

Emperor William Still Upholds The Almost Obsolete Duel

If Court of Honor Decides a Fight Is Necessary All German Gentlemen Must Obey.

WASHINGTON, 1910, by the Brentwood Company. No one, not even Prince Alfonso of Bourbon, the younger brother of the late Don Carlos and president of the International Anti-Duelling League, has done more toward diminishing the number of single combats than Emperor William, and whereas at the time of his accession there were considerably over twelve hundred encounters of this kind in the German army and navy each year, it is doubtful whether the annual average today amounts to a dozen all told.

after being required to do so by courts of honor has rendered expatriation imperative. The Emperor's views about the duello are very peculiar and worthy of being placed on record here. They are in keeping with the practice which he is originating of christening with religious ceremonies the great guns furnished by Krupp for use ashore and ashore against Germany's enemies and with his custom of having engraved on the blades of the swords presented to his sons and to his favorite generals and officers the words, "In the name of the Father, of the Son and of the Holy Ghost," and on the other side a verse from the Bible, surmounted by the imperial cipher.

He bases his defence of duelling, once sanctioned by the court of honor, upon questions taken from the Bible, and cites, among other things, that verse of the writings of St. Paul in which the Apostle declares that he would rather die than that any one should rob him of his good name. William infers from this that the most eloquent and most forcible of all the fathers of the Church was prepared to fight to the death for the honor of his name.

"Nowhere in the Bible," adds his majesty, "is there any prohibition of duelling; not even in the New Testament, which, unlike the Old Testament, is not a book of law. Indeed, every attempt to use the New Testament as the basis for a new code of law has resulted

Schellendorf, at that time Minister of War, who in expressing his approval of the resolution, called upon the Kaiser, as commander-in-chief, to take more radical steps for checking the practice of duelling. William, however, declined to comply with the request, dismissed the general shortly afterward from office and condemned both the action of the synod and the Potsdam pastor who had declined to officiate at Baron Schrader's obsequies, giving as the reason for his decision in the matter the argument of which I have just made some extracts.

Emperor Francis Joseph, the Kings of Württemberg, of Saxony, of Spain and of Italy and the Prince Regent of Bavaria all have followed the example of the German Emperor in deprecating the fighting of any duel until the subject of dispute has been carefully considered by a court of honor and sanction given by the latter to the encounter, but insist that once the court has decided that a duel must take place the fight becomes absolutely imperative and cannot be evaded without the forfeiture of honor, commission and every kind of social standing. It is thanks to this, rather than to any agitation on the part of the International Anti-Duelling League, that single combats have become so comparatively rare everywhere, except in France.

If they remain numerous in France it is because there they are for the most part innocuous, and merely serve to advertise the combatants and the seconds without much personal danger. The innocuousness of French duels has indeed become a subject of ridicule all the world over.

There is a reason for this innocuous-



METHOD OF SATISFYING INJURED HONOR, INDORSERD BY THE KAISER, BUT FAST BECOMING OBSOLETE IN ALL CIVILIZED LANDS.

kind shall take place until the matter has been passed upon by a court of honor composed in the main of officers of the regiment or corps to which one or both of the adversaries may belong. In Germany almost every man of any social position holds a commission either on the active or on the reserved list of the army or navy. The courts of honor are required by the sovereign to determine whether or not a reconciliation is possible, whether an apology may be made or accepted without loss of dignity, and, above all, if the subject of the quarrel is one worthy of settlement by means of an armed encounter.

The Emperor takes the ground that dishonor affects the honor of the entire regiment or corps to which he belongs, there can be no better judges of what is necessary in the case than his comrades. He holds the courts of honor to strict account. If such a tribunal authorizes a duel for causes which he regards as inadequate, he is likely not merely to criticize the officers composing it, but even to demand the surrender of their commissions. On the other hand, they are equally liable to be punished in this way if they err on the side of too great leniency.

This method of dealing with the duello has proved very effective, and the courts of honor, realizing how much they have at stake, are extremely careful in their consideration of the subjects submitted to them for decision.

Emperor William's recent rescript deals with the duello that has been not only sanctioned but even exacted by the courts of honor, and has been issued for the purpose of expressing his preference for the sword or rapier as the weapon to be employed in encounters of this kind, first of all, because the sword is less deadly than the pistol, and, second, because it is calculated to promote the art of swordsmanship and of fencing, of which every officer of the army and of the navy should possess a mastery.

The Kaiser lays down the rule that when the court of honor has decided that the circumstances of a case require that a duel should take place every honorable man, no matter what his rank or position, should be ready to give satisfaction on the field of honor, and this, of course, is equivalent to a declaration that any officer declining to comply with the decree of the court not only incurs the imperial displeasure but likewise subjects himself to the loss of his commission, the exclusion from the service of the state, and, what is infinitely worse, to a social ostracism calculated to render his continued residence in Germany, or even anywhere else on the Continent of Europe, impossible. There are a number of Germans and Austrians in America who have sought refuge in the New World because their refusal to

in failure." With regard to the use made by the opponents of duelling of that law in the Old Testament which proclaims "Thou shalt not kill," the Emperor draws attention to another portion of the Old Testament, wherein it is mentioned that the sword shall not be carried in vain. Then, invoking St. Paul's epistle to the Galatians, in which the apostle exclaims: "O, ye foolish Galatians! This only would I learn of you. Received ye the spirit by the works of the law, or by the hearing of the faith? Are ye so foolish? Having begun in the spirit, are ye now made perfect by the flesh?" the Emperor declares that to twist the Word of God into a prohibition of duelling is nothing else than to perfect one's self in the flesh—that is to say, to attribute an altogether material and commonplace interpretation to what is meant spiritually. He adds that this is just as reprehensible in the eyes of the Almighty as the attempts by Pharisees to adapt the Mosaic law to their own convenience—attempts which were so bitterly denounced by Christ.

