Dark Times

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London Falling?

Margery Houndsworth-Stone, Clan Toreador, Ancilla, Harpy of London

London has seen the greatest shake up in its political landscape for the last thousand years. Ventrue Justicar Ulysian Thraces ruling in favour of elder John Houblon surprised many at the assembly held at Tower of London on the night of the 15th of March. From the outset Houblon's position looked strong with his most prominent supporters being the prince or representatives from the fifes of Aberdeen, Inverness, Manchester & Liverpool, Severn and Cruithni's fife of Carlisle, Dumfries & Galloway. His support though did not end inside of London, the elder Tremere Sir Colman Rashleigh and the first Baron Edward Bulwer-Lytton also were quick to lend their support.



Anne's support in comparison seemed a little lacking with only prince Wallace from outside the domain initially supporting her. This changed quickly when the new old prince of Glasgow, Viscount Charles August Aldworth took the stage and delivered a rousing speech to the assembled masses. After that the rising star of David Stone, the power broker from York openly declared his support for prince Anne as well as most of the existing power structure of London as well as the esteemed elder Alexander Drummond.

Things seemed to going Anne's way when elder de Bourbon declared his support for Houblon. Elder Chauncey, the seneshal of Glasgow tried to follow in prince Aldworth's footsteps but his attempt at a speech was sabotaged by Anne's camp to the point of actually being a little comical. He proved though that speaking in front of the assembled ruling elite of Britain is no mean feat and to this day I am not actually sure which side he was supporting.

All this though was suddenly rendered moot when elder Carter Branch, primogen of London and former prince of Norfolk accompanied by ancilla Leslie Boothe, primogen of Birmingham burst into the room. If the unexpected and sudden appearance of two kindred who both have been missing for a number of years didn't arouse interest then their getup certainly did. Carter Branch's expensive doublet sported a large bloodstained hole over his heart both at the front and the back with the area around it soaked in dried blood. Leslie looked worse, his clothes covered head to toe in blood spatter and his face caked in dried blood.

Both delivered tails of being ambushed by prince Anne's agents when they had accepted her hospitality to

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discuss matters of state and then placed staked in custody. Carter Branch then proceeded to announce himself once more prince of the domain of Norfolk and dared anyone who wished to oppose his claim to come forward there and then and settle this matter in front of the justicar. No one accepted this challenge and instead we heard some arguments, mostly between prince Aldworth and primogen Branch about the legitimacy of his claim. Interesting to note was that Prince Aldworth, who has a little reputation for blood-lust, seemed to suggest that getting ambushed whilst enjoying someone elses' hospitality was, and I quote, "fair and square in the timeless fashion" maybe more of those rumours are true then previously I believed.

Anne dismissed the claims as an attempt by Houblon to weaken her position and said that after she had delt with Houblon she would see to primogen Carter.

It is though fair to say that her lack of meeting the challenge head on as well as the sheer credibility of the facts in the tale cost her quite a bit of her support. After all, if even your own primogen might be assaulted then what would stop her assaulting any of those supporting her when their opinions differ.

What followed was a lot of last minute frantic activity but a couple of hours before sunrise justicar Thraces delivered his recommendation. He deemed elder Houblon to be the best suited candidate to bring stability to London and Britain. He then asked whether anyone was not willing to follow elder Houblon as Prince of London. Only Anne, her childe Gillespie Wright and her close advisor voiced their opposition the justicar strongy suggested to them that they might wish to leave the domain within the week to avoid unnecessary conflict.

So here we are now, not only has London got a new prince and more then likely will have new representatives in the various office soon but politics all across Britain will dramatically change following these developments.

Charles the second

Dark Times staff writers

Over the last couple of years, Glasgow has managed to claw its way back from the brink of destruction, finally re-establishing itself as a domain to be reckoned with. In the coming contest to decide the future of London, it was set to play a substantial role in determining the outcome, and all looked to see how Prince Rothschilde would declare.

However, from this exalted height, the city has been thrown into desperate turmoil once more, as Prince Rothschilde steps down and power is regained by the Tyrant Aldworth. The loss of a subtle and deft ruler, who had the notorious Glasgow O lose their contract and fade away, in favour of a brutal man, whose attempt to deal with the same problem resulted in Masquerade threats galore.

The timing is at least suspicious, coming so close to the determination of the future of London. A desperate last ditch effort by Queen Anne to cement a little more support for her claim? And can anyone be sure of the fate of Prince Rothschilde?

Whatever the reason though, it can only be a problem for Glasgow. Aldworth’s last rule was marked by the disappearance and death of a spate of Elders, and even the dissenting voice of this publication was attacked. Aldworth dislikes competition as much as he dislikes the truth.

We can only hope that his reign is too short-lived too damage the city further. Perhaps with Anne now gone from London, he will lack the clout to maintain his role. However matters unfold, we will continue to report them, and we will continue to be heard. Watch this space…

Glasgow's Vision

Dark Times editor-in-chief

Glasgow's Vision?

