

EPISODE XVII.

"The time has come the Walrus said
To talk of many things
Of Feb. the 4th, Ambassadors,
Of Journeyings, & Kings."

To M.E.J., from Anglo-American Hospital, Gezira, dated 22.1.42.

Above is a familiar address, but don't be alarmed. I was, at Dr. Dale's instructions, moved into Hospital on the afternoon I last wrote to you, and I have been here ever since. While I have been ill, you will be interested, and I think pleased, to hear that I have received much kindness from the Royal Family of Egypt. When I first entered Hospital, H.M. Queen Nazli (the Queen Mother) had special messages of enquiry sent from the Palace. Later H.M. King Farouk's Private Secretary was sent in person to call upon me, and H.R.H. Prince Mohamed Aly has sent a kind letter on enquiry; then yesterday afternoon quite a stir was created in the hospital by the arrival of one of the impressive Red Cars of the Royal Household containing Her Majesty, Queen Nazli's Chamberlain who had been sent personally by the Queen to see me. Assad Bey is a charming man, and stayed talking for about an hour. The Queen's personal message especially touched me. She said that she had sent Her Chamberlain, not only to enquire about my health but also "to thank me for my kindness to her Boy" (King Farouk). These calls are really a most unusual thing for an unimportant person such as myself and of course one is very grateful for the kindness.

X From Anglo-American Hospital, Gezira, 24.1.42 to Sir Walter Monckton, Office of the Minister of State.

Dear Sir Walter,

A message has just reached me which gives strange and startling news. I have also had a visitor this afternoon from the Palace. It seems that it is urgently desired that you should be received, either formally or informally, at that place for a personal talk, if this is possible, at as early a date as can be arranged. This is specially desired by a high personage himself.

X From Anglo-American Hospital, Gezira, 26.1.42 to Sir Walter Monckton, Office of the Minister of State.

Dear Sir Walter,

Visitors from the entourage of King Farouk emphasized the following points to me yesterday.

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The King has no personal ill will towards Great Britain. Here in Egypt, the King would like very much to make British contacts, but He would like them to be from a variety of British folks, some of them at least, of his own choice; and he has resented the rigid formal restriction to only one or two possible contacts with official people such as He considers He has been forced to conform to.

H.M.'s entourage say that H.M. is a young Ruler of great promise, His chief official fault being impetuosity and too quick resentment of anything which may appear as "school masterish" dictation. It is said that recent misunderstandings have been increased by the bad influence of the departing Vichy Minister (Pozzi) who has been spreading distorted reports.

Egyptian desire for reconciliation seems genuine. The possibility of a serious official rupture between Egypt and Britain seems a highly unpropitious, (to say the least) solution, to be avoided by all possible means. ~~Unless~~ The King at the moment has the full backing of the majority of His Army and most students and young Egyptians. Unless the King has in fact taken part in some dangerous anti-British plot, it does seem that an open rupture between him and the British should by every endeavour be avoided. I very much appreciated Greenwood's helpful personal visit to me last evening in Hospital; this matter is of course causing me much personal anxiety.

His Majesty is young and inexperienced, and so far has often lacked appropriate advice and setting. Suitably assisted, and his friendship ~~will~~, a young King, likely, one hopes, to live an average life, may be of the greatest help, both to British interests and Egyptian interests, not only during, but also after, this war.

Yours very sincerely,

H.H.J.

From Anglo-American Hospital Gezira, 28.1.42, to Hussein Husni Bey, Private Secretary to H.M. King Farouk.

My dear Husni Bey,

Please accept my warm thanks for sending me a message last night. Indeed I had been very anxious. Will you please be so good as to convey my respectful good wishes to His Majesty.

Most sincerely Yours,

H.H.J.

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From Anglo-American Hospital Gezira, dated 28.1.42 to Sir Walter Monckton, Office of the Minister of State.

