

# The Private Life of the Kaiser

FROM THE PAPERS AND MEMOIRS OF  
**THE BARONESS VON LARISCH-REDDERN**

The Kaiser and Kaiserin's Late Major Dome, Chief of the Royal Household at Berlin and Potsdam

Baroness von Larisch-Reddern is the TRUE name of the Berlin Court Lady who gave the story of the Kaiser to Henry William Fisher, Uxela, Countess von Eppinghoven being a nom de guerre, heretofore used to shield her

How Kaiser Drove His Mother From House and Home—Desecration in the House of the Dead—Kaiserin a Mere Puppet, Who Thought Everything William Did Was Well Done—The Empress Frederick's Scathing Indictment of Her Daughter-in-Law—When the Kaiser Docked His Servants Butter in Order to Save a Few Marks For Pomp and Circumstance—The Kaiserin Lamponed—Disgraceful Family Jars—A Miniature Kaiser, Who Imitated William in the Maltreatment of His Mother—Telltale Statement by Princess Frederick Charles—Kaiser Too Mean to Offer His Old Aunt a Bed—Starving Royal Highnesses, But William Cares Not—Other Kings Afraid of Kaiser's Kisses

In this installment the Baroness tells the history of the quarrel between the Kaiser and his mother, revealing that filthy money was at the bottom of it all. The revolting details of William's mistreatment of his mother are given in full for the first time. The brute origin in other causes than those popularly assigned. The Empress Frederick could never quite forget "that girl's impudence."

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[Continued from Yesterday.]

The Kaiser mistreated his mother, the Kaiserin hated her mother-in-law.

Talking all in all, it is quite evident that the lack of sympathy between the two Empresses had its origin in other causes than those popularly assigned. The Empress Frederick could never quite forget "that girl's impudence."

The day after Princess Victoria's arrival at Neues Palais, there had to be a garden party to the

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## Harrisburg

poor children of the neighborhood, when they were treated to chocolate and cakes and music and condensation; cheap things, it is true, but highly appreciated.

Victoria had to assist in this charitable enterprise, and did so with good grace, for everybody's eyes were upon her; but when, at last, the children were dismissed, she ran to her apartments in hot haste, and calling her maid, cried: "Off with this dress, quick, I'm afraid I smell of poor people!"

The expression of disgust was in bad taste, and exceedingly impolitic besides, for Victoria's attendants belonged to the royal household and forthwith blabbed about the incident in the "funkies' own."

And so it came to her mother-in-law's ears, and the same things began happening at the palace that happen at Mrs. Brown's or Mrs. Jones' house on the avenue or the boulevard.

As a consequence the young princess was warned to mend her ways toward Her Imperial Highness. She refused to do so; she would rather make a Broeckdorf her friend and invite a Waldereze to be her governess, than submit to the higher intellect of her husband's parents.

At all times Auguste Victoria never loved, sometimes fought, and always feared her mother-in-law. There are people who assert that the similarity of their characters was one of the chief reasons for the strained relations between Kaiserin and her son. Both were too pig-headed, too prejudiced, too much wedded to the "no surrender" policy, to come to an understanding.

"Knowing both her husband's and her mother-in-law's weaknesses, Auguste Victoria ought to have intermeddled, or, that falling ought to have done her part toward bringing about and preserving amicable relations. But she did nothing of the kind.

In those awful days of June, 1888, when the new Kaiser, attended by the madman Normann, exploited his cruel egotism at his father's death-bed, when he made his mother and sisters prisoners of state until his

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held at her son's Court. Even when she lived Under den Linden at Christmas time, she declined the pleasure of seeing the children. After the scenes at Frederick's death-bed, she had been driven forth from her home, and this insult was quickly followed by another, aimed at her dead husband.

