THE JENNINGS ESTATE.

There are, it is said, eleven ways of spelling Jennings, the name by which the famous English fortune of nearly millions of pounds sterling, that is reputed to be going a-begging for a claimant, is known. Now if each of these eleven ways was multiplied by a hundred it would convey a somewhat limited idea of the number of Americans who claim relationship with the great original politics Jennings, and each of whom indulge in the hope of securing a cool million or two at the final "cutting-up." The London *Times*, in a recent number, gives the histories of this much-talked-of estate, and as there are doubtless a number of Jennings who regularly read the BULLETIN, we give the substance of both statements, that all who are interested may have all possible light upon the interesting subject. One correspondent of the *Times*, a Mr. Hargrave Jennings, says:

"This enormous property, variously estimated at from two to seven millions sterling, and including estates in eleven counties in England, and money in all the old banks in London, is still in Chancery. It was left by an extraordinary miser named William Jennings, described in the *Annual Register* of 1796 as the "richest commoner in England." He was born in 1701, and died at his seat, Acton Hall, near Long-Melford, Suffolk, instanced as one of the most splendid private edifices in Great Britain, and boasting a ballroom (which was never once used) constructed at a cost of £30,000. Notwithstanding his incalculable wealth, no man were the habits of this old man that he lived in the underground story of his great house, permitting, for the space of nearly thirty years, the approach of no woman. He died unmarried and childless, and left no will. The Baroness Howe, daughter of the celebrated Admiral Lord Howe, took possession of the old man's property, through a claim of intermarriage between a member of the Jennings family with that of the Counts. Administration was, however, not granted for eighteen years—a significant fact.

"William Jennings was the godson of King William III., and served as page to that monarch. In connection also with his family at this period were Sarah Jennings, afterwards Duchess of Marlborough; Frances Jennings (her sister), Marchioness of Tyrconnell, wife of Richard Talbot, the Lord Deputy of Ireland for King James II.; and, little as it is supposed—Miss Hills, afterwards Duchess, rival and successor of the Duchess in the affections and favor of Queen Anne. Mrs. Masham; in reality the creator of the fortunes of Harley, Earl of Oxford. Mrs. Masham was a cousin to the Duchess of Marlborough, and was introduced at Court by her. Frances, the Marchioness of Tyrconnell, was, in the days of her distress, the celebrated "white milliner" appearing in the domestic history of George I., and commemorated in a modern comedy. Sonnie Jennyns, the philosopher, and constantly (meaning there are eleven different ways of spelling the name), the possessor of three fortunes, which, unfortunately, died in poverty in 1818, in the Rules of the King's Bench Prison, and who is known as "Dog Jennings," on account of his purchase of "Alcibiades' Dog," were also of this family. The supposed figure of "Alcibiades' Dog" cost 2,000 guineas. However, the public interest in regard to a property and a story which read more like romance than plain matter of fact, rests in the circumstance that the property is still in litigation, new claimants appearing every day. Earl Howe, Earl Beauchamp, and other members of aristocratic rank, claiming affinity (though remote) with the original family, are in possession, although the claim has been already protested against, of this extensive property. Altogether this attraction of the great property lying open to the heirship of some possible undiscovered yet, if all discoverable, draws claimants not only from the United States, but to my familiar knowledge, from the Cape of Good Hope, India and Australia. I omit Ireland and Canada, which countries have sent to England claimants in profusion, with the proper proportion of heirs-at-law and prospective fanciers. Such is a story of wealth, as asserted by Mr. Hargrave Jennings, it has been held, and as regards the real estate idle merely held, for so long a period of time that no person, however good the root of his title might originally have been, can in the face of the Statute of *Limitations* of 32 and 5th of William IV., cap. 27, now recover the real estate from the present possessor, who is, in my opinion, also the rightful owner, while as regards the personal estate it is not at all probable that any person can successfully call upon the legal representatives of the original administrators to account after the lapse of so many years.

"I am afraid, also, that your correspondent would have some difficulty in connecting either Sarah Jennyns, the philosopher, Constantine Jennings, the purchaser of "Alcibiades' Dog," or the celebrated Sarah Jennings, Duchess of Marlborough, with the family of the deceased millionaire.

THE EMPEROR THEODORE.

A Sketch of the Abyssinian Monarch.

The following is a description of Theodore II., taken from a book published last year in France by a gentleman for some time French Vice-Consul at Massowah:

"The man on whose head now rests the lot of Abyssinia is forty-six years of age. He is of average stature, of an imposing carriage, and of an open and sympathetic physiognomy. His features, less regular than those of most Abyssinians, are expressive and changeable, and have none of that borrowed dignity which marks certain Oriental faces with solemn insignificance. The look is lively and piercing; the distinct lines of the profile well express the firm will which has enthralled the freest and least docile people of the East. Rigorous toward others in matters of religion the Negus has emancipated himself in matters of costume and affects a simplicity which, however, never becomes bad taste. A simple soldier's coat, a pair of trousers and a belt from which hang pistols and an English sword, and over all a *chmaar*, or embroidered toga—this is his habitual costume. It has sometimes happened that Europeans presented to him have hesitated among the crowd of silk parapetts (*ambrellas*) which surround him, and committed blunders which have much diverted him. This disdain of luxury governs all his acts. The furniture of his tent is of the simplest, while his residences at Magdala and Debra Tabor are encumbered with silks and stuffs from France and India. In the field he wears the coarse black infantry jacket, by his side hangs a belt the page charged with his state shield covered with blue velvet leather and imperial lilies. That which at first is the most striking in Theodore is happy combination of sagacity and force, especially of force. Born proud, violent, and inclined to pleasure, he commands his passions in this sense—that they never make him overstep the limits he has marked out for himself. He has been unmistakably given to drunkenness, and on this subject the late French Consul has collected some information. He is very sober, eats little, drinks more, but never up to any marked overexcitement, far less to coarse drunkenness, more worthy of a yokel or Mandingo King than of a sovereign of Christian Abyssinia. As to women, they have never had the least influence on his public life, always excepting his first wife, the good and injured Tiruwork, belie, for whom he had always a sort of worship. The legal spouse, however, the faithful companion at his days of trial, and when he lost her he mourned for her long and deeply, and death a chastisement which heaven inflicted on him for having buried a woman alive at Gondar. Tiruwork had kept him in the simple life and pious practices of an Abyssinian of the old time, and when she died he lived eighteen months in the strictest continence. A marriage of ambition has been the single exception to the resolutions since made public. To put an end, by a kind of fusion, to the pretensions of the house of Oubie, he married, about six years ago, the daughter of the latter, the young and beautiful Terounche, who had throughout Abyssinia the reputation of an accomplished Princess. Why, accomplished, indeed, she had scarcely any defect but the obstinate pride which is a very general character with Abyssinians of a certain rank. For two or three years the most perfect union reigned in this household. Theodore had for his graceful partner a tenderness in which pride had no small part, and when she had given him a child resembled all the grandees at a theatrical *fête* and showed them the new born, saying, "Behold him who will reign over you." It is doubtful whether the guests took seriously this observation against which the older sons of the Negus had the right to protest. One day, on the occasion of the Easter *fête*, Terounche asked her husband for the pardon of some Muslim chiefs, kept in irons for their attachment to Oubie. This prince made demand excited in the highest degree the suspicions of the irritable Negus. "What do you mean?" he asked. "Do you prefer your father to me?" "Perhaps I do," answered the imprudent Princess. She had scarcely spoken when a violent blow fell on her cheek. Hell, who walked in attendance, struck another. Oubie, who since the marriage has been restored to favor, was placed in irons, and has not since recovered his liberty. Moreover, the Negus, to inflict a deadly blow on his wife, at once took four Gwoches from the lowest ranks. This first explosion over, he dissipated them all except one who stayed with his wife, and who is one of the physical or moral gloaters of the triple, but who skillfully retains her capricious favor by a number of cares and attentions which the proud Terounche has the impudence to despise. What shows the abasement of the national character is that these who scornful the Negus have just given to this rival of their idol. The Church alone protests by the voice of some venturous priests. At Easter Theodore being about to deprive of its communicants, obtains absolution only on the condition of promising to change his conduct. He then goes to see the highly, who still exercises a certain ascendancy over him—for he is pious, notwithstanding his perfidies, to be the husband or a woman so abject. He passes and turns the conversation on most biting and hardest truths, and if he occasionally rages and threatens, the Iroko replies to him coolly that no Negus has killed his wife, and that she knows well he will not dare to begin. Theodore then returns somewhat ashamed to his little Queen, makes a public confession, declares "that he is not the most scrupulous sinner" in Ethiopia—that he is it in spite of himself; that it is a victory of his nature in this sense—that they never make him overstep the limits he has marked out for himself. He has been unmistakably given to drunkenness, and on this subject the late French Consul has collected some information. He is very sober, eats little, drinks more, but never up to any marked overexcitement, far less to coarse drunkenness, more worthy of a yokel or Mandingo King than of a sovereign of Christian Abyssinia. As to women, they have never had the least influence on his public life, always excepting his first wife, the good and injured Tiruwork, belie, for whom he had always a sort of worship. The legal spouse, however, the faithful companion at his days of trial, and when he lost her he mourned for her long and deeply, and death a chastisement which heaven inflicted on him for having buried a woman alive at Gondar. Tiruwork had kept him in the simple life and pious practices of an Abyssinian of the old time, and when she died he lived eighteen months in the strictest continence. A marriage of ambition has been the single exception to the resolutions since made public. To put an end, by a kind of fusion, to the pretensions of the house of Oubie, he married, about six years ago, the daughter of the latter, the young and beautiful Terounche, who had throughout Abyssinia the reputation of an accomplished Princess. Why, accomplished, indeed, she had scarcely any defect but the obstinate pride which is a very general character with Abyssinians of a certain rank. For two or three years the most perfect union reigned in this household. Theodore had for his graceful partner a tenderness in which pride had no small part, and when she had given him a child resembled all the grandees at a theatrical *fête* and showed them the new born, saying, "Behold him who will reign over you." It is doubtful whether the guests took seriously this observation against which the older sons of the Negus had the right to protest. One day, on the occasion of the Easter *fête*, Terounche asked her husband for the pardon of some Muslim chiefs, kept in irons for their attachment to Oubie. This prince made demand excited in the highest degree the suspicions of the irritable Negus. "What do you mean?" he asked. "Do you prefer your father to me?" "Perhaps I do," answered the imprudent Princess. She had scarcely spoken when a violent blow fell on her cheek. Hell, who walked in attendance, struck another. Oubie, who since the marriage has been restored to favor, was placed in irons, and has not since recovered his liberty. Moreover, the Negus, to inflict a deadly blow on his wife, at once took four Gwoches from the lowest ranks. This first explosion over, he dissipated them all except one who stayed with his wife, and who is one of the physical or moral gloaters of the triple, but who skillfully retains her capricious favor by a number of cares and attentions which the proud Terounche has the impudence to despise. What shows the abasement of the national character is that those