Dear Sir Walter,

A message was telephoned to me from the Palace last night. The way now seems clear for you to arrange the personal talk with the King, as He requested. If this is at all possible, I do implore you to have this talk as soon as possible. A quite new basis of good relationship might result from it, helpful to all concerned.

Sincerely yours,

H.H.J.

The personal talk between Sir Walter Monckton and the King was vetoed by our Embassy. This opportunity for rapprochement was lost. The "Abdine incident" followed soon after, on the 4th of February 1942.

TOUR DIARY 9.2.42 - CAIRO

By the demonstration of British tanks at Abdine Palace, it may be said ^{to have} ~~xx xx~~ been shown that British Authority, both can and will, when necessary, use force to safeguard essentials.

The full effectiveness of this demonstration has, it seems to me, been lessened by it being left possible for Egyptian public opinion to interpret this as an attack upon the King's personal prestige, as opposed to clearly defined action for protecting allied interests and the personal interests of the King of Egypt himself against the evil designs of a few undesirable advisors. The personal good faith of the King may seem to have been brought into question, whereas the said evil advisors still remain free to continue their activities.

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The fact that British Armed Forces have forced their way into the Royal Palace itself, will, one fears, be long and perhaps bitterly remembered; and it does seem regrettable especially in view of the known efforts on the King's part during recent weeks for an understanding between himself and British high authorities.

Nahas Pasha has, not without courage, assumed the responsibility of Office at this moment of crisis. Nahas indeed has a vast popular backing, especially among the poorer folk, But he is already making promises to them which it may be quite impossible for him to fulfill. The morning after his return to Office, Nahas Pasha, the new Premier, sent for me personally. He received me quite early in the morning on the house-boat upon which he and Madame Nahas were spending some days. The Premier, when he received me, was still in his dressing gown, and in this informal setting we had a very interesting talk.

From Anglo-American Hospital Gezira, to M.E.J., dated 30.1.42.

I am much better. Very soon I am to leave this Hospital, and shall book my passage to proceed on leave by air to Kampala for a rest. It will be delightful to arrive there again and to see you and Bob, definitely like arriving home.

I duly proceeded to Kampala in February 1942. After about a week as my brother's guest, my Mother and I decided to ~~proceed~~^{go} onwards to spend some time in Kenya. We ~~proceeded~~^{went} by train from Kampala to Eldoret, spending a day and a night en route. The train however, was comfortable, and proceeded at a moderate speed, giving us good views of the countryside. At the little township of Eldoret, we spent one night and then our prospective host Dr. Barlow motored us out through Capsalet to Elbar estate which was his property in the Nandi Province. This is one of the most primitive parts of Kenya with impressive mountain ranges, 7000 feet or more in height.

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Elbar Estate was about 5000 feet, and upon it pyrethrum and a little flax were cultivated. The setting of the homestead was most romantic with a background of deep forest ~~land~~ and in front a magnificent outlook across gradually descending pyrethrum fields looking most attractive with their covering of white rather daisy like plants. Betty Barlow, our hostess, herself organised all the property including the management of the local estate workers. These were mostly imported from other areas, ~~as~~ the famous Nandy Tribe of the district, a primitive fine looking race of warrior origin, refused to be employed and will work only for themselves. The men are handsome and tall, and wear a minimum of clothing, usually only a length of native yellow bark cloth, thrown negligently over one shoulder, and draped loosely. Their hair, they usually dye a brown colour with the clay of the district matching the brown tone of the cloaks. They carry a ~~spear~~ or perhaps a bow and arrows, and on state occasions, also a shield. They are fine huntsmen and one of my most interesting experiences was to take part in ~~a~~ leopard hunt. Except for myself and a young Norwegian friend of mine, it was entirely a tribal occasion. We stalked the leopard for a long time up hills and through valleys till finally closing upon him, ~~the~~ the huntsmen with terrifying cries rushed in with their spears to the kill. My friend and I were present at this moment having managed to keep up throughout the hunt, and it was all quite thrilling.