Emperor William concludes this exposition of his views by the following exordium: "He who after careful self-examination finds himself compelled to fight a duel, and whose conscience is clear of sentiments of hatred and of vengeance, may do so, in the conviction that he is in nowise acting contrary to the Word of God, to the obligations of honor and to the accepted customs of society. As in battle, so also, in the duel which has been forced upon him in one way or another he may say to himself: 'If we live, we live in the Lord, and if we die, we die in the Lord. Amen.'"

It must be borne in mind that the Kaiser delivered himself of these utterances not merely in his capacity of German Emperor, King of Prussia and commander-in-chief of the entire German army, but also in his role of Summus Episcopus, or temporal chief of the Lutheran Church throughout the kingdom of Prussia. The declaration was made on the occasion of the endeavor by certain members of the Berlin court circles to induce the Lutheran Synod to institute disciplinary measures against the Potsdam pastor who had declined to accord the rights of Christian burial to Baron von Schrader, killed in a duel by Baron Kotze, the encounter being the outcome of the anonymous letter scandal which set all Berlin society by the ears some twenty years ago.

The synod, however, thoroughly indorsed the attitude of the Lutheran minister in question and availed itself of the opportunity to pass a resolution to the effect that no person killed in a combat of this kind or even dying of wounds received in a duel could be regarded as having met death as a Christian, and as such entitled to Christian burial.

Curiously enough, this view was indorsed by old General Bronsart von

WASHINGTON'S ARTIFICIAL TEETH

It may not be generally known that the father of his country was one of the first Americans to wear artificial teeth. By the time the War of the Revolution had ended he had parted company with most of the outfit which nature had given him. An ingenious physician and dentist of New York City undertook, at the then unusual task of repairs, art, and produced at length a full set of artificial teeth. These are now, of course, a dental curiosity, and offer an additional proof of the heroism of our first President, for it is a matter of fact that General Washington wore these teeth for many years, and so far as we know, never complained of them.

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SILVERWARE FOR THANKSGIVING First Floor, Broadway. TABLE SILVER FLATWARE Wm. Rogers & Son's Genuine "AA" Spoons, Forks and Knives. Neat beaded pattern. Tea Spoons, set of six, \$1.47c. Dinner Forks, set of six, \$1.94c. Table Spoons, set of six, \$1.94c. Dinner Knives, set of six, \$1.24. IMPORTED GAME CARVERS, knife and fork, richly silver-plated handles, 5-inch blade; value \$2.00; at \$1.39. CARVING KNIVES AND FORKS, fine American steel, various shaped blades, 9-inch size, stag handles; values up to \$2.50; at \$1.44. "IVORORY" HANDLE DINNER KNIVES, silver-plated blades, handles will not crack, break or come off; looks like ivory; value \$4.50 dozen; at \$3.49. SERVING PIECES, heavy Wm. Rogers "Eagle brand," A-1 plate, rich gray finished design, reduced as follows: Small Soup Ladles; were \$1.69; at \$1.19. Large Soup Ladles; were \$1.79; at \$1.29. Small Meat Forks; were 49c; at 34c. 50 FERN DISHES; fine quadruple silver-plate, several designs; were \$1.49 to \$2.24 without ferns; special for this sale, filled with natural prepared ferns, at \$1.69. TEA SETS; quadruple silver-plated, 4 pieces, tea pot, sugar, gold-lined creamer and spoon holder; special at \$4.59. Serving or Nut Spoons; were 74c; at 49c. Jelly Spoons; were 59c; at 39c. Large Sugar Tongs; were 59c; at 39c. One Script Initial Engraved Free Other Table Pieces ranging up to \$174.00.

DINING ROOM FURNITURE SALE Fourth Floor. Extension Dining Tables and Buffets Golden Quartered Oak. TABLES, 10 ft. extension, 48 in. top, were \$35.89; now \$28.74. TABLES, 8 ft. extension, 54 inch top, were \$32.24; now \$25.24. TABLES, 8 ft. extension, 48 inch top, were \$30.74; now \$24.24. BUFFETS, mirror top, were \$44.96; now \$39.24. BUFFETS, mirror top, were \$24.24; now \$20.24. Other Buffets ranging from \$14.74 to \$87.50. Dining Room Chairs DINING CHAIRS, golden oak, genuine leather, box spring seat and back; French legs, were \$11.24; now \$9.89. ARM CHAIRS, to match above; were \$15.24; now \$13.24. DINING CHAIRS, golden oak, genuine leather, box spring seat and back; French legs; claw feet; were \$5.67; now \$4.96. ARM CHAIRS, to match above; were \$8.89; now \$7.74. Other Dining Chairs in stock from \$1.49 to \$16.49. 5-piece Parlor Suits MAHOGANY PARLOR SUITS, covered with green panne velour, Colonial designs, were \$263.00; now \$209.00. MAHOGANY PARLOR SUITS, Colonial design covered with green panne velour, were \$151.00; now \$112.00. MAHOGANY PARLOR SUITS, covered with green panne velour, were \$128.00; now \$98.25.

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