

ELIZABETH OF AUSTRIA IS SLAIN BY AN ANARCHIST

EMPRESS IS STABBED TO THE HEART

Terrible Deed Committed by an Italian at Geneva, Switzerland.

One of the Most Popular and Beloved Women in Europe Ruthlessly Cut Down by an Assassin.

GENEVA, Switzerland, Sept. 10.—The Empress of Austria was assassinated near the Hotel Beauvillage this afternoon by an anarchist named Luigi Lauchini, who was arrested. He stabbed her Majesty with an instrument supposed to be a triangular file.

It appears that her Majesty was walking from her hotel to the landing place of the steamer at about 1 o'clock when an Italian anarchist suddenly approached and stabbed her to the heart. The Empress fell, got up again and was carried to the steamer unconscious. The boat started, but seeing the Empress had not recovered consciousness the captain returned and the Empress was carried to the Hotel Beauvillage, where she expired.

The stretcher upon which the Empress was carried to the hotel was hastily improvised with oars and sail cloth. Doctors and priests were immediately summoned and a telegram was sent to Emperor Francis Joseph.

All efforts to revive her Majesty were unavailing, and she expired at 3 o'clock. The medical examination shows that the assassin must have used a small triangular file. The wound was just over the left breast. There was hardly any bleeding.

After striking the blow he ran along the Rue des Alpes, with the evident intention of entering the Square Les Alpes, but before reaching it he was seized by two cabmen who had witnessed the crime. They handed him over to a boatman and a gendarme, who conveyed him to the police station.

The prisoner made no resistance. He even sang as he walked along, saying, "I did it," and "She must be dead."

At the police station he declared that he was a "starving anarchist, with no hatred for the poor, but only for the rich."

Later, when taken to the courthouse and interrogated by a magistrate in the presence of three members of the local government and the police officials, he pretended not to know French, and refused to answer questions. The police, on searching him, found a document showing his name to be Luigi Lauchini, born in Paris in 1874, and an Italian soldier.

A great crowd quickly assembled around the Hotel Beauvillage, where the officials proceeded after interrogating the prisoner. The police searched the scene of the crime for the weapon and the accomplices of the assassin.

It appears that a boatman noticed three persons closely following the Empress, who was making purchases in the shops.

The local government, immediately on receiving the news of her Majesty's death, half-masted the flag on the Hotel de Ville, the municipal office, and proceeded in a body to the Hotel Beauvillage as a token of respect. The shops on the Kursaal were closed.

The assassin told the magistrate that he came to Geneva in order to assassinate "another important person," but he had been unable to execute the project. The reason of his failure he did not give, but he declared that it was only by accident he had learned of the presence of the Austrian Empress in Geneva.

The assassin, on being interrogated by the magistrate, said he came to Geneva with the intention of killing the Duc d'Orleans, but the latter had already left. He followed the Duc to Evian, about 25 miles north of Geneva, on the lake, where he was again unsuccessful. He then returned to Geneva and learned of the arrival of the Empress. Yesterday he dogged her footsteps, but found no opportunity to carry out his purpose, though he watched the Hotel Beauvillage all day.

This afternoon about half past 1 o'clock, he said, he saw the valet of the Empress leaving the hotel and going toward the landing. He inferred from this that the Empress was going to take the steamer and he hid himself behind a tree on the quay with the knife concealed in his right hand. In a few minutes the Empress, accompanied by her lady of honor, appeared and the assassin struck the knife home. He confessed that he has been an an-

archist since he was 13 years of age. "If all anarchists did their duty as I have done mine," he said, "bourgeois society would soon disappear."

He admitted that he knew the crime was useless, but said he committed it for "the sake of example."

In spite of minute searching, the weapon of the murderer has not been found. Dense crowds still surround the Hotel Beauvillage this evening.

SWISS OFFICIALS HORRIFIED BY THE FEARFUL CRIME

BERNE, Switzerland, Sept. 10.—Another account of the assassination of the Empress of Austria says: After having been stabbed from behind the Empress rose and walked on board the steamer, where she fell fainting. The captain did not wish to put off from the quay, but did so at the request of the Empress and her suite, there being no apprehension that she was seriously hurt. The steamer was turned back, however, before it reached the open lake, and the Empress, unconscious, was carried to the hotel on a stretcher. The Empress had been stopping at the Hotel Beauvillage for several days.