The main Barlow home was a low long building in half moon formation, built of local brick and designed by the Barlows. Guests were housed in takals, small beehive shaped huts cosily furnished. The position was lonely and at night, bears, leopards or wolves were liable to come lurking. The dim forests around were also, by the natives, reputed to harbour ghosts; the most notable of these was a human headed bear. This creature even Europeans claimed to have seen, though usually I think when returning from a party. One evening however when we were sitting comfortably around our fire, we heard a strange moaning noise outside.

Then the servants rushed in screaming that the ghost bear was outside our verandah. With creeping spines we seized sticks and a gun, and made our way gingerly outside; but there was nothing to be seen, and nothing to be heard except the rustling of the wind in the forest!

There are other strange local legends also, including the curse placed by a native chieftain on a certain district which he considered to have been unlawfully taken from his tribe. A number of settlers built homes there, some of them large and imposing, and started prosperous estates. Then one after another misfortune came upon them,; and now these places are all deserted. The last of these settlers a retired British Officer, had been found mysteriously dead in his arm-chair, not very long before we arrived at Elba Estate. We were taken by our host by car to visit this strange area of the curse; and it was certainly a sinister and creepy experience to see one after another these deserted homes, many still containing all their furniture, dust covered and gloomy, and over all an atmosphere of desolation. We entered one or two of these houses, after driving sometimes down some impressive avenue, or through once well kept gardens, but there seemed something repellent and we felt quite glad to get away.

With Philip Foster, District Commissioner at Eapsabet, we one day attended a tribal gathering. All warriors were in full "war paint", and with their spears, & shields; and their women folk adorned with bright beads and metal chains. One of the chieftains had a curious metal ornament, which, knowing King Farouk's interest in such things, I thought he might accept from me, as a souvenir, of my Kenya visit. I asked the chieftain to let me purchase it, but this he absolutely refused to do; until upon my mentioning the King's name he at once presented me with two similar ornaments as gifts for His Majesty and myself.

This *incident* had a pleasant outcome for later King Farouk caused handsome replicas of these ornaments to be made in solid silver, which in due course were formally presented to the chieftain by Pip Foster, the D.C., amidst much local excitement.

Note:

There follows a telegram from Pip. Foster my friend the D.C. of Kapsabet about the King's gifts; a copy of the message from Chief Elijah of the Nanbi Tribe to King Farouk and an extract from a letter from Farouk's Private Secretary Husny Pasha-

"DL 46/V Kapsabet 14 20 0910 PBC.
L.C. Squadron Leader Hindle James, Turf Club, Cairo.

King's gifts arrived safely writing. Foster".

"Koyo Nanbi,
P.O. Kapsabet,
Kenya, E.Africa.
30th Nov., 1942.

To the
Private Secretary to
His Majesty the King of Egypt,
Abdin Palace, Cairo.

I and all my people send you their many greetings and the two Elders who received presents from H.M. the King send their greetings also. They are delighted over their presents and the beautiful workmanship of the same. I and my people pray that the King, his people, and his country may enjoy health and prosperity, and that Almighty God will give him long life.

Thank you for your letter which has given me great pleasure; I have now had it framed like a picture. I send you a photograph of myself and my wife.

With my profoundest respects and best wishes for your health

From Chief Elijah"

"..... Very many thanks for your kind letter. I have been hoping all the time to tell you in person how all that you - and your friend and in particular your dear Mother - have done to bring the story of the Royal gifts to a happy end, how all this has been deeply appreciated by His Majesty."

After some time at the charming estate of the Barlows, we moved on and motored via Lake Naivasha to stay at Nairobi. On the way, I was invited to visit H.R.H. Prince Paul of Yougoslavia at his residence of that time by the Lake. Of Prince Paul, I hope to include further reminiscences later in this little book of episodes.

