



THE WINDSORS IN WONDERLAND

THE TRUE STORY of the Duke and Duchess of Windsor cannot be told without clarifying one point right at the beginning: there was only one man who forced Edward VIII off the throne—himself. Yet millions have been led to believe that Prime Minister and Primate got together with the peers and, with the help of the British press, compelled the King to abandon his hereditary trust.

Today, there is a young Queen on the throne of England—a Queen who knows that the Sovereign is England, Britain, the Commonwealth; that a resolute monarch adds a sense of security to the subjects and thus cherishes and defends them; that there is only one course the Supreme Magistrate can follow—the path of duty.

When Edward VIII chose the wrong course, monarchy in England was in great danger of coming to an abrupt end—it was almost gone with the Windsors. The “royal throne of kings” was tottering when the King abandoned it to marry Mrs. Wallis Warfield Simpson. The King who thus abdicates and turns his back on his people cannot be remote from criticism.

Nevertheless, to a large number of Americans, the Duke still represents a hero and the Duchess a heroine—a romantic couple, mistreated and misunderstood in England. Many of these Americans still believe that he had to pay the price for falling in love with an American woman! Nothing could be further from the truth. When, as Prince of

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Wales, he visited America for the first time, his parents, King George V and Queen Mary, said "they would be delighted if he found a suitable wife in America."

For the objection was not, of course, that Wallis Simpson was an American and a commoner; the main trouble was that she had already divorced two husbands, which is not exactly a recommendation for a Queen of England.

True, there are more important problems in the world today than the Windsors. Communism menaces Christendom; dictators war on democracy; disaster threatens decency. But meanwhile, the aging couple present a grotesque spectacle, and utter amusing statements. For example, long ago the Windsors let it be known that they were "anxious to help some of the vital problems that beset the world."

One wonders what were the causes the Windsors have helped since this declaration was made—could it be that they had in mind the business worries of dressmakers and jewelers? As to the Duke's interest in the vital problems of his native country, when he arrived in New York after one of his visits to England, he gave an exclusive interview to Elsa Maxwell, the society columnist. She asked the Duke whether he was glad to go home.

"Why, Elsa," the Duke replied sharply, "home to me is where the Duchess is!"

The suffering of others is apparently of deep concern to the Duchess—in January, 1953, in the name of charity, she opened the "Duchess of Windsor Ball" at the Waldorf-Astoria. However, some people intimated that the affair served the purpose chiefly of publicity. She merely lent her name; she was abroad while it was being prepared; and her four gowns for the evening

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were paid for by as many sponsors. Whether in the name of charity or publicity, 66 photographers were at hand to snap the glamorous Wallis.

Her husband, too, receives from the cameramen as much attention as a movie star. But there is not a single photo that shows the Duke or his Duchess exerting themselves on behalf of their fellowmen, not a single account of their efforts to help a civilization in peril.

Theirs is a life devoted purely to personal pleasures. Friends, anxious to explain away their mode of living, are ready with excuses: "It's nobody's business how the Windsors spend their money."

In the case of less important figures, this would be true. People make money and naturally spend it the way they want to. However, the Windsors never had to work hard for their money. And as Prince of Wales, King, and Duke of Windsor, he has cost more to his country, formerly rich, today poor, than any other figure in history.

~Iles Brody~

