

## MONARCHS WHO ARE HIGH MASONS.

With the accession to the throne of King Frederick VIII of Denmark, there are now three reigning monarchs who are past grand masters of Freemasons, namely, King Edward VII, King Oscar of Sweden, and the new Danish ruler. For in those European countries where royalty takes an interest in Masonry, and where the heir apparent holds the position of grand master, he invariably resigns that office on his succession to the throne. In the three kingdoms in question, namely, Great Britain, Denmark, and Sweden, Freemasonry enjoys a degree of social prestige which it cannot be said to possess anywhere else in Europe, and it is quite as difficult to get into a good Masonic lodge as it is to secure election to a first-class club in London. King Edward took a very active part in Masonic affairs until he succeeded to the crown, and since then his son, the Prince of Wales, and his brother, the Duke of Connaught, have both figured prominently in English Masonry.

In Germany Masonry is not regarded with so much favor. The King who took the greatest interest therein was Frederick the Great. But old Emperor William viewed the craft with disapproval, owing to its identification with revolutionary political principles in many countries on the Continent, and was extremely displeased when his son, the late Emperor Frederick, joined the brotherhood. The present Kaiser, although initiated as a Mason, has never taken any interest in Masonic affairs, and virtually severed his connection with the craft when he succeeded to the throne, and though Prince Henry also belongs to the fraternity, yet neither he nor any other prince of the blood holds any high office in the order.

In Austria, Spain, Portugal, and Bavaria, the reigning families, being devout Catholics, frown on Masonry, on ecclesiastical, as well as political, grounds, and some years ago, before King Alfonso attained his majority, a newspaper editor at Saragossa was prosecuted by the crown on a charge of lese majeste for having alleged in print that the Queen Mother was causing her son to be brought up in Masonic ideas. Even in Italy, where the reigning family is supposed to be at war with the Vatican, and where the King is denounced as a usurper by the Papacy, a portion of his palace at Rome being under the ban of the church, none of the members of the royal house accord any recognition to masonry or belong thereto, though many of the principal statesmen of Italy are members of the order.

Sultan Abdul Hamed entertains a holy horror for everything relating to Masonry, which he looks upon as identified with that Young Turk movement which is bent upon depriving him of his throne, and which aims to endow the Ottoman Empire with a constitution and a parliamentary form of government. His brother and predecessor, Sultan Murad, was, however, an active and prominent Freemason, and after his deposition in 1876, on the ground of insanity, and throughout his nearly thirty years of captivity, repeated appeals were made by Turkish and other Oriental Freemasons to the English, the French, the Italian, Scandinavian, and German lodges, as well as to Kings Edward, Oscar, and Frederick VIII, entreating them to use their influence to secure the liberation of the imprisoned monarch, who, according to them, was not really insane, but had merely been deposed owing to his liberalism, his progressive ideas, and his determination to reform the Moslem Church.

During the early portion of the reign of Napoleon III Freemasonry was extremely fashionable in France, and the Emperor himself belonged to the order, having been initiated, as a young man, in an Italian lodge, and having subsequently, during his residence in England, joined London lodges. Realizing the advantage of keeping on good terms with the Masons for political reasons, he first of all caused his uncle, ex-King Jerome Bonaparte of Westphalia, the grandfather of the present Secretary of the American Navy, to become grand master of French Masonry. The ex-King was succeeded by Prince Murat, and his place, in turn, was taken by Field Marshal Vaillant, who was minister and chief of the imperial household. But toward the end of Napoleon's reign the French Masons got out of hand, cut themselves adrift from imperial tutelage, and, becoming distinctly anti-dynastic and republican, contributed in no small degree to the overthrow of the empire. To-day every leading public man in France, including Prime Minister Rouvier, President Loubet, and the new President Fallieres, are all enthusiastic Masons.

That Emperor William has accomplished a good deal toward the eventual suppression of dueling was shown the other day by the speech of the chancellor, Prince Buelow, in the Reichstag, when he reported that, owing to the attitude of the Kaiser in the matter, only one single duel between officers of the German army had occurred in 1905. When one compares this with the extraordinary number of duels which were wont to take place when his grandfather, old Emperor William, was on the throne, and even during the early years of the present reign, the character and extent of the reform brought about by Kaiser Wilhelm will be appreciated.

To forbid dueling in the German army altogether is impossible as long as the present social ethics continue to exist on the continent of Europe, and the chancellor was, therefore, justified in announcing that, for the present, the Emperor could not do anything more than he had already done in the matter. So long as the refusal to fight a duel is regarded by society on the continent of Europe as dishonorable and as entailing ostracism, it naturally follows that officers of the army cannot be forbidden by military law to fight when challenged or to challenge when affronted.

As matters stand now, officers who receive a challenge from a social equal and who refuse to fight, have to resign their commissions, and, of course, independently of their leaving the army, forfeit the membership of all their clubs and their place in society.

With regard to quarrels among officers, whether on the active or retired list, the dispute, by order of the Emperor, in his role as generalissimo, is always referred to a court of honor, composed of brother officers. It is only after this court has decided that there is no means of settling the trouble without fighting, and that conciliation is out of the question, that the duel is permitted to take place. A report of the entire affair is then made, through the commanding officer, to the Emperor, and if he finds that the men composing the court of honor have not exhausted all available means to arrange the difficulty without fighting, they are apt to be not merely reprimanded, but to forfeit their commissions. That these courts of honor do their work effectively, and have a wholesome fear of the Kaiser before their eyes, is shown by the fact that, save in one solitary instance, they managed to settle all the quarrels between officers last year without any recourse to a hostile encounter upon the field of honor. And it must be borne in mind that Germany has some 100,000 officers on the active and reserved lists of the army.

Among the queer features of army duels in Germany is the rule prohibiting principals from firing in the air. In other countries, for instance, where dueling constitutes part and parcel of social and military ethics, if one of the combatants, from motives of generosity, fires his pistol into the air, instead of at his adversary, he is praised for his chivalry. But in the German army firing into the air is construed as a refusal to fight, and in such cases the seconds are required to intervene and to insist that the combatant in question should aim at his adversary. If he still refuses to do so, they are obliged to draw up a report about the matter, and the recalcitrant duelist becomes "disqualified." That is to say, he forfeits his commission as an officer of the army.

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