In Nairobi, I stayed at the old fashioned Norfolk Hotel, but my Mother became the guest of Mrs. Vallings and her very nice daughter at their pleasant house in Nairobi's Muthaiga district. I somehow found a resemblance in Nairobi to some old county town in England, except for the dark-skinned servants, and the Indian community living their ~~em~~ lives so curiously apart.

The sad day came when my leave ended, made really depressing because my Mother had become unwell. However, in the Vallings kindly home, I knew she would be well cared for, as indeed she was.

The following letter was written from Kampala, en route for Egypt.

To M.E.J. from District Commissioner's House, Kampala, 11.4.42.

This is just a brief message before I leave Kampala. My stay here has been longer than I expected, but now I am definitely booked to proceed by aircraft on Monday morning next to Khartoum. My visit here, however, has been helpful, and has given me a chance to become acquainted again with dear old Bob, after all these years during which we have scarcely met. I have had a restful time, but have also met pleasant people, and amongst others, Bob introduced me to a Dutch fellow named Jan de Boer, who has a house most entertainingly furnished, and who knows this country and its people well.

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Having been here for sometime, I can well visualize your life here, both its pleasant side and the parts which may be difficult for you. Bob, here in Uganda, has for many years been surrounded by special and unusual circumstances. He had had loneliness and sometimes of course anxiety. When a man has set up his life, and built up an independant outlook in the face of stress, it is impossible for him to change his ways and outlook suddenly. It might also be difficult for a new-comer, especially any one used to a more usual setting, suddenly to accept the curious conditions in a place like Uganda. If people with differing points of view about the same situation are to live congenially together, there must ofcourse be leniency and consideration shown by both sides, so that the differences of outlook may become unimportant. I want so much that you and Bob should be very happy together, and I think you will.

12.4.42. Last night we had a pleasant party. The Lukas couple came to dine at Bob's house, then we went on to theatricals at the Club, and finally some dancing at the hotel. Today, in the absence of the Political Resident, Bob, as Senior District Commissioner, has had to meet H.E. the Governor of Uganda here, on the latter's return from Tour. Tomorrow, again representing the Resident, Bob has to be present with the young Uganda King, at the formal opening of the local Parliament. It will be interesting, and I am glad it happened that Bob has to assume this important role, though he, poor old lad, does not like the idea at all. I think Bob will feel it a comfort to have you back with him, and will like to feel that he is taking care of you again, and so if you also tactfully take care of him, that will make you both happy.

I am off tomorrow to Khartoum and then on to Asmara.

Letter to M.E.J. from Turf Club Cairo, dated 9.5.42.

My visit to Eritrea was a successful one. I found many senior officers and administrators whom I had known in the past, and also some friends of Bob's. Everyone was helpful and pleasant to me. Tell Bob I met Colonel Willmot, Colonel Baerlein, Major Beaumont, and Colonel Adshead, all of whom I liked. The ~~Commander of Asmara~~ Senior Political Officer, Colonel Miller, is also a friend of mine, and invited me to stay with him at Massawa. He lives now in the old Vice-Regal Palace at Massawa, a handsome old oriental Palace by the side of the sea, modernised and made comfortable for present day use. It used to be the local residence of the Duke of Aosta. I also met the General in Command, and dined with the Military Administrator. In Asmara, I felt very fit. It was cool, even cold at night but I had suitable clothing.

The journey by car down to Massawa is a memorable experience for the scenery is splendid. From the Asmara plateau one descends with almost alarming suddenness over a kind of rocky ledge, and then before one extends a fantastic panorama of gradually extending mountain ranges, with the sea occasionally glimpsed in the remote distance. The road, a typical example of the magnificent road engineering for which the Italians have made themselves famous, follows the outline of the mountain slopes, with skilful turns, and a long frighteningly sheer precipices. Mostly the mountains are wooded, and there are streams and cascades, and in places rocky turrets predominate. Always as one descends the temperature rises; till in the completely oriental-looking setting of Massawa, one is indeed in a tropical climate, seemingly far remote from the cool temperature of Asmara, instead of only a few hours journey from it. There is also an electric mountain railway, by which I travelled once, and its course is almost as dramatic as that of the road.

