

**QUEEN MARY AND ‘GLADSTONE PROCLAMATION’
REGINA MARIA ȘI “MANIFESTUL DE LA GLADSTONE”**

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Abstract

After Ferdinand’s death, even if he gave up the throne, prince Carol tried many times to come back. One of these actions was “Gladstone Proclamation”. In a letter which was written on May 19th 1928, Queen Mary will express her disapproval with Carol’s acts, asking him to respect Ferdinand’s order.

Key words: Queen Mary, prince Carol, throne, ‘Gladstone Proclamation’

The letter which I present you makes part from the correspondence established between Queen Mary and her son in the Regency period, which means July 1927 - June 1930. Everything started in December 1925, when Prince Carol gave up the throne for the second time. This fact provoked “the dynastical crisis”. Constantin Hiott, the ministry of the Royal House, was charged to bring Carol back to the country. He came back with the act of Carol’s renunciation in which the Prince declared: “I irrevocably renounce at all my rights, titles and prerogatives which I enjoyed by the Constitution and the statute of the Royal Family until today like successor and member of the Reigning Family”. He also renounced at the rights which he had by the law on his son Mihai and his fortune, and also he took the obligation not return in the country for ten years from that moment, and after the ending of this period not to come back without sovereigns permission. King Ferdinand convoked the Crown Council on December 31st 1925, which established the meeting of the National Assembly for Monday on January 4th 1926. The king had the agreement of the political leaders regarding the assignments of prince Mihai as heir prince. In this way, the parliament adopted the law by which Mihai was proclaimed heir prince and the law which created the Regency (in the case of King Ferdinand’s death, the Regency took this prerogatives).

On July 20th 1927 was announced the death of the one who was crowned the King of all Romanians.

The regency formed by prince Nicolae, the patriarch Miron Cristea and Gheorghe Buzdugan, the president of the Highest Court of Cassation and Justice sworn in before the minor King Mihai the First. Although, the liberal government took measures for keep the act from January 4th 1926, this thing didn’t stop the development of a powerful current pro Carol, a current sustained mainly by the

political enemies of the liberals, the national - peasant. The liberals were so much afraid of return Carol that the ministry of Internal Affairs, I. Gh. Duca, at the suggestion of Ion I. C. Brătianu, made a document entitled 'Permanent instructions regarding a virtual illicit return in the country of the former prince Carol', that stated in the case of finding Carol of the border that it was forbidden for him to enter the country; if he was inside the country he had to be arrested and rapidly brought to Bucharest; if he refused it was indicate the arresting by force and even the use of a gun.

The fears of the authorities were justified knowing the irresponsibility of the former prince who immediately after the death of King Ferdinand will declare his wish to become the king of Romania.

Queen Mary insisted in the first part of this period to respect the wishes of King Ferdinand, in other words to prevent Carol to come back on the throne. But the former prince disobeyed his mother's advices and he acted to change the situation imposed on January 4th 1926.

The national - peasant tried to make an agreement with Carol to collaborate against the liberals. It was meant to synchronize certain events, so as the former heir prince to come back in the country on May 6th 1928, right on the day when The National Peasant Party organized the Assembly from Alba Iulia.

Being in England from April 28th 1928, Carol declared in an interview at "Evening news" that in December 1925 he didn't leave the country for a women. At the same occasion he spoke in the favor of The National Peasant Party, a fact explained by carol's interests. He was in a situation when the support of the political enemies of the liberals, enemies that were quite popular at that time, was bringing good political capital for himself, and on the other hand he wished to gain the confidence of the foreign capitalists.

The presented letter is dated May 19th 1928, and it was written by Queen Mary at Cotroceni as a retort at the events happened in England in the same month. At May 5th 1928 in London it was broadcasted the 'Gladstone Proclamation'. In which carol stated the fact that he had left the country without his will, forced by 'miserable circumstances' of a political and matrimonial nature, clearly declaring his intention to come back to the Romania's throne: "I want to come back through your will to lead Romania to the rank that it deserves in the world and to continue the work of our two Great Kings. I wish to come back to my child and make him a dignified descendant the dynasty!"

A creation of the pro Carol group from the country, the Proclamation had on the first page the following words: "Romanians! Do not forgive the son of King Ferdinand". Next to the Carol's picture who was wearing the uniform of Air Force general, his signature and the mention "In Exile". The proclamation didn't arrive in the country, being confiscated at Budapest by the Romanian Legation. In conformity with the plan, it had to arrive on May 6th 1928 four days later. Carol was to be

proclaimed king of Romania. Carol himself was expected at the Assembly of The National Peasant Party organized in Alba Iulia. The British authorities forbid him to leave the country by air. In this way, Carol failed in his attempt to come back on the throne.

The letter shows the pain, the disappointment that Carol's action provoked on Queen Mary. She was expressing her hope that Carol was influenced by others and not by his own will, and in the future he will not act against his country. The reproachful tone is often used in mother's son correspondence. She is also asking him to accept his divorce with the mother queen Elena. Queen Mary knew that the national - peasant in the exchange of their support for returning on the throne, asked Carol to break the relations with Elena Lupescu and rebuilt his marriage. It was a movement of the liberals and Queen Mary was solidary with it, in order to conserve the act of January 4th 1926. Another subject of the letter was that of the stamp collection of King Ferdinand, which entered Carol's possession, a fact confirmed by a letter written for his mother on January 16th 1929.

Cotroceni, May 19th 1928

My dear Carol,

What can I Say! The least the better I think. I thought you had murdered my heart already sufficiently, but after the cruel and humiliating happenings in England, I realized that there was still too much of it left; for indeed my grief and shame has been indescribable!

It is simply horrible to think that you returned thus to your mother's country! - You who had been its honorable guest not only in England but also all round the world in some of this most splendid colonies - and now!

But the words I would have to say are too terrible; it is better they should not be pronounced - My mother's heart clings to the thought that it is not of your own free will that you chose to act as you have done, but that it was others, who one day will be responsible before god, who gave you such wicked advice. You have torn yourself away from all those who truly loved you, to live amongst and listen to people who use you as a pawn in some dark game of their own, but you do not see it, no piece of warning touched your heart, it was as thus purposely they were thrusting you further and further down into their own mire! - and now what next!

If there is a scrap of the old Carol who was my son, still in you, listen to Condeescu and agree to the inevitable separation in the most dignified way possible: by mutual consent. No recriminations on either side, simply the breaking of link which has become but a force - of which you made a farce.

I see alas the day I longed for, the day when we would meet again, retreating further and further away, you have thrown in your lot with those who separate us from you more and more.

As to the stamps, Condeescu will explain; it seems I had no right to give these to you, being of enormous value they are the possession of all Papa's children. They are now being evaluated and according to the value you will then have to arrange things with your brother and sisters. I have no claim to them but also it seems I had no right to dispose of them. Your brother and your sisters are living useful lives, honorable lives, I cannot ask them to give up a share upon something of such value for one who has cast them aside - for what?

I am sad to have to say such things, but alas they are facts.

One moment after Papa's death I thought we had come close to each other - but you did not follow up the road I had opened.

Well, God is still above us - one day perhaps you will realize that these you began life with loved and honored, with a beautiful future before you, can still be a refuge after you have gone to the end of every hope.

I repeat the same words: The roads of this world are manifold, but a mother's heart can be found at the end of each when comes the day when with all your heart you will need it - only remember I am no more as young as I was.

Mama