The President of Switzerland, and other members of the Government were stunned with horror and grief when the news reached the palace that the Empress, so beloved by all Europeans, had fallen a victim to an assassin within the borders of their country. They immediately arranged to hold an extraordinary Federal Council on Sunday morning in order to consider the measures to take against the assassin.

The latter must be tried according to the statutes of the Canton, which forbid capital punishment, and makes life imprisonment the most severe penalty which can be imposed. When the Austrian Minister, Count Kuerstein, was informed of the tragedy, he hurried to the palace and was met with expressions of the utmost sympathy. So soon as a special train could be arranged the Minister started for Geneva, accompanied by the Deputy Prosecutor General, who took up the case at once, his chief being on a vacation. He will hold a preliminary inquiry at Geneva to-night or as soon as possible, and return to-morrow in order to report to the federal council.

The federal authorities had been informed of the visit of the Empress, and they notified the Governors of the Canton the Empress expected to visit, instructing them to take special police measures for her comfort and safety if it appeared necessary. They were not notified of her Majesty's intention to visit Geneva, nor were the local officials there aware of her presence, as she was traveling incognito. The police are not blamed, though the circumstances responsible for the lack of precautions are widely regretted. All Switzerland is profoundly stirred with sorrow and indignation. The papers in all the cities have printed extra editions expressing horror of the crime.

THOUGHT A THIEF HAD ASSAILED HER

PARIS, Sept. 11.—The Figaro states that the weapon used by the assassin of the Empress of Austria was found in the lake. It was a three-sided file, very slender and sharp. The post-mortem examination showed one almost imperceptible wound, the file having penetrated the heart and not causing exterior bleeding. The Empress, it seems, only supposed that she had received a violent blow. At first she

INDESCRIBIBLE GRIEF OVERPOWERS AUSTRIA'S PEOPLE

VIENNA, Sept. 10.—The news of the assassination became known here



EMPRESS ELIZABETH OF AUSTRIA, THE VICTIM OF AN ANARCHIST ASSASSIN.

shortly before 6 o'clock. It spread like lightning. The streets were suddenly filled with multitudes of people, many of them becoming impassable for vehicles.

Extra editions were issued by all the papers. Many Viennese considered the report incredible until the semi-official Wiener Abend Post appeared, confirming the statements of the other papers.

All the papers accompanied the announcement with warm tributes to the Empress. They were eagerly snatched from the hands of the sellers and were read aloud to groups of citizens.

An indescribable grief overpowers the people. The performances at the court theatres and the jubilee exhibition have been canceled.

Emperor Francis Joseph received the news at Schoenbrunn. His Majesty's journey to attend the maneuvers at Zips, Hungary, was, of course, abandoned.

All the theaters here and in the provincial towns are closed.

The extra edition of the Wiener Abend Post appeared with black borders. It expresses the universal sorrow felt at the loss of the noble Empress, whose life was one long case of philanthropy, adding: "She had gone abroad in order to obtain fresh strength but only to become the victim of a wicked and mad attack."

It concludes with an expression of "sincere sympathy with the Emperor, upon whose beloved head such grief has fallen in the year of his jubilee."

maintained great coolness. When asked if she wished to return to the hotel she replied: "No; he only struck me on the breast and doubtless wished to steal my watch."

The assassin made a complete confession, adding that he regrets that the death penalty does not exist in the Canton where the tragedy occurred.

The Geneva police believe that they are on the track of two accomplices of the assassin.

FEARS FOR THE EFFECT ON FRANCIS JOSEPH

LONDON, Sept. 10.—Grave fears are expressed here regarding the effect which the assassination of the Empress of Austria may have upon the Emperor, whose health has never recovered from the blow of Crown Prince Rudolph's tragic death. It is known that his Majesty has been very feeble of late.

WASHINGTON, Sept. 10.—The following message has been received at the State Department:

"GENEVA, Sept. 10.—The Empress of Austria has just been assassinated here by an Italian anarchist.

"RIGLEY, Consul."

Upon receipt of Consul Rigley's notification of the death of the Empress, President McKinley sent the following message of condolence:

"EXECUTIVE MANSION, WASHINGTON, Sept. 10.—To his Majesty, the Emperor of Austria, Vienna: I have heard with profound regret of the assassination of her Majesty, the Empress of Austria, while at Geneva, and tender to your Majesty the deep sympathy of the Government and people of the United States.

"WILLIAM MCKINLEY."

