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Mother had settled reasonably comfortably into Gresham House; but I did not remain long in my "pension". An acquaintance of mine, George C; a young professor at the Egyptian University at Giza, who had a flat at Giza, became ill poor fellow, and was obliged to go to a Convalescent Home in the Lebanon. He sub-let his flat to a mutual friend, Flight Lieutenant Ken Bodden, and I went to share this small abode with Ken. Although only a small flat; we each had a bed-sitting room, and there was a lounge hall and "usual offices".

Ken Bodden was interested in an RAF Concert Party, and so lads and lasses used to come to our flat for rehearsals; we also gave some cheery cocktail gatherings; often in the afternoon we would go to swim at Mena House hotel pool. Lord Kinross; then attached to our Embassy; also had a house on the Nile bank not far from us. It was a quaint old-fashioned Egyptian type house, but Pat Kinross had renovated it, and made the house and garden most pleasant in old Arabian style. There too we sometimes foregathered. Kinross; thought I did not get to know him very well; was certainly an excellent and interesting host. Now-a-days he has returned to journalism and writing books; like our mutual friend Gerald de Gaury, who has to his credit some fine writing on Saudi Arabia. Gerald and I used to be Special Service Officers in neighbouring districts in Iraq, a long time ago. One of my earliest close associates in Arab Affairs was the now very famous Glubb Pasha of Jordan! He and I first toured deserts together sometime about 1924.

I shared the flat with Ken Bodden for only 6 months, but it was a most happy episode. Ken then was drafted to England. For a brief spell Teddy West, a cheery young Group Captain, came in his place. Then we had to return the flat to its owner, by that time happily recovered. I moved to a very tiny, and rather dark little flatlet close to our Consulate General. It was conveniently central, and close to Gresham House, but otherwise not very attractive.

x Note. On this occasion I called next day at Abdin Palace and was received by Hosny Pasha, H.M. King Farouk's private secretary. I made a strong protest at the incident, and at what seemed to me a callousness in the Egyptian official attitude towards it. In spite of my drastic words I was listened to with sympathy, and my almost excessive frankness of speech was not resented, nor was my subsequent letter, of which I still possess a copy, taken exception to.

xx Note. As soon as I realized that our Cathedral was being attacked, I telephoned to Abdin Palace. H.M. the King at once sent a troop of His mounted Bodyguard to the scene; but actually by then British soldiers had the situation in control.

These riots were a protest against the British forces remaining, so long after the war, in Cairo. To the ordinary onlooker it did indeed seem strange that the opportunity was lost to evoke permanent respect and confidence from Egyptians by an early voluntary withdrawal of our Forces, especially when to remain for that extra period appeared to serve so little of useful purpose. A great opportunity for establishing good will seemed needlessly lost.

NOTE:-

This Lady I remember first as an almost newly-wed young bride established as Ambassadress at our Embassy. In those far off days I was frequently at the Embassy both officially and socially. She seemed then a pleasing piquant little figure, still shy, and unassuming. Later I lost touch with the more personal Embassy setting to a large extent; but general report has it that the "unassumingness" did not last. I prefer however, to retain my own personal memory of a trim somewhat ingenuous little Lady thrilled yet dignified in her new great position as our Ambassadress.

laws, so iniquitously unjust to helpless women? No it was not; for in the House of Peers it has often been a prelate who has protested at merciful reform - and even today in a city like this Cairo of ours, is it the lonely and unhappy of our Christian community who are most often to be seen as the guests of the leading clergy, or is it the socially elect, and diplomatically useful who are most welcome there : In our own great Faith, the true Christian leadership of the Clergy - except in matters of ritual and formality - is rare indeed; but by its very rarity it can be of inestimable value, and splendid comfort , in the terrible world problems of today.

No less, however , do I protest against the untruth that our religion in any intolerant or violent form is a wholesome or valuable or desirable adjunct to human life. It then divides heart from heart, & sets up a vain ideal in the barren pursuit of which all the tender indallgent affections, all kindly interplay of life, all the exquisite pleasures & genial resignations of the body , all that enlarges & calms the soul , are exchanged for what is bleak & negatively void. Thus it throws out of gear the healthy movements of conscience , it invents virtues which are sterile & cruel , it invents sins which are not sins at all, which darken the heaven of spontaneous joy with the clouds of futile remorse. In this sort of fanatism there is something particularly horrible , making of this fugitive existence of ours merely an interlude of dark & sinister thrats, instead of a kindly interval of happy preparation under the benevolent guidance of that wisdom, Strength , & merciful understanding which is of the very essence of all true religion, & particularly of the happy, kind , reality, within the faith of Christian people , emphasizing the friendly gaiety of human intercourse, & not stressing only its harsh , austere, distortions.

