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THE OLD AND THE NEW.

The Duke of Edinburgh Succeeds to Saxe-Coburg and Gotha.

The New Ruler of the Little Thuringian Duchy will no longer be a Ruler of the Queen's Navy—Author, Composer, Hunter.

The death of Duke Ernst of Saxe-Coburg and Gotha, who was born June 21, 1818, has brought about a curious complication in European affairs. The Duke being childless the throne now falls to the Duke of Edinburgh, the second son of Queen Victoria, and her late consort, Prince Albert, who was the brother of Duke Ernst. The Duke of Edinburgh thus becomes a reigning German Prince.

The Emperor William arrived at Reinhardtbrunn shortly after the death of the Duke, having travelled from Berlin on a special train. He went there at the request of the Duke of Edinburgh, who has been spending some time in Germany. When the condition of Duke Ernst became critical the Duke was notified and at once came Coburg, where he was formally recognized as the ruler of the duchy.

The Duke of Edinburgh was at Schloss Reinhardtbrunn when his uncle died and there he took the oath of allegiance to the constitution in the presence of Emperor William and all the ministers. Prime Minister Strasser formally thanked the Emperor William for attending the ceremony. The Diet then met for the purpose of swearing allegiance to the new ruler of the duchy.

Alfred Ernst Albert, Duke of Edinburgh, now Duke of Saxe-Coburg and Gotha, is the second son of Queen Victoria and was born at Windsor Castle August 6, 1844. After a course of private tutoring he went to Geneva to study modern languages. Then he entered the naval service after a strict examination in 1868, was appointed a naval cadet and joined the screw steam frigate Euryalus, afterwards serving on various foreign stations. In 1872 he was offered the throne of Greece, which was afterward accepted by his brother-in-law George, brother of the Princess of Wales. He was subsequently created Duke of Edinburgh, Earl of Kent and Earl of Ulster, and took his seat as such in the House of Lords. He was sworn in a Master of Trinity House and has received the freedom of the City of London. In 1867 he was appointed to command the frigate Galatea, in which he visited the Australian colonies.

While in Sydney an attempt was made by an Irishman named O'Farrell to assassinate him, at Clontarf, near Port Jackson, New South Wales, March 12, 1868. The Prince was only slightly wounded in the back by a pistol shot and O'Farrell was tried and found guilty and executed on April 21. On January 23, 1874, the Duke's marriage with the Grand Duchess Marie Alexandrovna, only daughter of Czar Alexander II, of Russia, was celebrated with great pomp at St. Petersburg. Of this marriage there are issue surviving one son, Prince Alfred, and four daughters. His second daughter, Princess Marie, was married a short time ago to Ferdinand, Crown Prince of Roumania. The Duke was promoted in 1882 to the rank of Vice Admiral of the British fleet.

By accepting the rulership in the little Duchy of Coburg the Duke of Edinburgh becomes a petty member of the German Empire, with one vote in the Imperial Council. The question is can the Duke as a German reigning prince still hold on to the large salaries and emoluments which he receives from England as Admiral and for other services to the British Empire? The Duke has been frequently described as parsimonious, but the fact is that through his wife he is probably the richest member of the English royal family, and each one of his children will ultimately be wealthier than any other of Queen Victoria's children. He may have resolved to enjoy his life henceforth and establish a dynasty, even if it is not an important one.

The Duke of Edinburgh will inherit vast estates, not only in Thuringia, but others of even larger extent and income in Austria and the Tyrol. He will also find a splendid field for the exercise of his musical abilities, of which the English people have not been too appreciative, for he is an able executant on the violin and is not altogether unknown as a composer. The Duchess, too, in Thuringia is free from the restraints of etiquette to which she has been compelled to submit in England.

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The Duke will be the owner of many beautiful castles—homes enough for hosts of his English relatives. There will be first the great palace in Coburg, and if he pleases he can occupy the Fuerstenbau or Princes' Apartments, of the interesting old fortress that looks down upon his capital and study up German history or carry on the late Duke's musical work. It was in the old fortress that Luther resided for a long time, where he translated a good portion of the New Testament and composed his celebrated hymn, "Ein feste Burg ist unser Gott."

Near Coburg the Duke will have two of her castles, which were the favorite residences of the dead Duke—namely, Schloss Kallenberg and Schloss Rosenau, with its park, a masterpiece of landscape gardening. In Schloss Rosenau his father, Prince Albert, was born, and here, after his death his mother, Queen Victoria, spent several weeks mourning her dead consort. Tiring of these he can reside at Reisharkabanna Hinterer, Altenstein, Schwarzburg and Gotha, and a dozen little hunting chateaux.

And his titles, to be added to those he already wears—Duke of Edinburgh, Earl of Ulster and Earl of Kent—will be His Royal Highness the Duke of Saxe-Coburg and Gotha, Duke of Juliers, Cleves and Berg, of Enghem and Westphalia; Landgrave of Thuringia, Margrave of Meining, Count of Haunberg, Count of Mark and of Ravensberg and Seigneur of Ravenstein and of Tonna Alt.

His son, the heir to the duchy, was born October 15, 1874 and is a Prussian lieutenant in the Sixth Thuringian regiment.

THE DEAD RULER.

Interesting Sketch of the Late Duke of Saxe-Coburg.

The Duke of Coburg was seventy-five years of age and had long been ailing. His death was brought about by exposure in a storm, when he was returning from the theatre at Coburg to Schloss Reinhardtbrunn. He was stricken with apoplexy and died after an illness of five days. The Duke had two capitals, Coburg and Gotha, and when he moved from one to the other the theatre followed him, as did the literary celebrities whose society he enjoyed. The Duke was an author himself; he had travelled much; had hunted in Africa and elsewhere in his earlier days, and to the last he liked to see about him men of ability, while travellers and explorers of distant climes found him a good listener. Among the men of letters and travel whom he used to invite fifteen or twenty years ago prominent were Gustav Freytag, Berthold Auerbach, Bayard Taylor, when he resided in Thuringia, and the Plattdeutsch author Fritz Reuter.