Unfortunately however, on arriving back at Khartoum, there was a heat wave in progress, and so the contrast was terrific. In a quarter of an hour, at the end of our flight from Asmara, the aeroplane descended from ~~the~~ cold temperature, similar to that at Asmara, into a sort of furnace at Khartoum ground level. I felt unwell soon after arrival, but managed to get through my first day's work, and then went down with heat stroke. The doctor said I must leave Khartoum at once; and after giving me soothing drugs, he got me on board the next available aircraft for Cairo, and I came through the journey fairly well. I am now quite recovered. In reaching Cairo, I always feel as though I had arrived home. People seem pleased to see me especially my various Egyptian friends; from Abdine Palace down to shopkeepers and bootblacks, I have received most friendly greetings!

* Note: It was during the day or two while awaiting this aircraft that I was for the last time the guest of my old friend Douglas Newbold, (Sir Douglas N: as he was soon to become), the Civil Secretary. His Mother and my Grand mother, had adjoining properties at Tunbridge Wells, and we first used to meet at childrens parties ! Later when we both went up to Oxford, I was at Christ Church, he at nearby Oriel. He was always kindly helpful when I used to visit Khartoum, first as Liaison Officer H.Q. M.E. and later as Security Officer B.O.A.C. Death ___ largely due to over-work, -closed his career all too early. That was a great loss to his Service and his friends.

I have been having a talk about my future with British Airways; I am not quite sure how much longer I shall decide to remain with them.

TOUR DIARY - 18.6.42 - ASMARA

The greater part of last April, spent on a duty tour in Eritrea, a previous visit having been made in September 1941. In the general situation, certain changes were noticed, especially in the official attitude towards Italians. In September, very cordial British approaches were being made. Apparently however, this at first propitious attitude has resulted in some cases in excessive fraternization. Eritrea was the first enemy territory to come under British administrative control since hostilities started, and many lessons may be learned from a study of circumstances here. It appears that well intended fraternization led to undesirable sentimentality on the part of some British elements. On the Italian side, gratitude for leniency was not unmixed with the sort of petty irritation, similar to that which, unfortunately, seems to occur so often in the mind of persons accepting a loan by which it is hoped to produce gratitude. Linked with this, was the astute conduct of a few fascist leaders who had not been sufficiently separated from the general population, and who lost no opportunity to discover

and exploit the weaknesses of certain British individuals. This seems to explain to some extent the stupid irregularity in which certain British persons have involved themselves. Regrettable as necessary arrests and Court Martials have been, it would have been even more regrettable, had they not publicly taken place, for the Italians at least to have it brought clearly before them that ill practices when detected by senior authority, receive no leniency. To an onlooker however, it appears unfortunate that these tendencies were not discovered sooner. The comment might also perhaps be made that F.S. and Intelligence work must never be allowed to drift into an excuse for laxity in personal standards of conduct.

TOUR DIARY - 17.6.42 - TEHERAN.

Yesterday I was entertained to lunch by General Greely of the American Military Mission and some of his staff, and during a visit to the American Legation, I had a long talk with the American Minister, Mr. Dreyfuss. The latter introduced the subject of Sir Reader Bullard's departure from Teheran. He said that though officially he could express no opinion, to me an unofficial Britisher, he felt himself free to express his most sincere admiration of Sir Reader.

I have been again well received at the Egyptian Embassy, and was invited to a luncheon party at which the British Chargé d'Affaires, the American Minister, the Turkish Ambassador, and other senior persons were present.

British ladies together with Persian ladies appeared to be much occupied now in welfare concerns for Polish refugees. Of these, the most pathetic appear to be some 300 children whose parents have died of hardship or under bombardment in the past. These children, I was told, whose ages range between 3 years and 16 years, when they first arrived, appeared to be lacking in any sort of interest in life, and set quite expressionless anywhere

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they were put, neither crying, nor laughing, nor speaking. This terrible condition is however changing under the kindly treatment which they are now receiving.

