

German Emperor the Most Talked of Ruler In All Europe

EMPEROR WILLIAM II., the most talked of ruler in Europe, was born at Berlin Jan. 27, 1859. His parents were the Emperor Frederick III. and Princess Victoria of England. Thus on one side of the house he was grandson of Emperor William I. of Germany and on the other of Queen Victoria of Great Britain. The emperor was christened Friedrich Wilhelm Victor Albert. He was educated at the gymnasium of Cassel and the famous University of Bonn, was

almost morbid dread from the possibility of being punished by inferiors—'future subjects.' He might learn—later he did so—gladly all that professors or artists could teach with a pleasant conviction that he would make better use of such learning than those who imparted it, but the thought of being punished by them was unbearable. "Prince Henry had no such duties in the future nor such sensitiveness in the present, so he learned as little as he could as a small boy, had a rare good

breakfast is in the English fashion and consists of tea, bread and butter, meat or fish. He greatly loves fish. When his majesty reaches his study he finds his mail ready on his desk. While his private mail has been placed in portfolios unopened, communications of an official nature have been previously sifted by the civil and military cabinets. He usually reads all these documents carefully, makes on them marginal notes or asks for a more detailed account regarding the matter

great importance, for his majesty desires to learn the opinion of the chancellor regarding foreign and domestic questions. "Usually at 1 o'clock a simple but substantial dinner is served, which the emperor eats with his family. The emperor drinks a glass of wine with his meals, although he is a very moderate drinker. He has a great liking for champagne, but allows only the German beverage. The story is told that at an officers' banquet which the emperor attended French champagnes were served on which German labels had been placed. The emperor, however, detected the deception and expressed his disapproval in the most forcible language. The emperor smokes, but not as much as he did formerly, when he indulged in very strong cigars. He occasionally smokes cigarettes, but there are weeks when he does not smoke at all.

A Hard Worker.

"Even when traveling the emperor is at work. In fact, he is always busy. He is followed by representatives from every department of the government. The emperor attends to all telegraphic messages at once and has given orders to awaken him at any time of the night. He displays the same activity when at maneuvers. His energy is wonderful. He is often in conference with his generals until 2 o'clock in the morning and again in the saddle at 4.

"In order fully to understand how the emperor governs some unpublished anecdotes will aid. Bismarck was indeed prophetic when he declared that his royal master would be his own chancellor. It is not generally known that the Socialist question was one of the causes which led to the disagreement between the two men. A Conservative favorite of the emperor made him believe that the Socialist law would drive the Socialists to revolution; therefore the emperor promptly dropped the law, declaring to Bismarck, 'I will thereby appease the Socialists.' A message for the establishment of a workmen's insurance law was published against the wishes of Bismarck, who was then supplanted, by Caprivi.

"Although somewhat short tempered, the emperor is more easily diverted from anger to good humor by means of a piece of wit than many of his fellow sovereigns.

"Some years ago, when old Baron Boetticher, who was secretary of state for the interior, was discussing with his majesty the most suitable nominations to be made in the case of a number of vacant offices, the latter became greatly irritated by the statesman's unanswerable objections to the candidate for whom he himself desired to obtain a certain post. His anger, in fact, grew quite violent, and when the baron inquired if there were no other person upon whom his majesty would like to confer the appointment the kaiser replied curtly:

"Oh, confer it on Satan himself if you like!"

"Very well," replied the old minister, with a twinkle in his eye, and then continued in his most suave and courtly manner, "And shall I allow the patent signed by your majesty in that case to go out in the usual form, 'To my trusted and well beloved cousin and counselor?'"

"The emperor saw the joke at once and burst into a loud peal of laughter."

William the Adaptable.

An excellent story is told of the emperor, whose power of being enthusiastically interested in every function he attends was once commented upon by a foreigner, who inquired how it was that his majesty was able to display such unbounded enthusiasm about such everyday occurrences as births, marriages and deaths. "Ah," said a friend of his, "that is part of the emperor's wonderful character, for whenever he attends a christening he thinks he is the baby; whenever he honors a wedding with his presence he imagines he is the bride; whenever he honors a funeral somehow or other he invariably manages to get hold of the idea that he is the corpse."

