

DER KAISER VON DEUTSCHLAND.

How little the world changes! Hark once again to the shouts of the chiefs of the tribes as they raise Tchongis Khan on their shields on the field of battle, and salute him Emperor of the World! That is one view of this elevation of King William to the Imperial throne, and a poetical one; but then it is also a cynical and a partially untrue one. It would be far truer to fall back on much more prosaic morality, to repeat a sentence which would do for a copybook, and say, see how far one gets by the aid of even humble every-day virtues like fidelity to one's work, or to contrast, after Hogarth's fashion, the Hapsburgs and the Hohenzollerns, the idle and the industrious Apprentices to the trade of governing mankind. The condition of existence for the Kaisers after the Thirty Years' war ended, was that they should become again what the Roman Caesar was supposed to have been—the large-hearted arbiter of mankind, the ultimate judge to whom nations when wronged could appeal, a sovereign to whom kings could bow without loss of dignity, or fear that the decision would be against him. That was the condition of existence for the Kaisers after the Thirty Years' war ended, was that they should become again what the Roman Caesar was supposed to have been—the large-hearted arbiter of mankind, the ultimate judge to whom nations when wronged could appeal, a sovereign to whom kings could bow without loss of dignity, or fear that the decision would be against him. That was the condition of existence for the Kaisers after the Thirty Years' war ended, was that they should become again what the Roman Caesar was supposed to have been—the large-hearted arbiter of mankind, the ultimate judge to whom nations when wronged could appeal, a sovereign to whom kings could bow without loss of dignity, or fear that the decision would be against him.

than mere drill, and the justice desired of them not the justice defined in the old sentence, "justice to all men, but to Hohenzollerns first." "Let Fritz have it," says the King; and he who chose Bismarck and Von Moltke, who gives to his ablest enemy of 1866 the supreme command north-east of Paris, and trusts to the only Prince of his House who might found an Orleans branch—for Frederick Charles is head of a party—the command of the most active of his armies, may be right once more, though such insight might seem above him, and the Crown Prince may be the man best fitted to wear the new Imperial Crown, and play the part Germany, deep in its heart, expects from the successor of Frederick Barbarossa. If he is—and all Germany suspects him of being war and loving liberty—Europe may yet have no reason to repent of the most bizarre, possibly the most important event of our time—the recrowning of the German Emperor in the year which has seen the Pope-King discredited. But if he is not? The effect of the change of title depends so absolutely on the reign of the first Emperor who shall bear it for any time that it is scarcely worth discussion. Two points only may be accepted as certain. One is that the Kaisership will make unity slightly easier, by giving Germany a visible head, supported by traditional reverence as well as popular feeling, and by removing the jealousy of the sub-kings, which, meaningless now, might be full of menace hereafter should Germany ever again be struggling in the grasp of a foe. Men hate or love their admitted superiors, but they are not jealous of them. And the second is, that a German Emperor will in his heart consider all German men his subjects, will sigh for the lost valley of the Danube, and look wistfully northward along the Baltic coast. Whether he will desire to "recover his subjects" by conquest or by attraction—by the sword, as in Holstein, or by the drawing force of a nobler and more massive national life, as in Gotha and Baden—is the doubt with which Europe for years to come will be disturbed; but that he will so desire there is no room for doubt whatever, and it will be well for the freedom and the diversity of Europe if he desires no more. Beaten in Paris or victorious, the Kaiser of Germany reigns from the Baltic to the Italian frontier, from the Silesian plateau far beyond the Rhine.

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