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### Silly and Disreputable Hoax

The authorities of the University and Town of Cambridge, and a large number of the inhabitants, were on Saturday last the victims of a most outrageously silly hoax, perpetrated by some very wisp person or persons who will probably before long wish they had been less clever. Somewhere about eleven o'clock on Saturday morning a telegraphic message was found lying on the hallkeeper's table in the vestibule of the Guildhall. It was in a proper envelope, and was directed to The Worshipful the Mayor of Cambridge." The person finding it lying there at once handed it to the Mayor's clerk, by whom it was delivered to His Worship. On opening it, the Mayor found it read as follows:

"From Lieut-Col. Hamilton, Crew, To the Worshipful the Mayor of Cambridge.

"His Imperial Majesty the Shah of Persia desires to visit your University town to-day, en route for London special, arriving at Cambridge station about 1.10. Be prepared with escort and reception as far as time allow."

The form bore the Cambridge stamp and date, and to all appearances was a perfectly genuine message. That the Mayor did not doubt its correctness his subsequent acts testify. The Town Clerk was sent for, and communications made to the Vice-Chancellor, the members of the Corporation, and the officers of the Volunteer Rifle Corps, to attend at the railway station to meet His Majesty. The news spread rapidly; the principal streets speedily became o'er-canopied with flags, and people began to assemble all the various places supposed to afford a good opportunity of witnessing His Persian Majesty on his visit. The route which it was supposed would be taken was along Hills, Lensfield, and Trumpington roads to King's-parade, and all along these roads people assembled in large numbers. At the railway station, the Vice-Chancellor (the Rev. Dr. Cookson), the Mayor (T. H. Naylor), accompanied by the Town Clerk and a large number of the members of the Town Council, attended to receive the distinguished guest, whilst the Rifle Volunteers, under the command of Captains Clay, Fuller and Beales, were drawn on the platform to form a guard of honour. We cannot say that suspicions had not already been excited as to the bond fide character of the affair, and these were rendered almost doubly certain by the fact that the railway authorities had received no intimation of the arrival of any special train, and after staying on the platform for some little time the unpleasant conviction that it was malicious hoax forced itself upon all. and the Vice-Chancellor and the other functionaries left. Subsequently, searching investigation has taken place, and the perpetrators, who have been laughing

in their sleeves at the success of their hoax, will before long find themselves in a far more unpleasant position than they bargained for.