After William and Auguste Victoria took possession of Friedrichskron, this name was abolished by royal decree and the old, now meaningless Neues Palais reinstated. I remember it well. All of a sudden officers of the Court-marshal's office called on the ladies and gentlemen

search for an imaginary secret testament was completed—from 9 a. m. on June 16, until after Frederick's funeral—Auguste Victoria renounced her husband's name and mother altogether; before William's deeds of unprecedented barbarity she relinquished even her womanly feelings.

Even as she displayed none when her husband ordered outrages upon the women and children of Belgium, Northern France and the eastern countries and when his representatives in Paris winked at the killing of a million Christians and the crucifixion of hundreds of girls and babies.

The Baroness continues her story. Savagery in the House of the Dead

It ever, wife and mother caught to have stood up for another wife and mother; if ever woman ought to have thrown the hale of womanly love around another,—that was the time! What did Auguste Victoria do? She said she would come to Friedrichskron as soon as her crepe gown was ready.

Meanwhile, William had declared the property rights of all the people in the palace—his palace—forfeited for the time being; as the feudal lord of old seized a bondsman's personal estate while the body was yet warm, so had the presence of death in Kaiser's waxen face—no restraining influence over the new master. The late Emperor's, his wife's and daughter's writing-desks, their strong boxes, trinket-boxes, bedrooms, and boudoirs, were subjected to a rigid examination before the owners were allowed access again. And in the midst of the search, the Kaiser's coach brought the new Empress!

Kaiserin Frederick had no patience to hear Auguste Victoria declaim. "Send Broeckdorf away," she said, curtly. And then the proud old woman unbent enough to ask, nay, implore, her daughter-in-law to stop.

"By all that is holy to you," she said to have exclaimed, "stop that man from desecrating my home and my noble dead. I have appealed to his love, to his sense, to decency in his manliness. It is your turn now. Talk to him with the authority of a wife and mother. He must listen to you. And unless you expect to be treated by your sons as I have been treated by my son during the last two hours,—restrain him, re-establish me as mistress within my own walls, and I will be forever grateful to you."

Auguste Victoria went into the library, and returned after a few moments, her face flushed and trembling.

"I can do nothing," she faltered out. "Willie is here as Emperor, and I cannot interfere with his official business."

Empress Frederick Chases Away Empress Auguste Victoria

"Then have the goodness to go back to your Marble Palace and play with your children," cried the widowed Empress hotly.

And the hostilities were reopened. In the interval occasioned by the new Kaiser's reception, William had informed his mother's officials and servants that he was their master now and that they must obey no one's orders but his own.

Thereupon the old Empress: "Whoever refuses to carry out any of my commands promptly and willingly, will be instantly dismissed and forfeits his rights to pension."

Victoria had furnished her Court-marshal with a list of persons who were to be admitted to the house in order that they might have a last look at her dead hero. Frederick's personal and political friends were on the list, but William tore it up.

Have ever such scenes occurred in the presence of death? The new lord's "drill-ground tenor" cutting short the impassioned speech of an outraged wife and distracted mother! Entreaties, sobs, threats, on the one side; cold indifference, scorn, sneering references to "facts" on the other.

There was no peace between the reigning Hohenzollerns and proud mother, shorn of power, thereafter. A resemblance of familiar intercourse was kept up as long as the Empress Auguste lived, but after her death the Kaiser's enmity to his mother became a matter of political significance. German statesmen trimmed their sails according to its fluctuations.

The Empress Frederick and Auguste Victoria had one more momentous meeting when the negotiations for the Dowager Kaiserin's removal from Castle Friedrichskron were pending.

The older woman strenuously opposed her son's claims to the property, first because she herself desired to retain the house where she had lived so long, and second, because she feared William would ruin himself in the possession of this castle, whose vastness and splendor offered particular temptations for establishing a Court out of all proportion to the Kaiser's revenues. However, the "Augustenburger" would not see it in that light. She was as eager to branch out a la Versailles as her husband.

After three months of widowhood, Empress Frederick left Friedrichskron. She was crying bitterly as she went through the park and halls, taking leave of everything and everybody.

