

You Noticed

How good a paper THE JOURNAL was yesterday, and is to-day. Have you mentioned the matter to your friends? : : : :

THE JOURNAL

You Observe

The way THE JOURNAL reports the coronation of the Czar. It publishes all the news of the world for one cent. : : : :

NO. 4,941.

NEW YORK, WEDNESDAY, MAY 27, 1896.—16 PAGES.—COPYRIGHT, 1896, BY W. B. HEARST.

PRICE ONE CENT.

THE CROWNING OF THE CZAR. How They Anointed the Ruler of a Hundred Million People at Moscow Yesterday.



By Richard Harding Davis.

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Moscow, May 26.—The ceremony of the crowning of the Czar was celebrated in the Cathedral of the Assumption from 10 o'clock this morning until 1 o'clock this afternoon.

Within the high ramparts of the Kremlin and seated on covered stands outside the Cathedral was a selected audience composed of the more distant members of the royal family, the Russian nobility, minor princes of foreign courts, the staffs of the visiting ambassadors and strangers of distinction. For five hours this gathering watched the white walls of the Cathedral and waited in patience for the Czar to appear at its door with the crown upon his head.

Crowds in the Streets.

Outside the rampart of the Kremlin a mass of 300,000 people, the greater part of whom had been in the streets all night blocked them and the bridges and the parks completely, and stared up at the brilliant sky and glaring sun while they waited for the bells to proclaim the coronation of their sovereign and head of their Church.

Inside the Cathedral 800 people stood elbow to elbow in a space intended for 100, and witnessed the most impressive and magnificent ceremonial of this decade.

Crowned in a Small Cathedral.

It is impossible to give an accurate idea of the surroundings of this service without first adjusting them to the proper focus and warning whoever reads this that all that has been said of the lack of space in the Cathedral is no preparation for the shock one received at the first sight of its small extent.

It is in no sense a cathedral, as we understand the word, or a chapel even; it is much smaller than the Little Church Around the Corner in New York City, and is not much larger than the chapel of that little church.

Pictures of the outside of the Cathedral are quite misleading because half of its extent is filled with tombs and altars hidden by a screen of gold and the half in which the ceremony of the coronation took place is blocked by four immense pillars, each six feet across; so none of the spectators had an uninterrupted view of the ceremony for the three hours during which it lasted.

Walls Covered With Frescoes.

The walls of the Cathedral are as high as they are close together. They are covered with life-sized frescoes of religious subjects in rich blues and reds, painted on a solid background of gold leaf. The four great pillars support a roof in which they are five domes. The inside of each of these is painted with a monster head of Christ, with the eyes looking down into the chapel.

There was so much gilding and so many pictures that until you saw the altar behind the screen the effect was as though you were shut up in a gorgeous picture gallery rather than a church.

A Wonderful Screen.

The screen itself is of copper, covered with gold and precious stones, and those who like guide book accuracy will be interested to know that the gold on the screen is pure gold and weighs pounds. It is beauteous and embossed into the figures of

salts, the faces being painted and the halos around the head of each being composed of pearls and diamonds.

All the woodwork in the church had been freshly gilded; purple velvet had been wrapped around the four pillars, and double eagles of gold supported a canopy of velvet ornamented with ostrich plumes and heavy gold fringe.

This canopy hung over a platform about ten feet square, which met the four pillars. There were a few steps leading down from it to the door in the screen, which, in turn, opened into the chapel. Around the four pillars and this platform was a narrow passageway, and close on the three sides of it were the stands for the royal family, the foreign kings and princes, the ambassadors and the visiting commissioners. These stands were covered with rich scarlet, like the plink of a hunting coat, and ran back to the wall.

Visitors Had to Stand.

There were no seats anywhere except the three thrones. Back of the stands were the painted and gilded walls. Before them was the passageway separating them from the platform or dais, with the four grand pillars at each corner.

On the dais under the canopy were the three thrones, and facing them the wall or screen of gold running to the roof and hiding the sanctuary and altar.

Any one in any part of the room could have spoken in an ordinary tone and been heard by every one in it, and those farthest from the Czar were never more than fifteen feet distant at any time.

I dwell on this so persistently because the word cathedral has given an entirely false idea of the peculiar arrangement of this chapel.

Celebrities at the Ceremony.

It is difficult to know if the coronation was of as much interest as the collection of celebrated people, as marvellous as the service of the Greek Church, or as important as the solemn ceremony of a great power.

On the three stands were men of the world in the biggest sense of the term—men who had met before to divide it up among themselves, who had fought for large tracts of it, who ruled over great parts of it, and who had come from every corner of it to do honor to two young people.

There was the Marquis Yamagata, who had met the giant of Eastern diplomacy, Chang, as David met Goliath, and had overthrown him. There was the Crown Prince of Siam, and the French Ambassador, who had made him a dependant on that republic. There was the Queen of Gondah, wrapped in a green shawl, with her bare brown arm, hidden in bracelets, her bare feet in jeweled sandals, and next to her the civilized Queen of Greece in furs and diamonds. There were cardinals of the Roman Church, bishops of the English Church with mitres, and monks from Dalmatia in blue velvet robes, crowded amicably together.

There was the Duke of Connaught and his brother, of Edinburgh, under his latest title, the Duke of Coburg-Gotha; the Prince of Greece, who, a month ago, ran hand in hand down the Stadium at Athen with the peasant who won the race from Marathon, and the contemptible Ferdinand of Bulgaria, who

made his child renounce his fathers' faith to gain favor in Russia's eyes.