GREAT SENSATION AT THE FRENCH CAPITAL

LONDON, Sept. 11.—A special dispatch to the Sunday Times from Paris says: The assassination of the Empress Elizabeth of Austria has created an immense sensation in the French capital, where the sympathy of the people is all the greater because it is remembered that her sister, the Duchess d'Alencon, perished in the terrible charity bazaar fire last year. Her other sister, the former Queen of Naples, has resided in Paris since the death of her husband, and the murdered Empress was a frequent visitor here and familiar to Parisians. Sympathetic crowds gathered near the Austrian Embassy soon after the sad news began to spread through the city.

The Vienna correspondent of the Observer says: When Count Goluchowski, the Austro-Hungarian Foreign Minister, communicated the news to the Emperor the latter sank speechless into a chair and remained for a long time motionless. The remains of the Empress will be brought to Vienna at

once for a state funeral. The Emperor is reported to have said: "Shall I not be freed from grief and pain in this world?"

M'KINLEY'S MESSAGE TENDERING SYMPATHY

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AUSTRIAN EMBASSADOR COMPLETELY OVERCOME

NEW LONDON, Conn., Sept. 10.—The news of the assassination of the Empress of Austria first reached Ambassador Hengelmueller, who, with his suite, has been spending the summer here. The Ambassador was seen at his cottage at Pequet, and when told of the tragedy was completely overcome. He declined to be interviewed on the subject at present.

HUNGARIANS WEEP IN THE STREETS

BUDAPEST, Hungary, Sept. 10.—The news of the assassination of the Queen of Hungary and Empress of Austria was received here with consternation. Men and women were seen weeping in the streets. Everywhere mourning banners were displayed.

The Hungarian Diet will be convened in special session to-morrow.

DEATH SCENE OF THE EMPRESS WAS TRAGIC

Staggered Aboard the Boat and Is Quickly Carried to a Hotel.

When the Beloved Sovereign Breathed Her Last Those Present Knelt in Prayer.

Special Cable to The Call and the New York Herald. Copyrighted, 1898, by James Gordon Bennett.

PARIS, Sept. 11.—The Figaro publishes this morning the following from Geneva: The Tribune de Geneva published an interview with M. Teisset, a merchant member of the Chamber of Commerce at Clermont-Ferrand, who was an eyewitness of the death scene of the Empress Elizabeth of Austria. Accompanied by a party he went on board the steamer at Geneva at 20 minutes to 2 o'clock p. m.

He was exchanging a few words with the captain on deck when a lady came forward, walking with difficulty and supported by another lady. M. Teisset, without knowing who the lady was, took her in his arms, carried her across the deck and seated her on a bench. The lady then opened her eyes and gave him a look of gratitude. M. Teisset left the boat and returned to the Hotel Beauvillage. A short time afterward messengers came up shouting that the steamer had returned and a misfortune happened.

M. Teisset ran to ask Dr. Golay to go to the landing stage as his services would probably be required. Captain Roux had already given all attention to the Empress, who was accompanied only by one lady in waiting and a servant.

Gebel, the pilot of the boat, had cut the stays of the Empress and found a very small wound only one centimeter in width above the left breast from which issued only two or three drops of blood.

The lady in waiting asked the Empress, who for a moment regained consciousness, "Are you suffering?"

The reply was "No."

Captain Roux then brought the vessel around and made straight for the landing place. Gebel had a litter already prepared of two bars, four camp stools and velvet cushions. The Empress was laid upon it and carried to the Hotel Beauvillage by Captain Roux, M. Teisset and two of the crew.

M. Teisset carried her Majesty in his arms up the stairs to her apartment on the first floor, which she had just left, and laid her on a bed.

Dr. Golay, assisted by M. Teisset and the lady in waiting, and also by a nurse who was in the hotel, rapidly undressed her Majesty and endeavored to induce artificial respiration by friction and the application of eau de cologne and vinegar.

All efforts, however, were in vain. Golay sent for Dr. Mayer, who hastened to the hotel at the request of the lady in waiting. A slight incision was made in the patient's right wrist, but all was over in a short time.

Before her Majesty's death a parish priest had come and administered extreme unction. Everything possible, humanly speaking, was done. The body was laid out by Mme. Mayer.

M. Teisset believes the Empress breathed her last at the moment he laid her head on the bed. When her Majesty's death was announced all present knelt down in prayer.

The murderer has finally given some explanation regarding the crime. He says he came to Geneva to assassinate some high personage, and he added that he chiefly had in view the Duc d'Orleans—probably Prince Henri—but he could not put his scheme into execution for reasons which he does not give. It was quite by chance that he heard that the Empress of Austria was in Geneva.