TOUR DIARY - 28.6.42 - TURKEY.

It has been strange at Adana to find myself in this neutral country where I am liable to meet German or other enemy persons at any time, in ordinary daily contacts. I have been impressed by the courtesy of Turkish officials. At the British Consulate, Mr. Blair has been most helpful. As accommodation, at the Consulate, appeared to be rather strained, I decided to stay for a while at the Yeni Hotel in Adana. This hotel has only a very few tolerable bedrooms and only one bathroom. Feeding at the hotel is reasonably good, and the staff though uninstructed, are friendly. After a few days at this hotel, I was again invited by the British Consul to transfer to the Consulate, and this invitation I accepted. Later I proceeded on a visit to the sea coast town of Mersin. This was my first experience of railway travel in Turkey for some years. The journey from Adana to Mersin is about 50 miles. The journey is supposed to take two hours. On the outward journey the train accomplished this distance in two and a half hours, and on the return journey in four hours. Unpunctuality is apparently equally prevalent even in the case of express trains, including the Taurus Express itself, which I am told, is often 12 hours late.

On my second day at the Yeni Hotel, I found two members of the German Consulate staff seated at a table next to myself in the dining room. On a later occasion I also noticed a visit from Fraulein Paula Koch, who is perhaps the most important and energetic of local German Agents. This lady has the appearance of some charming elderly governess with simple manners and without guile. Actually she is ~~some~~ most astute and extremely ruthless person.

I got the impression that relationship between our consulate and the Turkish Authorities is on a very sound basis. No attempt, however, is made on either side to draw together socially. Turkish reticence is ~~however~~ even more marked with regard to *AXIS* representatives.

At Mersin, I stayed at the Taurus hotel. Mr. Parish the British Vice-Consul, was friendly and hospitable when I called upon him. While in this sea-side town, I found a regatta and display was being organised amongst the Naval Cadets. This display was strikingly well done, and the Naval Cadets appeared smart, fine looking, and efficient young men.

The situation in Egypt had become tense with the advance of Rommel's forces beyond Mersa Matrouh. I therefore, through the Consulate, cabled for instructions. In due course, a satisfactory reply having been received, I proceeded by the Taurus Express from Adana to Aleppo. This journey proved comfortable, and I was fortunate in having as travel companions a British Colonel, and a British lady who were travelling on leave from our Embassy at Ankara.

The D.C's Office,
Kampala

Since your last letter conditions in Libya and Egypt have changed very much and I do feel terribly concerned as to what is happening in Cairo and especially to you. At least however, I know you were safe back to Tehran.... As you said you were planning to start on Sunday 28th you will now be in Turkey, and I hope all goes well, but who knows what may have happened in Egypt during the time you are away. After lunch 1.45 p.m Bob has just brought me a letter, and I read it in the verandah and I am very glad to hear all was well with you....You are continually in my thoughts... Lovingly

Motherling.

PART I -

ALEPPO .

At Aleppo I stayed at the hotel Baron; comfortable, well organised but expensive. Hotel premises were built, I understand, just prior to the outbreak of the 1914-18 War, and some of the staff were present during the appalling Armenian transportations and massacres which occurred at that time, and which have not been forgotten by any of the population, whether Moslem or Christian, who seem~~ed~~ to look back with almost equal horror on what happened then.

TRIPOLI .

From Aleppo, I proceeded by the automotrice to Tripoli.

This railway is carefully supervised and Passports and Passes are examined two or three times during the journey. In Tripoli I drove round the town, and met various people. I had a curious conversation with a local notable during which he said " Everybody here talks of patriotism, whereas actually most of us have no idea of the meaning of the word. The idea at the back of most people's minds here seems to be a transformation of the Lebanon into a sort of easy going Switzerland, and that this transformation is to come about pleasantly by efforts other than those of our own people, who have a mysterious right to avoid the hardships of personal leadership. Our culture and progress, it seems, must be protected by outside powers."

