THE NEWS

SATURDAY, APRIL 23, 1927

ST. GEORGE AND THE DRAGON

(By Prof. W. K. Hancock)

In the Middle Ages grown-up people played all sorts of delightful and exciting games, as happily as children play them now. And so seriously that they did not even seem to be games. The best of them all was "Choose Your Saint." You thought of your own special dangers and needs, or the dangers and needs and aspirations of your class or your trade or your country; and then you looked about among the saints until you found out whose life was like your life, and whose achievements and virtues were the ones you dreamed of for yourself or for your community.

Pooh Bah Saints

Some saints were patrons of half a dozen different classes or cities. St. Martin was the patron saint of Tours and of Lucca, of knights and of tailors, of drinkers and of repentant drunkards. St. Nicholas (old Neptune in a Christian dress) was patron saint of the Medes and of all the seaports on the Mediterranean; of children, of sailors, of travellers, of merchants, and of pawnbrokers. And St. George? Is not St. George the special patron of the City of England alone? We must not be selfish. Let us admit that we share St. George with Arragon, with Portugal, with Lucca, and with Genoa. Even the Germans put in a hundred-hearted claim on his patronage, while all the nations within the Eastern Church venerate him as their chief saint and martyr. On April 23, the anniversary of his death, he is remembered in half the countries of the world.

Is this fierce competition for St. George all due to a horrible mistake? Gibbon, who never missed a chance of exposing the ludicrous errors and superstitions of the Christians, would have us believe that "the real George" was an unmitigated rascal. "His emoluments was mean—he rendered it infamous." He was an army-contractor, a grain-profiteer, a fortune-teller, a selling bad bacon to the troops.

Even in death he was unscrupulous. The odious stranger, disguising every circumstance of time and place, assumed the mask of a martyr and saint and Christian hero; and the inhabitants of Cappadocia has been transformed into the renowned St. George of England."

Died a Martyr

The English, very properly, took no notice of Gibbon's outburst. And now we know that Gibbon was quite wrong—he mixed up two Georges. Our George was without doubt a saint—he was born at Lydda, in Palestine; he was a brave soldier and a good administrator; he probably visited Britain in the Imperial service, and in 303 A.D. he died a martyr rather than renounce his faith at the bidding of the Emperor Diocletian. Of this we are quite sure, but we know little more. More than a century after his death Christians were telling stories of a curious fight between St. George and a dragon; but the official guardians of Truth were cautious and sceptical. Pope Gelasius I. declared that George was among those "whose names are justly reverenced among men, but whose acts are known only to God."

No dragons, please! But why shouldn't we have dragons, if we want them? Stories of St. George and the Dragon kept passing from mouth to mouth, and found their way into literature and painting. The "Golden Legend" of 1230 tells how a fiery dragon terrified and harried the countryside around. It had eaten all the flocks and herds of the people, and at last could be appeased only by human victims every day. When Cleodolinda was passing by on his white charger, the lot had just fallen on the king's beautiful and virtuous daughter. Then the saint met walking quietly in the wilderness toward the dragon's cave. St. George declared that through the power of Jesus Christ he would deliver her from the monster; he would kill the dragon and transfixed the dragon with his spear."

Tethered to a Garter

This story vastly amused young Edward VI. of England. When one of his courtiers told it to him "he fell a-laughing and could not for a while speak. At length he said, 'I pray you, my Lord, and what did he do with his sword the while?'" But George was resourceful enough to manage two or three weapons at once. He was content merely to wound the monster, and to lead it into the city tethered to the princess' girdle (or garter), "as it had been a meek beast and debonair." A charming little painting in the Vatican gallery by Sano di Pietro shows him tying up the dragon (such a poor little thing) to a hook on a cloister wall, while the citizens were fleeing right and left. But George called them back, preached a short sermon, and then slew the dragon before their eyes.

Our sympathies are rather with the dragon. Dragons, we feel, are pathetic creatures, badgered and chivied by saints and heroes in every country from Libya to Crete. Now they have become almost extinct. Is it not time that all civilised governments declared them protected?

Apparition on the Walls of Acre

Richard Coeur de Lion, according to an old chronicle, saw an apparition of the saint upon the walls of Acre, beckoning him to the assault. There, upon a ground of blew leather about the leggys" of a chosen body of knights and rushed against the walls to the cry of "St. George, forward!" and "Upon them, St. George!" A century and a half later Edward III. won the battle of Crecy "by the help of God and St. George," fighting under the great standard "of a burning dragon." He himself then re-found the ancient order of which Richard, perhaps had dreamed; and from his reign dates the Most Honorable Order of the Knights of St. George and the Garter.

