



Mad King and Sane Reformer

Historical Translation which is a Boon
Companion for Its Readers

"THE Queen's Doctor," being the strange story of the rise and fall of Struensee, Dictator, lover and doctor of medicine—thus the publishers concisely sum up on the cover of a remarkable novel the life of this phenomenal man.

Struensee is a man of three characters, each totally different from the others: Doctor of Medicine; keen practitioner and daring surgeon, who cured of his vicious habits the debauched monarch of Denmark, King Christian, and by using the gifts of hypnotism and suggestion retarded the insanity which was constantly encroaching upon this monarch. The Lover; susceptible to the charms of women he seemed to hold a fascination for all the fair sex, a fascination irresistible even to Queen Matilda of Denmark, the youngest sister of George III of England. The Dictator; fired with enthusiasm for social reform he held political ideas which were a quarter of a century before their time (the period of this novel is in the middle of the 18th century). Following in the footsteps of the man he greatly admired, Jean-Jacques Rousseau, he put into practice what Rousseau preached, made all men equal, gave land to the poor, bread to the hungry, founded hospitals and took away the privileges of the clergy and nobility.

When the book is put down and the last page finished you realise that you have not been reading about people,

but have met and talked with them, understood their outlook, their ambitions and petty jealousies. The King, a spineless and dissipated creature, yet a pitiable one, is loyal to only one man, his friend Struensee. Even in the end, while he is in the throes of insanity, he remembers and exclaims as the death sentence of Struensee is put before him, "I like Struensee, I like him."

The Queen, a lonely little foreigner in a strange land, was only a child (she was fifteen when married and only twenty-three at the time of her death) looking for the companionship which she eventually found in Struensee, loving him with all the burning of a young passionate heart and bearing him a daughter.

The King's stepmother, Juliana Mary, a wicked and ambitious woman, who desired to assure the succession to the throne of her deformed and crippled son, Frederick.

Frederick himself, a poor fellow bullied from pillar to post by his mother; the burghers dragging their beloved Struensee's carriage triumphantly through the streets of Copenhagen, then again these same men, after losing their money in an ill-advised financial operation of Struensee, only too glad to drag their benefactor through the streets to his destruction. You get to know all these people, laugh with them in their joys, cry with them in their sorrows, like them, pity them, despise them.

Perhaps the most graphic chapter in the book is the one narrating the action on the Copenhagen Stock Exchange. One can feel the tense excitement, hear the shouts of the brokers and sense the great drama which is being acted within those four walls.

Some credit must go to the translators, Edwin and Willa Muir, who have given the English-speaking peoples an opportunity to know this historical character.

Don't miss reading this book—history written in simple language and in an easy-going style; a boon companion for one travelling, on holiday or just enjoying a winter's night in front of the fire.

"The Queen's Doctor." Robert Neumann. Translated by Edwin and Willa Muir. Victor Gollancz, Ltd. Our copy from the publishers.

I FIND it most rejuvenating to be assured that after twenty years of the Diplomatic Service heaven still lies about me in my infancy.—Mr. Harold Nicolson.

BURNING A FLAG

"BURNING OF THE REICHSTAG FLAG" is a book which should be widely read. It will be devoured by not only the ardent followers of Dimitroff, but by all who want to learn more about the actual facts of the burning of the Reichstag Flag. This book contains copies of the documents prepared by Dimitroff in conducting his political defence, during his imprisonment before the trial, during the trial itself and before and after his deportation from Germany. Opinions are also given from articles published after his release.

Dimitroff states that he is in favour of the proletarian revolution and the dictatorship of the proletariat. He is firmly convinced that that is the only way out of, the only salvation from, the economic crisis and the catastrophe of war under capitalism. The fight for the dictatorship of the proletariat and for the victory of Communism, is without any doubt the whole substance of his life.

"With the burning of the Reichstag Flag I had absolutely nothing whatever to do, either directly or indirectly," says Dimitroff. "When early in the morning of February 28, 1933, in the train to Munich from Berlin, I read in the papers about the burning of the Reichstag, I immediately took the view that the instigators of this action were either despicable provocateurs or mentally and politically demented people, and, in any case, criminals in relation to the German working class and to Communism."

Dimitroff labels van der Lubbe (the Reichstag incendiary) a crazy revolutionary.

"Burning of the Reichstag Flag." Compiled with explanatory notes by Alfred Kurella. Translated by Dona Torr and Michael Davidson. Illustrated. Victor Gollancz Ltd., in association with Martin Lawrence Ltd.

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