Princess Rudolph, heir to the crown of the Hapsburgs, Empress Elizabeth had been falling both in body and mind. The decay was so slow as to be almost imperceptible at first. It was shown to have grown out of grief for the tragic death of her only son. But the outbreaks of the death scene of the Empress Elizabeth of Austria were eccentricity, and it was necessary to keep her in a sense under surveillance. She was not crossed or interfered with. Her whims were not noticed seriously, albeit they were sometimes expensive, and she did practically as she pleased. None the less, she was lovingly watched and guarded.

Ten years ago the Empress was still one of the most beautiful women in Europe, just as her husband, Francis Joseph, was one of the handsomest men of his years to be found anywhere. The Empress was then one of the best horsewomen of her time. She surprised even the daring cross-country riders of England and Scotland when she visited those countries by her grace, courage and dash. Of late she was but a wreck of her former self. She lost her high spirits, shunned the companionship of former favorites, and spent her time in mourning and brooding over the past.

The case of Empress Elizabeth is markedly pathetic. It may truthfully be said of her that she was a good woman, who had done her duty since she shared with her husband the ruling of Austria-Hungary. When they were married it was said of the royal, bridegroom and bride that they were the handsomest couple in Europe. He was (as he is still) broad-shouldered and tall, handsome and frank of face, and as courteous as a knight of old. She was fair, vivacious, brilliant in conversation, and at the same time with the dignity of a Queen.

Many changes have occurred since the marriage of the Princess Elizabeth to the ruler of Austria, and some of these have been such as to sadden the lives of the Austrian Emperor and Empress. First the favorite brother of the Emperor married a dancer. Stripped of his honors and titles, he bought a merchant vessel—he had been trained for the navy—and, taking his bride with him, started in to make his own living by trading. His ship is supposed to have first season of his life, but he disappeared, and the Archduke is still among the missing. Then came the humiliation of Austria by Germany, and the Maximilian episode, and finally the tragedy of which Prince Rudolph figured. All of these things have served to make Francis Joseph a melancholy, much broken man, and the effect upon his wife has been much more severe. Even in the days of her husband, who was devoted to her, and her one married daughter, the Princess Valerie, were lost upon her.

About ten years ago, when Empress Elizabeth became more and more of an English sport of fox-hunting, she was a striking woman in appearance. She looked much younger than she really was, and she created a furore in England. She spoke English like a native, was unconventional, cordial in manner and witty. She speedily became popular. Following the hounds was a passion with her. The Empress of Austria was a familiar figure on the hunting field, and, to use a sporting expression, she rode straight. There was no fence or hedge too high, and no ditch or water jump too broad for her. In her own court Empress Elizabeth always displayed the same amiable qualities. In no court in Europe is etiquette more strict, in none are the nobles more proud or more jealous of their rights and privileges. Even Francis Joseph, an amiable and easy-going man, has been bound as with hooks of steel to all the old rules and traditions of the Hapsburgs, the "Austrian Caesars," as they proudly call themselves. Empress Elizabeth showed that she was able to ride roughshod over old fogy traditions and unwritten rules. But she did this with such tact, so quietly, and yet so thoroughly, that the old court favorites that had ruled the roost prior to the coming of the clever young Empress scarcely knew how it was that they gradually fell to the rear and left their places to be filled by another coterie younger, more liberal, more brilliant and more in accord with the tastes of the Empress.

The young woman went further. The old court at Vienna had been more corrupt than any other in Europe. It was a hotbed of scandal. Royal names had been smirched, and even that of the Emperor himself was not free from scandal. The young Empress set herself to the task of working out reform in this direction. It was a difficult task. Indeed, it was one in which she could hope to succeed only in part. But she accomplished more than it had been thought she would, and she made the court at Vienna more healthy as to morals than it had ever been in the past. What is more, she enlisted good-natured, easy-going Francis Joseph in her work. He, perhaps, had no real interest in it or sympathy for it. But he loved his clever wife with a deep and abiding love that has never wavered and that still abides.

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Her latest employment in this line was to arrange for her final resting-place at great expense. She had built at Corfu, upon plans approved by herself, a magnificent villa, and had christened it "L'Achilleion." To her will she added a codicil in which she said: "I wish to be interred at Corfu, near the sea, so that the waters can continually break on my tomb."

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