

EMPEROR'S HIGHEST CONCEPTION OF KINGSHIP THAT OF SUPREME SOLDIER

another and more perilous step. It might the Kaiser closer to it. France yielded and the crisis passed, but the sting was there; Russia, which Bismarck had always favored, and nursed as a friend, had been alienated by William's policy. After the defeat of Bismarck by the Kaiser, the Emperor proceeded to declare the great eastern empire of the East as his own. He had already journeyed to Constantinople, and the league of northern brutality with Turkish detestableness came about. The lines drawing tighter and it was only a question of time when the hour would strike.

The Kaiser made journeys to England and appeared to enjoy them. Curiously, his early turn for English life appeared. He was now a yachtsman and appeared to believe in the English turn of sport, but the Kaiser's busy, busy, the preparations went on, and German officers began drinking toast to "The Day," namely, that on which they should meet for the conquest of the English supporters of the exiled Stuart to hold their glasses over a water bowl when they drank a toast to King Edward. The Kaiser, however, would not do this. He had advocated a closer use of the German language in old terms and new, thus insuring uniformity. Nothing seemed to be done to whip the empire to white heat. His "November storm in 1918"—an indiscreet interview published in the Kaiser's name for his championship at home and elsewhere abroad. He loved peace, he loved the English, but he did not love him. He even suffered in Germany the same as in England.

With a couple of trusted followers he entered his mother's apartments and ransacked them for certain papers, among them a diary long kept by his father, which he feared would reflect upon him on no other terms than as a man who fell in heartily with the beer jug humor and feasting of his class. Again he was turned to Berlin, taking up his solitary duties with relief, now in the Hussars, now with the artillery, and passing his spare time reading novels and enjoying himself, and making few friends—among them the Waldereas.

deal with this spirit. He sent for Dr. Windthorst, the leader of the Catholic Centre. The Emperor discovered this and sent word to Bismarck that he should confer with no party man without the Emperor's knowledge. William pressed him for information. Bismarck replied with dignity that he drew the royal line at his wife's door. That settled it. His resignation was curtly, not to say coarsely, demanded. After a vain humiliating appeal to the widowed Empress Frederick to intervene to save him (to her whom he had so bitterly opposed) he wrote the resignation. This was March 2, 1890.

Where so much of menace brooded under the pleasant surface of things in Germany, it seems fit to remember pleasantly some of the lighter versatility of the Kaiser. In 1894 at a dinner given in his honor by the Imperial Guard of Cuirassiers the Emperor suddenly took the baton out of Kappelmeister Rutt's hands and insisted on conducting the brass band himself. He ordered the musicians to blow the Hohenberg march. All conceded, of course, that the performance was faultless, beyond an excess of military music, and had down certain rules, which he hoped would in future be conscientiously observed in the entire army.

foreign terms and platitudes are to be omitted. That would do for many a bureau outside Germany. He had ordered in 1905 five statues of princes of the House of Orange for the long balustrade in front of his Berlin residence. Five sculptors were given the commissions, and in due time the Kaiser ordered the models to be ranged in a vast apartment in the Schloss and ordered all present for an inspection. He paid great attention to the weapons and details of costume.

Lecture Among Sculptors. But it was when it came to armor that the Kaiser surpassed himself. He sent one of his attendants to the Schloss library for a work on armor which had been recently attracting his attention. Book in hand, the Kaiser delivered a lecture on armor which lasted exactly an hour and a half. There was no hesitating his remarks on the evolution of armor and traced the growth and development of armor, and then its final disappearance in the early part of the eighteenth century.

we find him in February at the Verdun front exhibiting in vain his troops to advantage. Soon thereafter he was at Wilhelmshaven, and then writing words for a war hymn. Richard Strauss was to set to music. His travelling was managed with great care, scores of attendants and a small army of guards going with him. In April he was beseeching the Socialist to stay with him, meeting them at Potsdam and otherwise begging his people to stand firm. He was making a campaign. All was to be won that year. For every eventuality he had a speech or an excuse that was braided. He was sending a "goodwill" message through Ambassador Gerard to the United States. His mark still on it was in August, 1916, that he named Von Hindenburg Chief of the German General Staff, replacing the less fortunate Erich von Falkenhayn. Great to the Kaiser's annoyance, was the jubilation through Germany at the old soldier's advance, but more clearly over the Kaiser's final elimination from the realities of high command. He was not to be seen from point to point did not matter. The battle of the Somme brought that about, at any rate. He had visited the Somme front in 1912 and a month later, in the year when he had fastened his mind on the idea of crushing Britain and France and then having Russia and the United States at his mercy.

Struggles Over War Decision. In his own words the casting of the dice was cast him a mental struggle when at last opportunity lay under his hand with the pen on the table and his Minister assuring him that all would be well. He probably doubted his luck, but he signed. A dash, a greater dash and one still greater. The mad German fanaticism in face of modern missiles appealed to him. He would break through; he would not go around. No doubt the plans of the first advance on France and his approval of the Russian breakdown of the first offensive against France came from the same wild resolve to crush through at all cost, which was the Kaiser's military creed up to that time, and easily, therefore, the creed of the boy. Shortly thereafter there were signs that the ruling of the great cause was in the origin, and had been taken away from him, leaving him a really subordinate share in the shaping of the great fighting events.