There was Prince Kilkoff, who studied railroads in the Altoona shops in Pennsylvania, and who is now Minister of Russian Railroads. There was Sir Edwin Arnold, taking notes for the Daily Telegraph, covered with orders of India and the Orient, and Sir Mackenzie Wallace, doing the same thing for the Times. In a court dress of gold that outshone Sir Edwin's orders, if not his paragraphs.

There were six official representatives of the United States—the American Minister and Mrs. Breckinridge, General and Mrs. McCook, Admiral Selfridge and Mrs. Pierce, wife of the First Secretary of the Legation.

Of the American newspapers, the Journal and the Herald were the only ones having their own correspondents in the church, and, as the Herald correspondent was an Englishman, Lewis Moore, of the United Press, and myself were the only Americans not of the official party who witnessed the ceremony. The Dowager Empress entered first, and forty priests, with long beards and long hair and vestments stiff with gold, received her, their mitres, like great kettles, glittering with jewels. She wore a crown of diamonds and a dress of silver cloth, necklaces and belts of diamonds, and the collar of St. Andrew in diamonds resting on her mantle.

She seated herself on the throne to the left of the platform. The throne was of silver and studded with 880 diamonds. She was deeply moved, and was weeping when she entered, and continued to show her emotion throughout the three hours of the ceremony.

The foreign princes and princesses followed her, the former going to the right of the dais, the latter to the left. A herald in a suit of gold with a gold trumpet came next, followed by Ministers of the Court, bearing the insignia on cushions. Then came the royal robes of ermine carried by four of the grand dukes, who literally staggered under their weight. During this procession the priests chanted a weird, eerie melody, without accompaniment.

Royal Pair Appears.

To its music came the Emperor and Empress. He wore the dark blue uniform of the First Foot Guards, and was very pale. He had been fasting for many hours. The young Empress was inexpressibly beautiful, showing that graceful contour of face which her photograph have made familiar. She was so simply dressed that, in comparison with the ladies of the Court and the Princesses and wives of Ambassadors rising in tiers around her, she was the most feminine looking woman in the Cathedral. She wore a dress of white satin and silver. Her shoulders were bare, even of straps; her hair was without ornament, and hung in two plaits, one over each shoulder. Around her neck was a single string of pearls.

In the mass of stars and diamond ornaments all about her the contrast was striking. She seated herself on the throne of ivory-carved figures to the right of the Emperor, who sat on the large throne of silver, carved with turquoise.

Opening of the Ceremonies.

The aged Metropolitan of St. Petersburg held up a prayer before the Emperor, who read it deliberately and distinctly, standing with his hands hanging at his side.

The priest of the Gospel followed the Emperor with a prayer, and the Empress and greater part of the assemblage crossed themselves meanwhile.

Then two Grand Dukes, his uncle, Vladimir, and young brother, Alexander, took the collars of the different orders from the Emperor's neck and lifted the ermine mantle to his shoulders. It was fifteen feet in length, of gold cloth, covered with double eagles, embroidered with silk and precious stones, and with a cape of ermine. Over this was placed the diamond collar of St. Andrew.

The Czar Crowns Himself.

Then the Czar received the crown from the Metropolitan and placed it on his own head and took the globe and scepter in either hand.

In the head of the scepter was the Orloff diamond, for which the Russian Government paid the Orloff family \$1,000,000 and ennobled them.

The Empress knelt before the Czar, and he lifted his crown and touched it for an instant to his head, replaced it and put



Olga De Bodisco, Maid of Honor to the Czarina of Russia.

This young girl is the daughter of an American woman. Her mother was Charlotte Barton, a well-known belle of Washington, D. C., who in 1868 married the Russian Ambassador to this country, the Baron De Bodisco. Miss Olga was born in Russia, her godmother being the mother of the present Czar. Miss De Bodisco is a great favorite at the Russian Court. She visited relatives in Waterbury, Conn., six years ago.

her smaller crown upon her head, holding it there while three of the oldest ladies of the court fastened it to her hair with long pins. Her robe, similar to his own, was put on her shoulders and supported at each side, on account of its enormous weight, by the Grand Dukes Sergius and Paul. Then their Majesties seated themselves upon the throne.

At that moment the bell of the tower of Ivan Velky, which gives the time to all the thousands of bells in Moscow, jarred the air with the great news which it was the first to tell, and from steeple to steeple, and belfry to belfry, all over the great city, the signal was tossed like thousands of echoes, and the heavens seemed to shake with the clamor and rejoicings, so that while you could see your neighbor's lips moving, you could not hear his voice.

Great Chorus of Bells.

It seemed as though the sound of that great chorus of beating iron and brass must be heard all over Russia, that it would carry the news across the steppes to the upper Ural and startle the

heron in the lonely marshes, and south to the sunny hills of the Crimea and north to the ice fields of Finland and the Arctic Ocean, to the salt mines of Siberia, and at last to the harbor of Constadt, where the great Russian warships lay waiting at anchor and thundered back their answer to the bells with broadside after broadside, from their monster guns.

That was to me the more impressive part of the ceremony, with the exception of the congratulations.

Congratulating the Couple.

All that followed was reading and chanting by the priests, both Emperor and Empress remaining passive spectators. The Empress Dowager was the first to present her felicitations. She did this by kissing the Czar three times. She kissed the Empress twice, and then the Grand Dukes kissed him on the mouth or cheek and bowed and kissed the Empress's hand. They were followed by foreign Princes, the Duke of Connaught leading. He kissed the Emperor in a most un-English way, but also kissed the Empress, which no one else did. The



INTERIOR OF THE CHAPEL IN WHICH THE CORONATION CEREMONIES WERE HELD. The cross indicates the raised dais upon which the Czar and Czarina stood during the ceremony of the crowning.