Duke Ernst had a good round dozen or so of residential castles, and he was with perhaps the single exception of the Emperor of Austria, the owner of the largest and best stocked game preserves in Europe. Beside innumerable palaces and summer residences in his own duchy, he was master of large properties in Austria. The two largest and by far the most interesting of his sporting domains were in his own duchy, and they comprised the greater part of the vast Thuringian forest. In the sylvan fastness of this grand forest he hid Schloss Reinhardtbrunn, a small chateau, and some twenty or thirty shooting lodges.

It was in Schloss Reinhardtbrunn that the Duke breathed his last. It was his favorite residence as well as the museum of trophies of the chase and mementoes of his travels. The billiard room was crowded with picturesquely arranged trophies, huge heads of wapiti, dozens of different kinds of antelope horns, huge tusks of monster bears and the skins of Russian and polar bears.

Duke Ernst was a sagacious ruler. The great social upheaval of 1848 and the war of 1866 passed harmlessly over his head. When he became ruler of his little country of barely two hundred thousand inhabitants he is reported as having said to his secretary, "It is impossible for me to occupy myself with the government of this little country all day long." Consequently he devoted himself to theatricals and to the composing of music and to the writing of poems, which are said to have a striking resemblance to those of Heine.

A few years ago the duke published his memoirs in two volumes. They created some excitement at the time, but are of little political value. It may be remembered, however, that after the establishment of the Third Empire the Duke was the first foreign sovereign to visit Paris, where he was received with great favor. He repeated his visits to Napoleon's court and was witness of Orsini's attack; indeed, it was he who led the Empress safely out of the crowd, Emperor Napoleon having completely lost his self-control. The Duke was under the impression that Prince Plon-Plon had a hand in the conspiracy. His intercourse with Napoleon's family and later a confidential mission taken by him from the Emperor of Austria to Berlin caused him to lose the favor of the Prussian court for many years. But really the Duke was of not particular importance in European politics, his attempt to form a league of the smaller princes met with little response, and he was happiest when he could get one of his operas performed. One of the greatest joys of his life was when his opera of "Santa Chiara" was given by order of the Emperor Napoleon with great pomp at the Grand Opera of Paris.

The Duke of Edinburgh Resigns.

The Duke of Edinburgh, who succeeds to the titles and dignity of the late Duke Ernst of Saxe-Coburg and Gotha, has resigned his position as Admiral of the fleet of the British Navy, retaining only

the honorary title.

It is altogether probable that the Duke of Edinburgh has accepted the dukedom of Saxe-Coburg and Gotha with the intention of retaining the dignity permanently and not, as once rumored, of giving it up to his son, Prince Alfred, when the latter shall become of age. It is probable, too that the Duchess of Edinburgh, has had great influence upon His Royal Highness in coming to this decision.

As a matter of fact the Duke himself, though once the Sailor Prince of England, never achieved through popularity in England. In 1882 Edmund Yates published in the London World, among a series of "Letters to Eminent Persons," one to H. R. H. the Duke of Edinburgh, in which the following passage occurred:

"Though the Prince of Wales cannot pretend to a title of your nautical skill, and though he is, even as regards the music which he loves, a mere dabbler in comparison with yourself, though you can control an orchestra, scrape a fiddle or lead an orchestra with equal ease and excellence, the fact remains that you are not a national favorite to the extent or in the sense in which your elder brother is. How shall we explain the fact? If the music of the spheres is always ringing in the ears of Your Royal Highness can you be expected to suppress your indifference for the garrulous discords of commonplace men and women? To be popular it is above all things necessary not to be serious; one must not even be in earnest. One must lounge through life in a jaunty and degage manner, with a gently simulated sigh sometimes and a rippling music of laughter usually.

The Duke now goes to a land where life passes slowly and pleasantly, where he may indulge in music and philosophy to his heart's content, and where his dynasty may hope to flourish and produce consorts for future royalties, and where the Duchess herself will be supreme. Kaiser Wilhelm himself will find some benefit in having an Anglo-Russian dual family in the German empire. He will have more opportunities to see the Czar, in case of friendly relations being desired by the two in which case the many castles of the Coburgers in Thuringia and the presence of the Duchess as hostess will assist in taking him away, low and then, for a portion of his holiday, at least, from his Danish relatives in the north.

JINGLES OF HUMOR.

A Little Nonsense Gathered for Leisure Reading.

She—From the time I was 10 years old until I was 21 papa gave me a \$10 gold piece for my birthday each year.

He—I knew that about ten of your birthdays were missing, but I never knew before that you got \$10 apiece for them.

A well known broker was saying last night that a few days ago he had been engaged at his office (that's what he said) until far into the morning. I boarded a car, he said, at Madison street. At Congress street a crowd of people got on and filled the car. As we proceeded several other passengers entered and had to stand, among them an old Irishman.

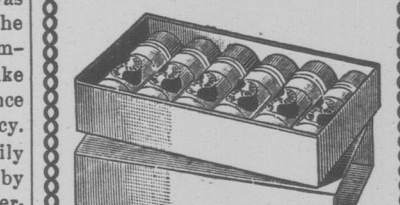
As street after street was passed and not a seat was vacated a comical look of weariness stole over his face, until at last, just as we passed Twenty-second street, he could stand no longer, and looking slowly around the car, he said: For the love of heaven is there none of youse have homes!

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