At Agincourt, lords and knights and squires and yeomen answered together the call of Henry V.:—

"Follow your spirit and upon this charge cry
God for Harry, England, and St. George!"

We still swear by him. Let us never cease to swear by him. "By George" comes better from our lips than "By Jove." And he does not mind. Doubtless he loves us better than he loves Scandinavians or Italians or Germans. Our fathers have added most to his renown, and have carried his fame to every corner of the earth.

NEWS 28-4-27

CROWN LAW OFFICE

Mr. Hannan Crown Solicitor

IMPORTANT CHANGES

Important changes have occurred in the Crown Law Department, following the elevation of the Supreme Court Bench of Dr. F. W. Richards (Crown Solicitor).

In Executive Council today Mr. A. J. Hannan, M.A., LL.B., Parliamentary Draftsman, and who has been acting Crown Solicitor for several months, was appointed Crown Solicitor, solicitor for Government legal business, and solicitor for railways in succession to Dr. Richards.

Mr. J. C. Martin, LL.B., was appointed Assistant Crown Solicitor, and assistant solicitor for Government legal business.

Mr. E. L. Bean was made Parliamentary Draftsman, Mr. J. P. Cartledge, LL.B., assistant Parliamentary Draftsman, and Mr. K. J. Healy assistant solicitor for railways.

All the new appointees are young men, who have made their mark in the legal sphere, and their promotion is well merited.

MR. E. L. BEAN
who has been appointed Parliamentary Draftsman.

AOV. 29-4-27

THE UNIVERSITY.

CONFERRING A DEGREE.

At 11 a.m. on May 5 a special convocation will be held at the University of Adelaide for the purpose of conferring the degree of Doctor of Laws on the his Royal Highness.

The University grounds will be closed to the public. The east and west gates will be opened at 10 a.m. The middle gate will be opened, for cars and passengers only, at 10.30. Carriages will enter by the west gate, set down at the porch of the Elder Hall, go out by the east gate, and rank up on North-terrace. No carriages other than the Royal carriage and the Chancellor's carriage will be permitted to enter or remain in the ground after 10.45 a.m. Admission to the Elder Hall will be by entrance card only. Invitation cards will not be recognised for the purpose of admission. Academic dresses of itself will not procure admission. All cards are to be retained by the holders. The doors of the Elder Hall will be opened at 9.45 a.m. Undergraduates and other students will be admitted to the grounds by the middle gate. A number of undergraduates nominated by the students' representative council will take the places allotted to them in the Elder Hall. The remainder will assemble on the lawn in front of the hall. The north concert room will be used as a robing room for women graduates, and the south room for women graduates. The wearing of academic dress proper to degrees and offices is compulsory on all taking part in the procession.

Invited guests will enter the Elder Hall as follow:—Holders of reserved seat tickets by the west door; friends of senate and undergraduates by the main door. All ticket-holders must be seated by 10.30 a.m.

Procession of the Senate.

The procession of the members of the senate will form in the corridors of the ad floor of the Conservatorium before 10.40 a.m. in the following order:—The clerk of the senate, bachelors of music, bachelors of science, bachelors of engineering, bachelors of arts, bachelors of dentistry, bachelors of medicine, bachelors of science, masters of arts, masters of engineering, doctors of music, doctors of science, doctors of dentistry, doctors of medicine, doctors of laws, the warden of the senate.

The procession of the senate will leave the ground floor of the Conservatorium punctually at 10.40 a.m., and will proceed by way of the main entrance of the Elder Hall.

Order of Assembly.

The members of council and professors will meet at the University, assembling in the history lecture-room at 10.40 a.m. Lecturers and members of boards will meet at the University, assembling in the mathematics lecture-room at 10.40 a.m. At 10.30 a.m. the lecturers, members of boards, professors, and members of council will form in procession and proceed to drive between the main University building and the Elder Hall.

RECEPTION OF THE DUKE.

His Royal Highness will arrive at 11 a.m. at the main entrance to the University, and will be received by the Chancellor (Sir George Murray) and the Vice-Chancellor (Sir William Mitchell). The Duke will be escorted to the council chamber by the Chancellor.

Academic Procession.