"Here I have spent the most beautiful days of my married life, and afterward endured the awfullest hours woman can endure," she remarked to General von Lindquist, then commander of Potsdam. To the officials and servants, each of whom she shook by the hand, she said: "If you ever want to see your old mistress again, you must come to Berlin, where I will make you welcome with pleasure. May paler strike my foot if ever I thrust it over this threshold again."

Empress Frederick a Good Hater

As was to be expected from a woman of her character, she kept her word. Occasional quiet interchanges between their Majesties and Empress Frederick took place on neutral grounds. The Dowager Kaiserin received her son and daughter-in-law in the manner-house of the farm Bornstadt, a mile or so from the Neues Palais, and next day they repaired to the Marble Palace or Stadt Schloss to give Her Majesty an opportunity to return the compliment.

Empress Frederick was very seldom in Berlin, and had always an excuse ready for declining invitations to official or private festivities

of the Court, deriding us to hand over every scrap stationary stamped Friedrichskron. The confiscated stuff was burnt, and we were left without writing paper for a full week. Her Majesty herself had to write her letters on ordinary blued-lined sheets, bought in a penny store, as she would not use the official foolscap.

Kaiser's Conduct Toward Brother and Sister

A third and fourth cause of chagrin to Empress Frederick was the Kaiser's treatment of his brother and sister. Prince Henry was to have had the Villa Carlotta in Sans Souci Park, which is Crown property, for a summer home, but the Kaiser lent the house and beautiful gardens to Baron von Lyncker.

Next he turned the Meiningen out of their Thiergarten villa, which Emperor Frederick had rented for his daughter and son-in-law with the understanding that the Minister of the royal house pay the rent as long as the Meiningens cared to remain. William no sooner learned of this arrangement than he repudiated it.

"I pay the Meiningens' rent? Not for a day, not for an hour," and the landlord was at once notified that, after the expiration of the lease, at the end of three months, he would receive no more money from the royal treasury.

Docking Servants Their Butter to Pay For Pomp and Circumstance

Empress Frederick was shocked when my mistress decided to go to Felixstowe with her children and a suite of fifty persons, and, to secure more spending money, authorized Court-Marshal von Eulenburg to deprive the servants of their allowance of butter for first breakfast and for supper.

The Kaiser's manage never allowed butter for second breakfast. Now it happened that the servants transferred from Empress Frederick's Court to that of William, were among the first to petition for redress. Ergo, the cry of Empress Frederick's enemies, that "the Britisher" was at the bottom of the quarrel," said the Dowager Kaiserin.

"I knew nothing about these petty quarrels," said the Dowager Kaiserin, some time afterward, to Countess Wilhelmina Hohenzollern, "but I certainly think that this latest inaction was most disgraceful. Depriving a servant of his butter is as bad as selling a dead man's false teeth."

Though the strong-minded English woman was noted for her outspoken criticisms, this remark, aimed directly at Auguste Victoria and coming to her ears in the quietest possible way, created first consternation and later on a demand for reprisals. Since it acquired publicity, it became a virtue at Court to call the Empress Frederick names.

[To Be Continued To-morrow.]

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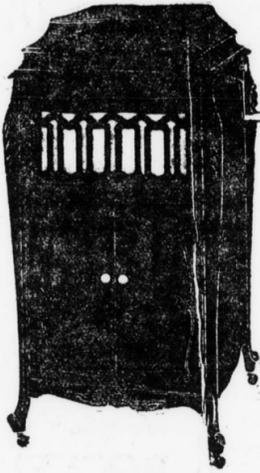
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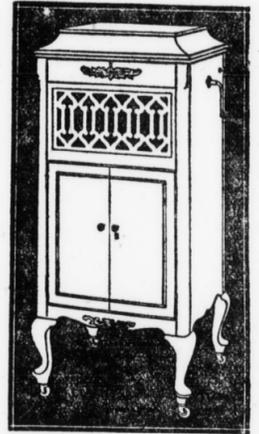
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