Certain members of the Court of Glasgow have proven themselves remarkably short sighted this month, as a group led by simpleton Sheriff Angus Macdonald, delved into the sewers to hunt down a respected member of the Camarilla, who has been a valued citizen of Glasgow for longer than the little coterie combined.

Sheriff Angus led a small group consisting of Mary Jezabelle, childe of Dr Hooksley, Aaron, another childe of Malkav and unremarkable in every respect and the anarch Nicolai. While some might wish to make excuses of those four short sighted individuals I would have expected more from any childe of Hooksley at least. I have heard rumours abound whether some are even starting to consider sheriff Angus as an elder of the Camarilla but no elder, no matter how recently accepted into the ruling elite would have gone hunting without performing even rudimentary research into who it was they were hunting.

The constantly shifting political landscape of the city, and its many changes in leadership over recent years, should not override the more lasting alliances and powers at play, which existed before, and will continue after the current residents have become bored or dust.

It might have been expected that a little caution would be exercised during such a change in leadership, and the city officials would be less keen to rush headlong into destructive actions. However, Aldworth's record does not make this likely, and it seems he has not learned anything in the period between his spells in charge of Glasgow.

Corruption in High Places

Dark Times staff writers

Shocking headlines emerged early last month, as mere days after the Lord Provost standing down unexpectedly, a series of images came to light which showed the Provost and a councilor for Ibrox and Govan engaging in highly criminal activity.

Police immediately seized the pictures from the tabloid newspaper responsible for publishing them, including many others held which were simply too graphic for publication. The police then arrested the former Provost on charges which ranged from possession of Class A drugs, to sexual conduct with minors.

Meanwhile, the ongoing trial of the councilor suffered some unexpected troubles, with many items of crucial evidence being excluded due to procedural improprieties. However, the case against him remains compelling, even prior to these latest allegations, which police are expected to charge him with following the conclusion of the current trial.

The dramatic turn around for these men cannot be overstated. From positions of authority and power, in only a few short months, their reputations and their standing have been destroyed, and even if they are not convicted, surely their political careers are at an end.

Great Britain By Night

Margery Houndsworth-Stone, Clan Toreador, Ancilla, Harpy of London

Dear Faithful Readers,
the momentous events in London are certainly over shadowing whatever else might be going on in the country but since the 15th of March a lot of changes have occurred which I wish to cover. Firstly prince Houblon has formerly ratified Carter Branch's separation from the domain of London and all the lands Carter held 5 years ago are his once more. Both prince Wallace of Birmingham and the Duke of York have also agreed to those borders and therefore for the moment Britain has another domain. Prince

Branch has appointed the first Baron Edward Bulwer-Lytton, elder of the Camarilla, as Seneshal of Norfolk. His other appointments are still outstanding.

Meanwhile in London Prince Houblon has appointed Sir Colman Rashleigh, of London, elder of the Camarilla as his seneshal. It is surprising to see the first member of clan Tremere to be given an office to be elevated to the highest office in Houblon's court, a change that will some getting used to. Further appointments are pending.

Before I come to the shortened official part of this I have one last rumour I have heard a number of times in the recent weeks. Mainly that "The Whitechapel Murderer" has been sighted again for the first time since the eighteen eighties. Better known as Jack the ripper, this particular member of the kindred scene had not been sighted in London since the end of his killing spree in 1888/1891 but within mere days Houblon's takeover of power a new body was found in a multi-story car-park on Duval Street, within less than a hundred yards from where Mary Jane Kelly was found in 1888. Is this the first attempt to weaken Houblon?

Let it be know that Lady Anne Bowesley, of Birmingham, elder of the Camarilla, prince Aldworth of Glasgow, elder of the Camarilla, Parson Orr, formerly of London, elder of the Camarilla and Cameron Swift, of London, elder of the Camarilla are exiled from the domain of Norfolk. Should they be found within its borders their claim to the blood has been revoked and their destruction authorised by prince Branch and a reward has been offered to anyone who performs this service to the domain.

Let it be know that Tom Cullen, of Glasgow, neonate of the Camarilla, is indebted to Julius Montgomery, baron of the south of Glasgow, ancilla of the Camarilla.

Let it be know that Poppy Young, of Glasgow, ancilla of the Camarilla, is substantially indebted to Charles Augustus Aldworth, prince of Glasgow, elder of the Camarilla.

Let it be know that Nathan Kyte, of Glasgow, ancilla of the Camarilla, is indebted to Viscount Charles Augustus Aldworth, prince of Glasgow, elder of the Camarilla.

Let it be know that Charles Augustus Aldworth, Prince of Glasgow, elder of the Camarilla is indebted to Nathan Kyte, of Glasgow, ancilla of the Camarilla.

Dark Times is accepting submissions.
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