BEIRUT.

For my journey to Beirut, I took a car. It happened that I was the only European traveller, my companions being Syrian Moslems and one of them a Turk. In Beirut, I was given a pleasant welcome at the British Consulate by Lt.-Col. Furlong with whom I was already acquainted. I also met at the British Legation Mr. Hamilton with whom I had pleasant conversations, both in his office and during an afternoon spent at his delightfully situated residence on the outskirts of Beirut. I likewise, met the distinguished Lebanese poet Monsieur Hector Klat; and also Dr. and Madam Raudeh (personal friends of Noury Said Pasha).

DAMASCUS .

My journey by car to Damascus passed without incident, and at the Legation, I was entertained by Colonel Gardner with whom I was invited to watch a review of New Zealand Troops in Damascus Town Square. Later, I was called upon by Dr. Yassir Mouayed Azm. With him, I went to pay my respects at the tomb of our mutual friend Dr. Shahbandar, who was assassinated through German intrigue in Damascus; his tomb ^{has} been placed as a mark of

exceptional esteem, in the immediate proximity of the ~~rooms~~ of Saladin.

While in Damascus, I was invited to attend a meeting of ~~an apparently~~ ^a new party, apparently anti-fascist and anti-nazi ~~communist~~ which is showing distinct activity. I did not accept the invitation, but the meeting I understand numbered several hundreds of young men, while at ~~the~~ ^a second meeting over a hundred women were present. I do not know what official attitude is being taken towards this new movement, which to some extent may be based upon a communistic outlook.

Just before leaving Damascus, I was approached by the Editor of a leading newspaper requesting my permission to write up an article welcoming me to Damascus. I of course explained that permission for such a thing was quite impossible, and requested him not to do any such thing though thanking him for his friendly suggestion.

HAIFA & JERUSALEM.

The ~~pleasant~~ ^{pleasant} visit and a kindly welcome from the District Commissioner, but nothing of special interest happened during my visit. In Jerusalem, refugees were still arriving from Egypt; the King David Hotel was full to overflowing, with people sleeping even in the corridors.

On August 5th, I happened to meet Shazly Pasha (Leader of the Opposition, at Shephard's Hotel. He asked me to lunch with him. In the course of conversation, it was mentioned that a rumour was current that the British Premier, Mr. Churchill was present in Cairo. The following morning, when at the Department of the Minister of State, I commented on this rumour and took the opportunity of ~~the~~ recalling the fact of King's Farouk known wish to meet the British Premier.

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Same evening at about 9.15 p.m. I received a telephone call from Abdine Palace, saying that a car was on its way to my residence in order to convey me at once to Abdine. On arrival there, I was forthwith received by His Majesty. He seemed in a very serious frame of mind and informed me at once that the British Premier was in fact in Cairo, and that a meeting between them was about to take place. His Majesty talked with great earnestness, and I took part in the discussion as helpfully as possible from a common sense point of view. After a long talk which we had quite alone together, His Majesty finished up by commenting with boyish good humour on some excellent outsize cigars which he had managed to procure as a special gesture of good will towards his distinguished visitor. At about 10.30p.m. I left the Palace; and about half an hour later, Mr. Winston Churchill arrived there. The following morning, at a very early hour, a note from the Palace was brought to me at my quarters. This note included the phrase "Just a line to tell you that everything went very well; the general impression is excellent". To prevent any misunderstanding, I of course mentioned to the minister of State this meeting of mine with H.M. King Farouk, as the King knew and approved my doing.