The emperor once taught his barber a lesson. Very punctual himself, he noticed that his barber was almost always a few minutes late when the time came for shaving him, and he presented him with a gold chronometer and urged him to make good use of it.

Much to his surprise, the barber continued to be a few minutes late almost every morning, and after waiting in vain for some signs of improvement the emperor said to him one day:

"Have you still the chronometer which I gave you?"

"Yes, your majesty; here it is," replied the barber, taking it from his pocket.

"Give it to me," said the emperor. "It is evidently of no use to you, and you can have this one instead."

With these words he placed the handsome gold chronometer on his dressing table and handed to the amazed barber a nickel plated watch worth about \$1.

The emperor once swore in the recruits of the Potsdam garrison in a manner to inspire the soldiers with the spirit which swayed Cromwell's Ironsides. He said:

"You see before you an altar. On it behold the cross, the symbol of all Christians! As such you have taken the oath of allegiance to the colors, and I hope and require that you will ever be mindful of this pledge. As I stand here a memorable episode rises before my eyes. When the Kaiser Leopold of Austria handed over the supreme command of his army to the famous Prince Eugene and gave him the marshal's baton the prince seized the crucifix and, holding it aloft, cried, 'This shall be our generalissimo!' 'I require and expect similar sentiments from you. I desire plous and gallant soldiers in my army, not mockers.'"

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EMPEROR WILLIAM AT DIFFERENT AGES AND HIS ELDEST SON.

married in 1881 to the Princess Augusta Victoria of Schleswig-Holstein and succeeded to the throne in 1888. Within two years of his accession he had disagreed with Bismarck and dismissed the "iron chancellor" from office.

Seven children were born to the emperor—Frederick William, the crown prince, in 1882; Eitel Fritz in 1883, Adelbert in 1884, Auguste William in 1887, Oscar in 1888, Joachim in 1890 and Victoria Louise in 1892.

The emperor's boyhood and that of his brother, Prince Henry, was once described by a writer in Temple Bar:

"A happy, merry life the young princes led before earnest studies began at Cassel. But it would be difficult to relate many anecdotes about the emperor during his boyhood, and that very absence of 'adventures' gives one, perhaps, the clearest insight into his character. A clever, intelligent boy, with an admirable memory, he was trained from his earliest childhood with a view to his future duties, but his proud spirit made him shrink with

time' and accepted, sometimes tearfully, the punishment which inevitably followed some delightful prank. As the brothers were always together, thanks to Prince Henry's lovable, cheerful disposition and his fortunate absence of pride, the emperor's boyhood was cheered by keen enjoyment of the pleasures natural to his age. In fact, there were many evidences of family likeness to that youthful British uncle of theirs, King Edward VII., who, in order to verify his suspicions and satisfy his inquiring mind, successfully stuck in the 'improved' calves of an unsuspecting court official some of the little flags then in use to mark on a map the movements of the allied forces in the Crimea."

An Early Riser.

A court attache familiar with the daily life of the emperor has thus described some phases of his many sided activities:

"The emperor is an early riser and never gets up later than 6 o'clock. His bath is followed by a cold douche. His

presented. The emperor never procrastinates. He finishes all papers as soon as possible, so that they can be at once returned. He is in fact most exacting, asking the next day whether the work of the previous day has been done. He labors in this manner from day to day, but on Sundays devotes himself to rest and religious observance.

"After the emperor has completed his early work when in Berlin he goes on his horseback ride or walk through the Tiergarten, lasting from one to two and a half hours. He usually gallops at such a rapid gait that his company can hardly follow. In the same rapid pace he loves to go on foot, with unusually long steps. This rapid gait, however, does not prevent him from conversing in a most animated manner with his entourage. I am also told that even when mountain climbing he walks in the same manner, being always ahead of his followers. Before the emperor returns to his palace he goes to the chancellor's palace.

"These morning visits are usually of