Surrounded Palace With Troops. William II, at 29 was on the throne, June 3, 1888. William had been in the opposite camp to his mother during the ninety days reign. She, in her grief, her worry, her attempt to gather up the loose ends of her life as a Princess and now an Empress, could scarcely fail to denounce his attitude as unnatural. No longer, however, had the breath left the body of his father than at William's order the palace was surrounded by his troops. He had been Major-General for two years. Now he commanded the whole army. No one was to pass in or out.

Debut Starred the Nation. His debut as Emperor rather frightened the German people. They were willing, eager to admire, but the peremptory staccato of the voice in which he announced his royal right to rule and his unfilial attitude in the recent family situation disturbed them. When Wilhelm began his reign the Socialists were few but irrepressible. The Centre or Catholic party was smaller; the Conservatives made the majority. On them Bismarck always counted. He literally fought the Socialists and the Catholics, though later he made peace with them. Bismarck believed that he held the new Emperor in his hand, first because he had served the young man's turn and next the awe in which all men held him as the empire builder. But they got along poorly. Bismarck was too old to change. He hated and feared the people. Soon Emperor and Chancellor were at odds. William espoused the cause of the workmen, endeavoring to alleviate their condition, secure their old age from want, increase their wages. In this way he hoped to combat socialism. Bismarck knew that it would not, but the Emperor was not to be denied. He wrote on one occasion: "I am resolved to lend my hand toward bettering the condition of German workmen as far as my solicitude for their welfare is reconcilable with the necessity of enabling German industry to retain its power of competition in the world's market and thus secure his own existence and those of his laborers. The dwindling of our native industries and such loss of their foreign markets would deprive the men of their bread."

He Writes a Play. He wrote a play called "Under the Helmet" with some professional assistance. He painted much in his youth but did not often go further. In later years than pencil sketches and caricatures, but he had ideas on art. Sad to say, he loved only the smooth, old-fashioned style, with classic or historical subjects for choice. An allegorical picture of the Temple of Peace which he drew in 1894 shows the open temple in the background, with a mailed figure sword in hand having buried out the demons who otherwise would ascend the steps. Musicians are playing within and a maiden is proffering a pitcher to a presumably thirsty traveler. It typifies the War Lord as law conquering anarchy and other enemies of society, and allowing the world of harmony to wax on inside. It was mediocre and pretentious, which qualities too much of his varied acquisitions over which courtiers went crazy. A movement he started for clearness and simplicity in German official style was much needed. Thus does he pose his idea: "The Kaiser directs that the official style shall be clear and simple, he particularly desiring the omission of long-winded sentences, with involved subordinate clauses. The practice of putting several participles and infinitives into a sentence is to be avoided as much as possible. The style of reports is to be grave and measured, free alike from slang and rhetorical bathos. Unnecessary adverbs, far fetched expressions, foreign terms and platitudes are to be omitted."

His Two Indiscretions. Then came his two "indiscretions," one the interview published November, 1905, in the London Daily Telegraph, in which he poured out his resentment at what he called England's rejection of his overtures and proofs of friendship, how his championship of England caused him unpopularity in Germany, and adding the amazing statement not only that he had refused to receive the Boer delegates in Berlin but had actually caused the German staff to dress up a plan of campaign for the English in South Africa which was practically the plan used by Lord Roberts in wearing down the Boers. The second indiscretion was brought upon him the reproach of the Reichstag. It is known as the "November storm."

Approves Ruthlessness on Sea. The year 1917 was to be fraught with greater moment still to his cause. Admiral von Tirpitz emerged from the shadow and started, with the Kaiser's hearty approval, the "ruthless" submarine warfare. Despite the measure seemed in its defiance of all human law, but to Wilhelm all was fair to strike at England. He would cajole the United States. But could he? Mr. Gerard had a long tale to tell of palace and Foreign Office chicaneries then. And America had a mind of its own. At the beginning of February we broke diplomatic relations with Germany. The news threw the Kaiser into a purple rage. He blamed Von Bernstorff bitterly. In March the United States declared war. The Kaiser pool-poohed it. His statesmen, Generals, Admirals all belittled it. It is worth while recalling the German Foreign Minister's boast to Mr. Gerard that America dared not declare war; that there were 500,000 German reservists in the United States who would—

There are five hundred and one thousand lamp-posts," said Mr. Gerard. Indeed for a time the Armenian question was lost sight of in face of the April news from Russia, where, almost in a night, the Czar and his Government were overthrown by the Russian proletariat with such following of chaotic conditions that from one fluctuation to another, amid the revolt of the army, the changes of Governments, now one batch, now another ruling, Kerensky, who was the most promising leader, falling before the bolder and more radical Bolsheviks, that a totally unexpected line of victory in Russia opened before Germany. There was a danger that the German people would follow the Russian lead and revolt. In June King Constantine of Greece abdicated, and the Kaiser, to whom his treachery to the Allies had been concealed, but

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