Linked with religion is the ever present urgency of the human sexual relationship - that amazing combination of the body and the spirit in mankind . For myself, as a warm blooded youth , very unsophisticated, but of " romantic " and affectionate disposition, I should probably, under normal circumstances, have married early; at eighteen I was, I though, already (in love" with a sweet girl a year my junior - whose portrait is still in this room I write in, though she is long since married, but not to me : War and its outcome put an end for me to any simplicity of romantic settlement . I survived the war, but not undamaged, and the damage to my lungs made for me the thought of marriage impossible. I neither could nor can agree with those who seem to think that mere marriage is in itself " meritorious", especially

if offspring are produced. Truly to me marriage did imply a family, but to beget children without bequeathing to them at least every humanly possible assurance of health and sound progress, is basically wrong; truly a " sin of the Spirit", One gains experience in Life by which one hopes the better to inform and safeguard the next generation. To leave deliberately one's own children exposed to the same or even worse mistakes and disabilities is, as it seems to me, an unsocial act of crass irresponsibility.

This does not necessarily imply that I myself have lived a life of cold-blooded celibacy; but disadvantages, if such there be, I suffer in myself alone, and I do not shelter my "virtue " behind the suffering of other human creatures who have had no say in the decision :

One sometimes wonders indeed whether the joyous fulfillment of the human physical relationship has not been distorted, and so surrounded with taboos as to become a sort of "zombie" instead of the living thrilling reality of all that is most inspiring in the animal-spiritual human combination. Sex as we have come to know it is controlled hardly by an spontaneous urge at all. How can the essential normality survive in a relationship so hedged around by abnormal codes and suppressions. Mere sex relationships between healthy people are actually of small importance except as an inspiring climax and solution of normal bodily and emotional energy. When however these relationships have children as their outcome, then indeed they are of supreme importance to all social progress. Then it does become essential that safeguards be legally assured for the good of the children , in whom is the hope of all the future well-being of mankind. Oppressive sex-legislation other than this can become mere jealous malice destructive of the whole psychological set up of civilized beings, the underlying cause even of wars and world unrest. Sex after all is the motive inspiration of all human action whether of mind or body. It is no ugly or shameful urge, but is as much God's gift as is sight or hearing, and as such it manifests itself for many purposes, and not in animal procreation only. It is of the spirit as well as the body, and must be dealt with in a mood of grace, sympathy, understanding, frankness, and good will.

The strangulation of spirit, the sick dismay, when some work of true human endeavour is seen suddenly betrayed, distorted, and seemingly undermined by sheer obtuseness or by that most dreadful of perversions the malice of false friends and the sudden pale companionship of jealousy; — all this I have known, but I have known as well the strange tranquillity of spiritual recovery when surely it is realized that the seed of endeavour yet survives untouched by poisons, & retains unharmed the certain promise of fruitfulness to come.

It has likewise come my way to learn amidst a country and a people since long years congenial & full of friendship, a raging upsurge of distorted turmoil, of blind fanaticism, & inhuman cruelty. Within that frightful upheaval, by some seeming miracle untouched myself, yet powerless within that huge mass no longer of human entities but like some single beast of elemental fury, I have had to see the foul murder of fellow creatures, women & men, well known to me, & the unspeakable torture & death of a friend beyond reach of any help of mine. Many hours within the furnace of a blazing building in a burning city, apparently without hope of escape for me or for those with me; the ugly clutch of treachery;

and the amazing sudden realization also of loyalty & courage where least expected, — all these strange memories still are mine. Within them too my thoughts recall the downfall of a Kingdom intimate to me from its highest places downwards, with all its onset of the pitiful tragedy of humiliations and revenge, deserved and undeserved; and the strange stir of intense energy of a revolutionary regime, feverishly swayed between fanatic frenzies & the inspired stress of high ideals; all this is still of shattering impact upon the inwardness of remembrance.

In my time I have rejoiced nevertheless in the very zest of living, sharing in glad companionship the thrill of youth; and in maturer years I have learned that Time need bring no aging of the spirit, that gracious memories can by no power whatsoever be plundered, & that the relationship of youth to age is in no way dreary or without the glow of companionable understanding, wherein acquired wisdom may be placed at the service of youth's eagerness; till Death with his welcome to those who have gone before, becomes indeed Himself a kindly and reasonable Companion to greet us all beyond the lone weariness of our journey's ending.