



From the London Monthly Magazine.
RECORDS OF WOMAN.

THE SWISS' WIFE.

Not long ago time revealed
Saw woman's quietness of thought
And yet around her is a light
Of inward majesty and might.

It was the time when children bled
They father's hand from field or hill
And when the hero's returning bells
In the Swiss valley, and the good old
And the last note of that wild horn
Which haunts the Echo's heart with melody.

And lo! the woman full of Alpine home
Touched with the emotion of the hour
Which lit her low by the forest's foot
And pierced its lattice thro' the vine-branch
But one, the loveliest of the land
Thou hadst looked mortal in thy green robe.

For Werner sat beneath the lind tree
That sent its falling whisp'ers through his door
E'en as a sun which heart would be
With some deep care, and thus can find more
The woman's joy in all which evening
Gathered a household with her quiet ways.

His wife stood full before him—and, yet mild
In her low voice, he marked it well
The silver laughter of his bright-haired child
Rang from the green-ward round the sheltered spot
But would not leave him at last by the
Raid from his breast a glimmer of joy.

And not his father's face; but then a change—
A soft smile on the brow of infant gleam
A quick look on the mother's face
Brought him from play to stand beside the knee
So often clung, and lift his living eyes
That shone through clouds of sorrowful gleam.

Then the proud bosom of the strong man shook
And tenderly his babe's fair forehead
He laid his hand on with a pleading look
"Thou' tears have fallen, my dear child, and said,
What grief, dear friend, hath made thy heart so prey?
That thou shouldst turn from me our love away."

It was too sad to see thee thus, my friend
Mark that the woman's face was full of
Missing the smile from thee—Oh, how I tried
To hold my breath, and my thoughts were
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second duty, and listening only to the dictates of our hearts, we rendered the oath of fidelity to our elder brother, the Czarowitch Grand Duke Constantine, as legitimate heir to the Russian throne in virtue of primogeniture. Scarcely had we discharged this sacred duty when we were apprised by the Senate that there had been deposited in their hands, on the 10th October, 1823, a letter, with the seal of the deceased Emperor, and with the superscription in the own hand-writing of his Imperial Majesty: "To be preserved by the Senate until my further commands; in case of my death, however, this packet is to be opened in an Extraordinary Sitting, before any other act is proceeded in;" that this most gracious command had been complied with, and the following documents were contained in the packet:

1. A letter of the Czarowitch Grand Duke Constantine, dated 14th January, 1822, addressed to his Majesty the deceased Emperor, by virtue of which his Imperial Highness renounces the succession to the Throne, belonging to him by primogeniture.

2. A Manifesto, dated August 16, 1823, bearing the autograph signature of his Imperial Majesty, whereby his Majesty, after the ratification of the Act of Abdication of the Czarowitch Grand Duke Constantine, establishes that we, the next in age, are Heir to the Crown, according to the fundamental laws of the Empire.

We were further informed, that documents of the same tenor had been deposited with the directing Senate, with the Holy Synod, and in the Cathedral Church of the Ascension at Moscow. These informations could not alter our resolution once taken. We observed in these documents only a renunciation of his Imperial Highness during the life of the Emperor, and confirmed by the consent of his Imperial Majesty: but we had neither the wish nor the right to consider this abdication, which when it took place, was not proclaimed publicly, and had not received the power of a law as irrevocable. We would manifest by this our veneration of the first fundamental law of our country, and of the unalterable order of succession, and faithful to the oath we had taken, we insisted that the whole empire should follow our example.

Under these momentous circumstances, it was not our intention to dispute the validity of the resolution pronounced by his Imperial Highness, much less was it our intention to bring ourselves in opposition to the will of the deceased Emperor, our common father and benefactor, which will always remain sacred to us. We endeavored solely to protect the law, regulating the succession to the throne, from every infringement, to show the purity of our sentiments, and not to leave our beloved country one single moment in uncertainty respecting its legitimate sovereign.

