

LI'L ABNER

There'll Always Be an England?—

by AL CAPP

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DUKE OF DJAUGH
(PRONOUNCED "JOE")
TASTES ROYAL WINES, TODAY

MEANWHILE: AT MOTHER MCCREEP'S—
JUST SLIP THIS IN AMONGST THE OTHERS, DEARIE!!—IT'S THE WORLD'S DEADLIEST POISON!!
IT OUGHT TO BE—AT THESE PRICES!!

WHO CONCOCTED IT?
TRIDE SECRET, DUCKY!! JUST GO ALONG, AND POISON YOUR PAL IN GOOD HEALTH, SIR!!

POOL STOPS BY THE STAGE DOOR—
DON'T FORGET!!—YOU PROMISED TO MARRY ME, IF I SUCCEEDED TO THE TITLE OF 'ROYAL WINE-TASTER'!!
HMMF!! IT WAS A SIFE PROMISE!!

THAT NEW DUKE OF DJAUGH (PRONOUNCED "JOE") IS BIG AS A BEAR, AND TWICE AS AIRY!!—E'LL LIVE FOREVER!!

AT THE ROYAL WINE-TASTING
THET—URP!!—RUMBLE!!—WARNT' FIT FO' A PIG!!—WHUT'S NEXT?—
THE F-FINEST FRENCH CHAMPAGNE!!

T-TRY A RARE SPANISH AMONTILLADO!!
(—THAT'S THE POISON!!—)

ULP!! ULP!! SMACK!!— THIS IS MORE LIKE IT!!
?? HE LOVES IT!!

ONLY ONE LI'L GENIUS COULD'VE WHOMPED THIS UP!! COME FORWARD, LI'L GENIUS!!
I'VE BEEN CHEATED!! I FEEL FAINT!!

TAKE A SWIG O' THIS!!—IT'LL PUT ROSES IN YORE CHEEKS!!
OH, THANK YOU, SIR!! GULP!! GULP!!

??— POOL'S DEAD!!— DEAD AS A BLOATER!!— THAT STUFF WAS POISON!!
POISON TO HIM, MEBBE—BUT IT'S TH' BREATH O' LIFE TO US!!

KICKAPOO JOY-JUICE, THASS WHUT IT IS!!— AN' AH PROCLAIMS THET THE ROYAL DRINK!!

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Prince Valiant
IN THE DAYS OF KING ARTHUR
WRITTEN AND ILLUSTRATED BY HAROLD R. FOSTER

Our Story: THE LORD MAYOR OF LONDON CALLS UPON THE MERCHANTS' GUILDS TO APPEAR BEFORE THE CITY COUNCIL AND EXPLAIN WHY PRINCE VALIANT IS MAKING THREATENING MOVES AGAINST THE CITY. HE LEARNS THAT THE GREEDY MERCHANTS NOT ONLY FLEECED THEIR BENEFACOR, BUT HAVE SOLD ALL THE FOODSTUFFS IN THE CITY!

VAL SETS UP HIS PAVILION AND HAS HIS CLERKS AND SCRIBES MAKE READY FOR BUSINESS. HE HAS NOT LONG TO WAIT.

SOON A DELEGATION FROM THE GUILDS APPEARS BEARING A BRANCH OF PEACE: WITH A GREAT SHOW OF INNOCENCE THEY ASK WHY VAL IS MAKING WAR PREPARATIONS IN FRONT OF THEIR CITY. "WE ARE PREPARING TO SELL TO YOU CASKS OF WATER AND BAGS OF SAWDUST AT THE SAME PRICE YOU CHARGED US!" ANSWERS VAL.

"AND YOU HAVE NO TIME TO HAGGLE. TONIGHT WE BURN DOWN LONDON BRIDGE; WITH THE CAPTURED DANISH SHIPS WE COMMAND THE RIVER. AT DAWN WE LAY SIEGE TO THE CITY!"

REMEMBERING THE BRAVE COMPANIONS WHO FELL IN BATTLE TO SAVE THE CITY, VAL IS RUTHLESS IN COLLECTING THE INDEMNITY. WHEN NIGHT FALLS THE MEN WHO STOOD BY THE FIRE BOATS EXTINGUISH THEIR TORCHES, AND ALL LONDON SIGHS WITH RELIEF.

LONDON: A CITY OF TRADERS, ARTISANS, HUCKSTERS AND MERCHANTS, YET THEY DEFENDED THEIR CITY AGAINST THEIR FOES BOTH FOREIGN AND DOMESTIC. WHEN SHREWDNESS OR BRIBERY FAILED THEY TOOK UP THE SWORD TO SUCH EFFECT THAT LONDON HAS NEVER BEEN CONQUERED. EVEN WHEN UNYIELDING WILLIAM THE CONQUEROR RULED ALL ENGLAND FROM HIS WHITE TOWER, HE WAS FORCED TO LET THE GUILDS ADMINISTER THEIR OWN LAWS.

VAL LEADS HIS TROOP TOWARD CAMELOT. IN THE SPACE OF THREE DAYS HE HAS SAVED LONDON TWICE; ONCE FROM THE DANES, ONCE FROM HIMSELF!

NEXT WEEK—Homecoming.

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