

# IF WASHINGTON HAD BECOME OUR KING



Mrs. Mary Washington Bond Morosini, Lined Descendant of Samuel Washington.



Col. Wm. Augustus Washington, Son of George Washington's Eldest Half Brother.



Thornton Augustus Washington of Garden City, Mo., Who Might Have Been Our King.



Wm. Lanier Washington, of New York, Who Might Have Been Prince or Grand Duke.



Wm. DeH. Washington, Son of Col. Lewis W. Washington.



Mrs. Wm. Lanier Washington, Who Might Have Been a Leader of the Royal Set.

IT WAS after the battle of Yorktown. Lord Cornwallis had surrendered; yet the affairs of the patriot army and the fortunes of the revolutionists generally were in a bad enough way.

But the men under General George Washington felt for their leader a fealty such as was comparable only to the allegiance given to men who, in the long course of history, had made themselves kings.

One great faction of the army was devoted to him, and that faction his intimate friend, Colonel Nicola, engaged to convert into his loyal supporters, if he would consent to accept, in reality, the royal station as king of the nascent nation.

Washington, the pure patriot, refused the proposal with all the scorn of his lofty soul. But had he been less patriotic, and more royal in his character, it is quite possible that today the citizens of these United States might have been merely the subjects of his majesty the king.

Who would that king be; and where and what is he now?

He can be found, very readily, at Garden City, in Missouri, working, whenever he has work to do, at his trade, that of a painter. Ask there for Thornton Augustus Washington, house painter, and, like as not, some Missourian will tell you to go around to So-and-so's—Washington is sitting out of the second-story window painting the window frames.

And the Missourian will say it in the plain, matter-of-fact tone which indicates, for the man you inquire about, precisely the same measure of respect which he would use in referring to any other Missourian—which is more, by a good many busiells, than he would for any prince or king now ruling in Europe. The man who isn't king deserves it.

A LETTER was addressed recently to Mr. Washington, at his home in Garden City, requesting that, as the present head of the family owning the same blood that ran in the veins of George Washington, he forward his photograph for publication. In the course of his reply, Mr. Washington remarked:

Last summer I was interviewed by a man who had me come down from a building which I was painting and have a photograph taken in my paint clothes. I do not like the article he wrote about my family and myself. I do not seek notoriety on account of my lineage. I am laboring hard to get a living. If it would be the means of securing a good, lucrative position, where I could make a living for those dependent upon me, I would not care if I were written up by every publication in the country.

There is a good artist here. If you care to have a photograph taken, I will cheerfully sit for one, and I will give you any information that I can. I am a son of Daniel Bedinger Washington, he of John T. A. Washington, he of Thornton Augustus Washington, he of Colonel Samuel Washington, full brother of General George Washington. Very respectfully yours, THORNTON AUGUSTUS WASHINGTON.

This letter is printed because, in its brave, uncompromising, everyday democracy and confronting of poverty, it shows that the most admirable traits of the father of his country shine with undimmed luster in this generation, so far removed from the parent stock.

But it is printed for another reason. As no essayist and no courtier could portray him, it displays the inmost character of the straightforward gentleman who, if the first great Washington had consented to the plot of Colonel Nicola to make himself a king, would today be the monarch ruling this people and this land.

Instead of the painter's ladder, he would have mounted a throne beside which the riches and splendors of the world's greatest rulers would seem likely to dwindle and pale. Even with the present population and territory of the nation, he would be the envy of nearly all the living kings and the dreaded rival of the rest. But with a monarchy existing here from the period of the Revolution, there is every possibility that Canada would have, ere now, either willingly joined forces with her neighbor, or, in the operation of the changeless policy of all kingdoms, been forced to the amalgamation.

ENORMOUS OPPORTUNITIES  
Such a united continent, of such united peoples, exploiting such unexampled resources of a virgin world, must have invested its king with a power and a prestige with which nothing but imperial Rome in its most splendid grandeur could compare.

such a concourse of royalties as could equal in numbers, and probably surpass in emolument and inherited wealth, the princes and royal grand dukes of the most ancient monarchies of Europe.

George Washington died without issue. Had he himself King George I—he would have been George the

Great in the histories by this time, for all the justly earned odium of treachery that would have been hurled at him by his contemporaries—his successor under the English laws cemented upon the new kingdom would have been his grandnephew, John Thornton Augustus Washington, for Colonel Samuel Washington, the general's oldest brother, died in 1781, leaving his son, Thornton, who died in 1788, shortly prior to General Washington's end.

Thornton's son, John T. A. Washington, as grandnephew and nearest of kin to "George I," would probably have been elevated to the throne as John T. had not the inheritors of the revolutionary spirit of freedom then revolted and instituted the belated republic of the United States.

His oldest son, one of ten children, Lawrence Berry Washington, was born in 1811. He was by turns a lawyer in Virginia, lieutenant in the Mexican War, a forty-niner in California, a newspaper writer and poet in Missouri. He died suddenly on a Mississippi steamboat, a bachelor.

Had he ruled as King Lawrence I, the succession would have passed to his brother, Daniel Bedinger Washington, born in 1814, whose destiny was actually that of a farmer and, at odd times, a political pamphleteer. He moved to Missouri in 1856, fought in the Confederate army during the Civil War and was the typical American of his place and period. His wife was Virginia Wharton, widow of Dr. John J. Wharton and a daughter of his father's half-brother.