On the evening of the 19th inst., I was again rang up from Abdine Palace, and was invited by His Majesty to proceed the following morning to Alexandria to be received by Him at Montazah Palace. During my day spent with His Majesty at Montazah, He treated me as usual with much consideration, and we had a series of long and serious discussions during which His Majesty spoke with great sincerity and frankness. I was deeply touched of course by the confidence the young King extended to me. On my return to Cairo, I at once wrote to His Majesty a very personal letter, and for this again he thanked me in very gracious terms.

Conversations with H.M.King Farouk during the periods
of Mr. Winston Churchill's presence
in Egypt.

To prevent the possibility of any misunderstanding as to methods or motives I feel that the following note is appropriate, to make clear the setting of my recent contacts with H.M.King Farouk during the period of the visits to Egypt of Mr. Winston Churchill.

(1). On August 5th I happened to meet Shazli Pasha (Leader of the Opposition) at Shepheard's Hotel. He asked me to lunch with him. In the course of conversation it was mentioned to me that a rumour was current that the British Premier was present in Cairo.

(2). The following morning, in view of this rumour, I visited the Department of the Minister of State and informed the Minister's Private Secretary of the rumour which had reached me. I also took the opportunity of explaining certain matters which had come to my individual knowledge concerning King Farouk's personal point of view upon the various aspects of the political situation in general and his attitude towards the Anglo-Egyptian relationship in particular. I stressed the King's apparently definite wish to get into direct personal touch with high authorities in England and especially with the British Premier. I mentioned all details so far as my personal knowledge went, because of the potential importance of a possible meeting between the Egyptian King and the British Premier, in view of the attitude already shown by His Majesty.

(3). The same evening, at about 9.15, I received a telephone call from Abdine Palace saying that a car was on its way to my Hotel in order to convey me at once to Abdine. On arrival there I was at once received by His Majesty. He seemed in a very ~~an~~ earnest frame of mind, but also shewing a little understandable nervousness at the prospect of the historic interview between himself and the British Premier, which, he informed me, was about to take place. He said he was deeply aware of the great implications in the prospective meeting. He seemed a good deal concerned, however, at certain aspects of the circumstances in which this meeting was to take place and at first appeared to consider that he would be unable to act in other than a formal manner. In addition, however, His Majesty was considering whether he should speak with complete frankness on various matters of a rather delicate nature. It was suggested, however, that it might be a pity to raise any point of a difficult nature on this particular occasion, so propitious for establishing good accord, and the far reaching value of assuring a good personal relationship on this particular occasion between himself and his eminent visitor was stressed. His Majesty then declared that it was his determination to make every effort to bring the meeting to a satisfactory conclusion and said that this meeting was in fact just such an event as he had long most solemnly been hoping for. His Majesty then spoke frankly about the present situation and recent events and finally made clear his decision

to avoid on this occasion any difficult matter and to concentrate on making informally clear his cordial and constructive intentions. The various queries put to me by His Majesty I answered as helpfully as possible from a common sense point of view. His Majesty also commented with boyish good humour on some excellent outsize cigars which he had managed to procure, as a special gesture of personal friendship towards his visitor. At about 10.30 p.m. I left the Palace.

The following morning, at a very early hour, a note from the Palace was brought to me at my quarters. This note included the phrase - "Just a line to tell you that everything went very well - the general impression is excellent".

I immediately made a short précis concerning my meeting with the King and the note which followed it and delivered this précis personally at the Department of the Minister of State as early as possible that morning.

(4). On the evening of the 19th instant, at about 9.30 p.m., I was again rung up from Abdine Palace, and I was asked if I could proceed by the early train next morning to Alexandria, accompanied by a member of His Majesty's entourage, as His Majesty wished to receive me at Montaza Palace. The afternoon of Thursday the 20th instant was spent at Montaza. I had a long conversation with His Majesty, in which he reviewed a number of matters from a somewhat intimate point of view. No other person was present during this talk. I returned to Cairo that afternoon by the last train, and

the next morning I personally delivered at the Department of
the Minister of State a written résumé of the conversation I had
had with the King.