

Star Spangled Banner

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'star-spangled' itself is a little difficult, especially before 'banner.' 'Rsp' and 'ngl' and 'db' constitute a formidable array of barbed wire entanglements for most voices. "Star-bastreem" would be a little better, but not much. ("Spangled" is a dreadfully tinselly word, suggesting a circus, anyhow.) Probably there isn't a perfect word with the desired meaning: English is horribly deficient in 'short' syllables.

THE music to which Key wrote his words, was long attributed to the London organist and composer, Dr. Samuel Arnold (1740-1802). Late researches credit the music beyond dispute to John Stafford Smith (Gloucester, 1750; London, 1836), an organist of rank and a prolific composer. The music, in 6/4 time, with the words beginning "To Anacreon in heaven, where he sat in full glee," is to be found in *Collections of Popular Songs, Catches, etc.*, composed by John Stafford Smith. A copy of this volume is in the British Museum. The melody was well known in this country during revolutionary days, and various texts were sung to it. Francis Scott Key was evidently familiar with it, and wrote his verses on the morning after the bombardment of Fort M'Henry by the British fleet, September 14, 1814.

HOW different the whole thing becomes when one finds a really great poet, like George M. Cohan, for instance, who recently took five or ten minutes off to write his noble recruiting song entitled "Over There," a masterpiece which Miss Nora Bayes has recently made an essential part of every cultivated New Yorker's home life.

Study, if you will, the care with which the scholarly actor-poet has constructed his choral *chef d'œuvre*. And, Miss Bayes, we can never thank you enough for thrilling us so. We hopped right up in our chair and cheered. Really, it was too splendid!

"OVER THERE"

Words and music by George M. Cohan

*Johnnie get your gun, get your gun, get your gun;
Take it on the run, on the run, on the run;
Hear them calling you and me,*

*Every son of liberty;
Hurry right away, no delay, go to-day,
Make your daddy glad, to have such a lad;
Tell your sweetheart not to pine,
To be proud her boy's in line.*

CHORUS

*Over there, over there,
Send the word, send the word, over there;
That the Yanks are coming, the Yanks are coming,
The drums rum-tumming, everywhere.
So prepare, say a pray'r,
Send the word, send the word, to beware;
We'll be over, we're coming over,
And we won't come back till it's over,
Over there, over there.*

*Johnnie get your gun, get your gun, get your gun;
Johnnie shoot the Hun, you're a son of a gun,
Hoist the flag and let her fly,
Yankee Doodle, do or die;
Pack your little kit, show your grit, do your bit;
Yankees! to the ranks, from the towns and the tanks;
Make your mother proud of you,
And the old Red, White and Blue.*

CHORUS

Over there, over there, etc.



Cabbages and Kings

(Continued from page 27)

manoffs of late, unlamented grandeur, the English royal family have really no surname—for either Guelf or Wettin is, strictly speaking, inaccurate. Hence the serious proposal to fall back on the good old Scottish name of Stuart, which, in spite of occasional evil associations in the past, has to be said for it, that it has no objectionable Germanic suggestions. Besides, however peculiar their views on the subject of civil and religious liberty, most of the Stuart kings could be described as "gentlemen," in the ordi-

nary sense of the word, a definition which would be a gross exaggeration if applied to their successors in the Georgian period of nice houses and bad manners. Even Tom Macaulay, if he were alive, would hardly object to the Stuarts now.

WHEN King George refers to "my army" he is using, and knows that he is using, only a form of speech, like the "My Dear Sir," which one writes at the top of a letter addressed to a deadly enemy. But when the Kaiser says "my army," he means it. For, between that army and the abodes where the eternal are, he regards himself as the duly appointed connecting link. Only in Prussia do royalty know everything for the simple reason that they are inspired, having been born that way.

THE Russian Revolution showed how easy it is to get rid of the most powerful ruler, even when buttressed, on one side, by a highly developed bureaucracy, and on the other by a State church. The fall of Greek Constantine showed that, in these days, the votes of the populace are more important than the support of any relative by marriage, no matter how influential. The King of Spain proved that he had seen a great light, when he stated, the other day, that if his people really wanted a republic, he was willing to step down from his throne and become simply the first President of the Spanish commonwealth. No doubt he thought that it would be better to do that than to spend the rest of his days in exile, without the trappings of power like his friend the ex-King of Portugal.

When Thackeray wanted to reduce the royal idea to absurdity, he drew a picture of Louis the Great, in his robes and great wig, sceptre and all, and another of the same attempted world-conqueror as he might have looked to his valet, without the trappings of power. The people in various parts of Europe have been stripping the kings of their symbolic costumes, and very unimpressive the plucked ones appear in consequence. Once the present Kaiser, while in England, was photographed in tweeds and looked so ordinary that he never—during his English visits—appeared out of uniform again.

NOBODY since Napoleon has shaken the thrones of Europe in the way that the Kaiser has done. It is the irony of fate that the greatest believer in royalty has done more than any other living man to increase the world's belief in government by the people.

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