Their son, the present Thornton Augustus Washington, who would have been King Thornton I, studied pharmacy as a young man and later learned the trade of painter, which he still pursues and by his earnings at it supports himself and his two unmarried sisters.

The living members of the Washington family who, were this a monarchy, would share the royal fortunes of their race with King Thornton I are in various degrees of prosperity, social and material, the majority, however, enjoying far more of the world's bounties than the man who, by all the laws of the lineage he so sensibly puts from him, is the head of the clan.

There is William Lanier Washington, of 1700 Broad-

way, New York, who has inherited General Washington's place in the Society of the Cincinnati and owns, jointly with his aunts, "Wakefield," the birthplace of George Washington.

He probably would have been one of the princes of the collateral royal line by reason of his descent from General Washington's half-brother, Augustine; and his wife, who was Miss Mary Bruce Brennan, of Kentucky, would have been a princess by her royal alliance.

Again, William de Herburn Washington, who is the son of Colonel Lewis Washington, a very handsome bachelor of the Calumet Club, in New York, close in his resemblance to General Washington, would be as good a royal highness as any of them; for he is a great-great-great-grandnephew of George Washington, direct in his descent from the father, mother and stepmother of the man who rejected the temptation to found the greatest dynasty the world might have had.

A royal princess would be Mrs. Attilio P. Morosini, of New York, who before her marriage was Miss Mary Carolina Washington Bond, of Elizabeth, N. J. She is lineal in her descent from Samuel Washington, that brother of General Washington who was the ancestor of the man who might today have been upon the throne. Events have proved that the Washingtons, men and women, whatever their distance in the generations from the parent stock, own veins that run red with the best blood the nation owns—pure and clean, and brave and honest.

Yet old Giovanni P. Morosini, the famous banker who rose from the most abject circumstances to the wealth which made him famous, all but disinherited his son, Attilio, for marrying Miss Bond, and she, besides such ancestry as the wealthiest in society would give their riches to possess, being at the same time regarded by artists as the most perfect type of blond beauty in the East. Her husband, one of the millions of his father, was left only a paltry \$150,000.

But he and his wife regard the millions they forfeited as the plain Missouri gentleman, Mr. Thornton Augustus Washington, regards the "lineage" for which he "does not seek notoriety."

They simply pay no attention to them.

## The Genesis of Chewing Gum

MANY thousand dollars' worth of chewing gum is gathered in the state of Maine every year. The gum is found chiefly in the regions about Umbago lake and about the Rangeley lakes. A number of men do nothing else in the winter except collect gum. With snowshoes, axe and a sheboygan, on which is packed the gum, they spend days and nights in the woods.

The clear, pure lumps of gum are sold as found, the best bringing \$1 a pound. Gum not immediately merchantable is refined by a peculiar process.

Sieve-like boxes are covered with spruce boughs, on which is placed the gum. Steam is introduced underneath. The gum is melted, is strained by the boughs and then passed into warm water, where it is kept from hardening until the packer takes it out, draws it into sticks and wraps it in tissue paper, when it is ready for market.

## The World's Many Curious Ideas

### For HADES



An Early Buddhist Idea.



The Zoroastrian Hades.



What the Negroes of Guinea Believe.

FOR every good spirit that the imagination of various people has created there is an evil spirit; minds that have pictured a vague heaven, or bothered that it not at all, usually have before them some form of a hades or place for the reception of the wicked-after death.

In his researches, Darwin found many more races without any definite idea of a God than without some conception of a devil and an abiding place for sinners.

AS A GENERAL thing, the hell that confronts the people of torrid countries is hot and filled with flame-engendered tortures, while the hades of the far North is cold, gloomy and equally forbidding. Scandinavians of old regarded the future of the country full of venomous reptiles and desperate wild snakes; a Zoroastrian idea had accursed departed spirits sitting through eternity in a cold, dark lane, surrounded by scorpions.

A thoroughly uncomfortable conception was that of early Buddhists, who believed that the soul of the wicked was taken care of in a hell of fire; that the disembodied individual was "spread-sugared" upon a bed of blazing ambrosia, a blanket of fire was drawn over and carefully tucked about him, and that when he was tormented by the pangs of thirst attendant devils gleefully fed him with balls of red-hot metal.

Among the oldest known is the Hindoo's place of punishment. Over it, according to the ancient belief, an evil genius, with large teeth and monstrous body, presided. The place was filled with fire and infested with snakes, insects, horrible monsters and all sorts of really unpleasant things.

As a sort of compromise between the frozen hades of the far North and the fiery future of warmer countries, there was an Anglo-Saxon conception, which combined the repelling features of both.

The miserable sinner was plunged into a pit and there subjected alternately to biting frost and melting heat. In addition, he had to contend with innumerable serpents having very teeth, that tore flesh from the bones continually. Other fearful creatures lent their aid to the punishment of the wicked.

Among the coast-dwelling negroes of Guinea is a belief that the sinful soul is kept in a continual state of drowning; that regular orgies of the spirit world forever plunge the unfortunate departed in the waving surf and that there is no escape from these ministrations.

When the Mohammedan reads his Koran he learns, in one chapter describing the future state of the wicked, that "baseless smoke shall envelop them and smokeless flame," and in another, that "they shall be dragged into hell by their forelocks and their feet, and there shall be cut out from them garments of fire."