

## Buffalo Bill and the King and Queen of England

The King and Queen of England paid me the honor of a visit. Seventeen years ago, when he was Prince of Wales, I met the present King. I have always considered Edward VII. one of the wisest rulers in the world, and am proud to add that I am of the showfolk whom he did not eliminate from his acquaintances on donning the dignified ermine of a monarch.

I received my royal guests in the Palmery, a section of the Olympia, which gains its name from a number of palms which have been utilized to produce the effect of an indoor grove. After the usual exchange of courtesies and my introduction to the Queen, the latter expressed a desire to see the papooses who accompanied their Indian parents with the show. Four in number they were immediately summoned, and afforded quite a bit of amusement to the King and Queen, who were interested by the paradoxical mixture of Indian somberness and childish curiosity in the savage tots.

"Howdy!" they grunted, when introduced to His Majesty, and their conversation was limited to that one word.

"Howdy?" they repeated when presented to the Queen, and no additional syllable would they utter.

It seems odd to associate an umbrella with a King: but it was a rainy day, and as King Edward's tendencies are somewhat democratic, he had brought this rain stick to the performance. On entering the Palmery he deposited it in a corner.

It was silk and gold handle, inscribed with a crest, and caught the wary eye of Cracking Ice, one of the Indian braves, age five years. The noble little red man spoke a few words in his native tongue to his noble little brethren, whereupon they gradually sidled toward the handsome umbrella. While the attention of the King was momentarily distracted, Cracking Ice grabbed the rain stick and ran as swiftly as his little legs would carry him toward his father's tepee, which was set up in a distant corner of the Palmery.

Attracted by the skurrying youngster, the monarch turned and exclaimed, "By Jove, he has stolen my umbrella!" and without further ado, jumping from his chair, he chased the tiny culprit under the palms, through passageways, around the tepees, and into a corner, where he finally captured little Cracking Ice, and presented him with the umbrella.

Naturally, I was highly incensed; but Queen Alexandra laughed heartily when the King returned from the chase and declared he had not enjoyed himself so much since he was a youngster in knee breeches. This incident has since been made subject of a painting, which shows Cracking Ice in full flight, with the King of England in pursuit, reaching for the umbrella, which the savage youngster is dragging behind him.—Col. Geo. F. Cody—Stories of the Wild West Show.

### Secret Writing.

According to Prof. Gross of Germany the following method of secret writing is used in prisons. It may interest some of our readers to test it: "Take a sheet of

common writing paper, moisten it well with clear water, and lay it on a hard, smooth surface, such as glass, tin, stone, etc. After removing carefully all air bubbles from the sheet, place upon it another dry sheet of equal size and write upon it your communication with a sharp pointed pencil or a simple piece of pointed hard wood. Then destroy the dry paper upon which the writing had been done, and allow the wet paper to dry by exposing it to the air (but not to the heat of fire or to the flame of a lamp). When dry not a trace of the writing will be visible. But on moistening the sheet again with clear water and holding it against the light, the writing can be read in a clear transparency. It disappears again after drying in the air, and may be reproduced by moistening a great number of times. Should the sheets be too much heated, however, the writing will disappear, never to reappear again."

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