This resolution, taken with a pure conscience, and before God the Almighty, was blessed and approved by her Majesty the Empress Maria, our much beloved mother.

Meanwhile, the mournful account of the death of his Majesty had reached Warsaw, direct from Taganrok on the 25th November, and consequently two days prior to its being received here. Firm in his resolution, the Czarowitch Grand Duke Constantine confirmed the same on the following day, by two Acts, dated 26th November, and commissioned to our beloved brother, the Grand Duke Michael, to carry them to us. These Acts consisted in:

1. A letter to her Majesty the Empress, our much beloved mother, in which his Imperial Highness renews his former resolution, supports it by the copy of a Rescript of the deceased Emperor, dated the 24th February, 1822, serving as an answer to the Act of Abdication, and finally renounces solemnly all his claims to the Throne, and recognizes as his successor the person appointed in the fundamental Law of the Succession.

2. A letter directed to us, wherein his Imperial Highness, after declaring his former resolution, gives us the title of Imperial Majesty, and reserves for himself, only the former one of Czarowitch, and calls himself the most faithful of our subjects.

However decisive these acts were, and although they proved to occur demonstration, that the resolution of his Imperial Highness was irrevocably fixed, yet our own sentiments, and the situation of affairs, induced us to defer the publication of the aforesaid Acts, until the will of his Imperial Highness, with reference to the oath taken by us and the whole empire, should be declared.

Whereas we have now also received on the part of his Imperial Highness, this last declaration of his will, we communicate the same to our subjects, accompanying it by the following documents:

1. The letter of his Imperial Highness the Czarowitch Grand Duke Constantine to the deceased Emperor Alexander.

2. The answer of his Imperial Majesty.

3. The manifesto of the deceased Emperor, which confirms the abdication of his Imperial Highness, and recognizes us as successor to the throne.

4. The letter of his Imperial Highness to her Majesty the Empress, our much beloved mother.

5. The letter of his Imperial Highness directed to us.

In conformity with all these documents, and with the fundamental law of the Empire regarding the order of succession—full of veneration for the impetrate decrees of a guiding Providence—we now ascend the throne of our ancestors, the throne of the Empire of all the Russias, as well as the thrones inseparable therefrom—that of the kingdom of Poland, and the Grand Duchy of Finland, and command—1. That the oath of allegiance be rendered to us and to the heir of our throne, the Grand Duke Alexander, Imperial Highness, our much beloved son. 2. That the period of our ascension to the throne be calculated from the 19th November, 1825.

Finally, we call upon our faithful subjects to join us in fervent prayers to the Almighty, that he will grant us strength to bear the burden that he has in his Divine Providence, laid upon us, that he may preserve in us the firm resolution to live solely for our beloved country, and to tread in the footsteps of the Monarch whom we now deplore. May our reign be nothing but a continuation of his, and may we fulfill all the wishes for Russia's happiness, which animated him, whose sacred memory shall preserve in us the endeavor and the hope, to merit the blessings of Heaven, and the love of our people.

Done in our Imperial residence, St. Petersburg, the 12th December, in the year of Salvation, 1825, and First of our reign.

(Signed) NICHOLAS.

FIRST SUPPLEMENT.

Letter of his Imperial Highness the Czarowitch Grand Duke Constantine to the Emperor Alexander the First.

"Most Illustrious, &c. &c.—Encouraged by the manifold proofs of affection of your Imperial Majesty towards me, I venture once more to claim them, and to lay the following submissive request at your illustrious feet.

"As I do not lay claim to the spirit, the abilities, or the strength, which would be required, if I should ever exercise the high dignity to which I may possess a right by birth, I most fervently supplicate your Imperial Majesty to transfer that right to him who would inherit it after me, and by that means to ensure the stability of the Empire. With respect to myself, I shall add by this abdication, a new warranty and a further power, that obligation, into which I entered voluntarily, and solemnly on the occasion of the divorce from my first wife. All the circumstances of my present situation, induce me still more to adopt this measure, which will prove to the Empire, and the whole world the purity of my sentiments.

