvaux was a sort of test of the strength of the royal sentiment. It proved that the cause of monarchy in France was hopeless.

Duke Louis Philippe Robert of Orleans, who had been living in exile, decided in 1890 "to stir things up in France." He told his father that the time was ripe to renew their pretensions to the French throne. Accordingly, he went to a recruiting bureau in Paris, stated he was 21, and asked to be permitted to enlist in the army. He was shifted by one official to another until the public was well aroused, rival factions had arisen, and there was talk of fight in some quarters of Paris.

In October the Duke finally was arrested and tried for violation of the exile law. The Duke had a little epigrammatic speech, which he tried to repeat from memory. But his voice was husky, his gestures without force, his bearing not particularly impressive. Yet a few in the crowd began to cheer for the Duke, with the result that there was almost a riot.

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The yegg with the longing for home occasionally gratifies his ambition by securing a competence, when he returns in some business, and yeggs know him no more. If there is an inquiry as to what has happened to the absent yegg, the reply is, "He's gone home." All yeggs know what that means.

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Shakespeare on Marriage. Selected by Town Topics. I tell you he that can lay hold of her shall have the chinks—Romance and all.

You come hither, my lord, to marry this lady. You are full of the words—"Troilus and Cressida."

Oh, my lord, my lord, that all I see in you is worthy love—"King John."

What is the matter with you, my lord? I am your own, and all that I possess—"Love's Labour's Lost."

All my fortunes at thy foot I'll lay, and follow thee, my lord, throughout the world—"Romeo and Juliet."

She shall be married to this noble Earl—"The Merchant of Venice."

To be entangled in these mouth-mad vows which shall never be fulfilled—"Twelfth Night."

And she, sweet lady, does, devoutly doted, constant man—"Midsummer Night's Dream."

I fear thou art another counterfeiter—"Henry IV."

We in the world's wide mouth live scandalized—"Henry IV."

Oh, miserable! Unhappy! that I am!—"Two Gentlemen of Verona."

Have you not yet made honest at the stake—"Twelfth Night."

I have forsaken my bed and company—"Midsummer Night's Dream."

But now my lord, what say you to my suit—"Romeo and Juliet."

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