Whilst his Royal Highness is robing the academic procession will proceed to the Elder Hall in the following order:—Lecturers, members of boards, professors, C. S. Hicks, W. K. Hancock, A. D. Richards, son, Sir Archibald Strong, Sir Douglas Mawson, J. G. Cleland, T. Bradman, Robertson, Kerr Grant, A. L. Campbell, J. A. Prescott, McKellar Stewart, Harvey Johnston, J. R. Wilton, E. H. Davies, T. G. B. Osborn, and R. W. Chapman; the Registrar; the Council, comprising Mr. F. Anthoney Mr. W. R. Bayly, Rev. K. J. F. Bickmeth, the Hon. Sir Langdon Bonython, Professor R. W. Chapman, Mr. W. G. T. Goodman, the Hon. W. H. Harvey, Mr E W Holden, Dr. F. S. Hone, Mr. L. C. Hunkin, Mr. W. J. Iablster, Mr. W. T. McCoy, Dr. Helen Mayo, the Hon. Mr. Justice Angas Parsons, the Hon. T. Smoke, the Hon. Mr. Justice Poole, Mr. A. G. Price, Dr. W. Ray, Mr. E. J. Shepherd, Mr. T. E. Barr Smith, Professor J. McKellar Stewart, and Sir Joseph Verco; Mr. W. J. Young, the Vice-Chancellor, the Misses the Chancellor.

Entry of Duke.

When the academic procession reaches the dais, the Duke of York will enter the Elder Hall, and proceed to the dais, escorted as follows:—Marshals, H.R.H. the Duke of York, escorted by Sir Langdon Bonython. The National Anthem will be sung when H.R.H. reaches the steps of the dais. At the conclusion of the National Anthem the Duke will ascend the dais, and will take his seat on the right of the Chancellor.

The Vice-Chancellor will read the address of welcome from the University of Adelaide to their Royal Highnesses the Duke and Duchess of York, the members of the University standing. The Dean of the Faculty of Laws will present his Royal Highness the Duke of York for the degree of Doctor of Laws at sundown gradum. The Chancellor will confer the degree. His Royal Highness will reply.

The procession will leave the hall in the following order. The audience is requested to remain in their seats until the Chancellor, escorting his Royal Highness, Sir Langdon Bonython, escorting Miss Murray; other members of the Royal party, the council, professors of the University, members of boards, lecturers, senate. As the procession leaves the hall the students will sing the University students' song.

REG. 29-4-27

In Executive Council on Thursday Mr. A. J. Hannan, M.A., LL.B., who has been Parliamentary Draftsman and Assistant Crown Solicitor for some years, was appointed Crown Solicitor for Government business and Solicitor for Railways in succession to Dr. F. W. Richards, who has now a Judge of the Supreme Court. The following appointments were also authorized:—Mr. J. C. Martin, LL.B., to be Assistant Crown Solicitor and Assistant Solicitor for Government legal business; Mr. K. J. Healy to be Assistant Solicitor for Railways; Mr. E. L. Bean, M.A., LL.B., to be Parliamentary Draftsman; Mr. J. P. Cartledge, LL.B., to be Assistant Parliamentary Draftsman.

REG. 29-4-27

THE PROGRAMME SHORTENED.

Definite information has been received that the Adelaide programme in connection with the visit of the Duke and Duchess of York will be considerably shortened. This action was taken consequent on advice from Lord Cavan that several of the Adelaide engagements would have to be deleted. A special meeting of the Adelaide committee was held on Thursday afternoon to consider the matter. It is understood that there will be no special contribution of the University of Adelaide for the purpose of conferring the degree of Doctor of Laws upon the Duke at 11 o'clock on Wednesday, and that the reception by the National Council of Women has been altered from Tuesday at 11 o'clock, on Wednesday. There will be no official calls at Government House, and the stay at the inspection of Boy Scouts and Girl Guides on the Sports Oval at 2 p.m. has been curtailed. This, it is stated, is not for the purpose of allowing the Duke to visit the first Agrade football match this season on the Adelaide Oval between Port Adelaide and South Adelaide on Saturday afternoon. The royal visitors will be present at the service at St. Peter's Cathedral at 11 a.m. on Sunday, as was previously arranged. There may be other alterations, which are not yet finalised. It is hoped that there will be no alterations regarding the visit to Wellington Lodge. Further telegraphic advice is expected from Melbourne to-day.

As far as the various subcommittees are concerned, their work is going ahead steadily, and the curtailing of the many arrangements would be a heavy fall of rain. There has been precipitation in Western Australia, and the weather office is telling a similar fall here.