"May your Imperial Majesty receive my wish with condescension, may you determine our illustrious mother to accede to it, and to sanction it by your Imperial approbation.

"In the circle of a private life I shall constantly endeavor to set an example to all your faithful subjects, and to all who are animated by a love for our dear country.

(Signed) NICHOLAS.

MANIFESTO OF THE EMPEROR NICHOLAS I.

PETERSBURGH, Dec. 26.—Whereas his Imperial Highness, the Grand Duke Constantine, has declared that he will resolutely adhere to his former abdication of the Imperial Crown, the Grand Duke Nicholas has to-day, ascended the Throne of the Russian Empire, and all the proper Authorities, and the different divisions of the Army, have taken the Oath of Fidelity to his Imperial Majesty. In reference to this important event, the following Imperial Manifesto has appeared:

MANIFESTO.—By the Grace of God, Nicholas I. Emperor and Autocrat of all the Russias. In the grief of our heart, amidst the general pain which oppresses us, our Imperial House, and our Beloved country, we can only bend before the impetrate decree of the Almighty, and we can only seek for strength and consolation with him. He has pleased him to call before the Emperor Alexander I. of glorious memory, and we all have lost a Father, a Ruler, who, during 25 years, was the happiness of Russia and of us.

When, on the 27th Nov. the information of this disastrous event reached us, we hastened, even in this moment of the most acute grief, to fulfil a sacred duty, and listening only to the dictates of our hearts, we rendered the oath of fidelity to our elder brother, the Czarowitch Grand Duke Constantine, as legitimate heir to the Russian throne in virtue of primogeniture. Scarcely had we discharged this sacred duty when we were apprised by the Senate that there had been deposited in their hands, on the 10th October, 1823, a letter, with the seal of the deceased Emperor, and with the superscription in the own hand-writing of his Imperial Majesty: "To be preserved by the Senate until my further commands; in case of my death, however, this packet is to be opened in an Extraordinary Sitting, before any other act is proceeded in;" that this most gracious command had been complied with, and the following documents were contained in the packet:

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We were further informed, that documents of the same tenor had been deposited with the directing Senate, with the Holy Synod, and in the Cathedral Church of the Ascension at Moscow. These informations could not alter our resolution once taken. We observed in these documents only a renunciation of his Imperial Highness during the life of the Emperor, and confirmed by the consent of his Imperial Majesty: but we had neither the wish nor the right to consider this abdication, which when it took place, was not proclaimed publicly, and had not received the power of a law as irrevocable. We would manifest by this our veneration of the first fundamental law of our country, and of the unalterable order of succession, and faithful to the oath we had taken, we insisted that the whole empire should follow our example.

Under these momentous circumstances, it was not our intention to dispute the validity of the resolution pronounced by his Imperial Highness, much less was it our intention to bring ourselves in opposition to the will of the deceased Emperor, our common father and benefactor, which will always remain sacred to us. We endeavored solely to protect the law, regulating the succession to the throne, from every infringement, to show the purity of our sentiments, and not to leave our beloved country one single moment in uncertainty respecting its legitimate sovereign.

This resolution, taken with a pure conscience, and before God the Almighty, was blessed and approved by her Majesty the Empress Maria, our much beloved mother.

SECOND SUPPLEMENT.

Answer of his Imperial Majesty the Emperor Alexander.

"Very dear Brother—I have read your letter with all the attention which it demanded. I have found nothing in it which can surprise, as I always knew how to estimate the sublime sentiment of your heart. It has given me a new proof of your sincere attachment to the State, and your care for the preservation of undisturbed tranquility.

"I have in conformity with your wish, laid your letter before our beloved Mother. She read it with the same sentiments as I did, and gratefully acknowledges the noble motives by which you were guided.

"From the reasons which you state, we have both of us only to leave you full liberty to follow your firm resolution, and to pray the Almighty to grant the most benign consequences to such pure sentiments.

"I remain, forever, your affectionate Brother, (Signed) ALEXANDER.

(Signed) A true Copy.