

The Succession to the Throne of the Netherlands

THE birth of an heir to Queen Wilhelmina has intoxicated Holland with joy and throughout the kingdom the event is still being celebrated. Announced by fifty-one guns, the news that the anxiety of years has been assuaged and that a child of the beloved monarch is left to succeed her, brought joy to every Dutch heart. Immediately after the event heralds on horseback starting from four different points rode through the Hague proclaiming the good news. Thanksgivings were offered in the churches and the minister of justice has announced the birth at the public registry office.

The accouchment occurred at 7 o'clock. The first persons to hear the glad news, owing to the early hour, were a party of workmen passing the residence of the Queen on their way to work. The cheers they raised were the signal for the great rejoicing of the nation.

In the principal streets almost all the shops are flying flags and their fronts are gay with bunting.

Among the many presents received by the Queen are a baby carriage of inlaid ivory from the women of Zeeland, a rosewood cradle from Amsterdam, a gold plate, egg cup and spoon from the West Indies and Surinam, and a gold rattle set with diamonds and emeralds from Groningen.

The following have been nominated as members of a board of guardianship of the beloved royal child in case of the death of the Queen: Dr. J. Roell, president of the second chamber of the states general; M. A. Idenburg, minister for the colonies; Dr. J. A. Loeff, former minister of justice, member of the second chamber; and Baron Baud, attorney-general at Amsterdam.

In Amsterdam the bellfries of the capital rang out a joyous peal on the receipt of the news. The troops of the garrison paraded and in the evening the students from the university marched through the crowded streets with torches and all the city held high revelry.

Yesterday the Christian Orangist association of Amsterdam, gave an "aubade" on the balcony of the New Church in which the Queen was crowned in 1898.

The military officers serving in the Dutch East Indies intend to present the Queen with a gold cup and plate etched with Indian views, while the officers' wives will offer her Majesty a silver tea service. The balance remaining after the purchase of the service, amounting to 1,000 florins (about \$21) will be distributed in the shape of savings bank books to soldiers' children born on the same day as the royal child.

The Queen has sent the following telegram of thanks to the president of the Amsterdam ladies' committee for the cradle recently presented to her Majesty:

"Deeply touched by the magnificent gift offered me by the ladies' committee in the name of thousands of women and girls of Amsterdam, I hasten to express my most cordial thanks to the committee and to all the givers. I greatly admire both the beautiful cradle and all its accessories, and I am most grateful to the ladies who made themselves responsible for the execution of this fine achievement and to all those who have worked at it for the trouble they have given themselves for me. The feelings of love and devotion which speak to me through this magnificent present inspire me with great gratitude.—WILHELMINA."

The Succession

The profound desire felt by the Dutch nation that a child of Queen Wilhelmina may ultimately be her successor is partly the outcome of her own great and well-deserved popularity. But at the bottom of this sentiment one recognizes the broad, strong, historical basis upon which is grounded the national devotion to the House of Orange-Nassau; and a rapid review of the connexion of the Netherlands with that House is not out of place at the present moment.

During the reign of Edward IV. what is now known as the Netherlands and Belgium formed part of the possessions of Philip of Burgundy, whose granddaughter, Mary, married (1477) into the House of Habsburg, and became the great-grandmother of Philip II. of Spain. Mary's son, Philip, had just time to acquire Spain by marriage and then died, and his infant son Charles became in 1506 Heir Apparent to the Crown of Austria, including the Netherlands, and of Spain. At Charles V.'s abdication the Austrian possessions fell to his brother, Ferdinand, but not the Netherlands, which together with Spain went to Charles' son, Philip II.

When Philip II. succeeded his father, the Netherlands were discontented, but quiet. Charles V. was personally popular, and his persecutions of the reformers, his suppression of municipal privileges, were borne in sullen submission. Nobody thought of active resistance. Philip changed all that within 25 years, proving once more that *si duo faciunt idem, non est idem*. His father before him had done all he did, but had felt himself akin with his subjects, and they with him, whereas Philip was a Spaniard of the Spaniards, who entirely misunderstood their religious, their political, and their commercial opinions and ambitions. External circumstances added bitterness to the feeling of the Dutch that, where Charles V. had suppressed their liberties and their wealth, Philip II. wanted to annihilate them. In Germany the reformers were free to worship as they liked; in France the Calvinists were a power in the State; in England Queen

Elizabeth had established the Reformed church on such a firm basis that their Roman Catholic tendencies were the final undoing of the Stuarts, who succeeded her. But the Dutch reformers, already a powerful body, had to bear with the Inquisition, whose efforts to stamp out heresy in King Philip's dominions began to be much fiercer than they had been ever during his father's reign.

Charles had done all he could to centralize government in the Netherlands, suppressing local privileges and making it hardly possible for towns and townships to continue their petty quarrels and nurse their ridiculous jealousies. Philip centralized too, but his centre was Madrid; he governed the Dutch by Spanish methods. In other countries the burghers and commoners had vindicated their independence against the nobility; the Spanish grandees in Philip's council thought they could subdue the national spirit by firm and, if necessary, by harsh rule. At that time no Dutchman was a Republican, and hardly one-third of the population were Calvinists; they were loyal

subjects and on the whole faithful followers of the Church of Rome. Philip got many warnings and much sound advice, especially from one of his father's younger and most trusted friends, William of Nassau. Younger son of a junior line of the ducal House of Nassau, William entered Charles's service, and in due time had become his lieutenant (Stadholder) in the three richest provinces of the Netherlands—Holland, Zeeland and Utrecht.

The House of Orange

William, like other Dutch nobles, Egmont and Hoorne for example, at first thought that political issues were uppermost in the nation's mind. But the attack by the people on Amsterdam and Antwerp, the wholesale destruction of churches, the rising of the "water-beggars," and the capture of Den Briel by these sons of the common people, made him understand that the craving for religious liberty was the motive power behind their actions. This was at least the case in the north, but the southern provinces, now forming the kingdom of Belgium, revolted, chiefly for political reasons, the whole population having remained Roman Catholic. In 1585, when Parma took Antwerp, their resistance broke down. William of Nassau, however, threw himself entirely into the religious movement and became a Calvinist. By this act he became the inevitable leader of the people.

The nation felt he was one with them in mind, and that feeling made him the popular hero. Their understanding of their people, inherited from William of Nassau, is still one of the greatest assets of the present rulers of the Netherlands. It is innate in them and they are educated to develop it. The present Queen, it is said, as a young girl, once met her mother's command to go to bed by the threat, "If you send me to bed I shall appeal to my people from the balcony." This anecdote may be true or not; it is certainly entirely typical, and the Dutch fondly hope that the child who has just arrived may grow up with the same feeling of trust in her people.

Should Queen Wilhelmina give birth to one or more children the Prince Consort will become the head of the new dynasty, which would derive its name from him, and this dynasty would lose the name of Nassau, but not that of Orange. The Queen's eldest son would still be called Prince of Orange, and would be fully entitled to that name as provided for in Clause 29 of the Netherlands Constitution. The Netherlands would still be ruled by a bearer of the name dear to all Hollanders. A modification of the law has been suggested whereby the Queen would become head of the family, and thus retain also the name of Nassau. To this, however, objections have been raised.

It is different with the name of Orange. In

1185 the last Princess of Orange married into the House of Baux. In the 14th century the title travelled another step away, Jeanne of Baux, the last of her House, marrying into that of Chalons, which thereupon called itself Chalons-Orange. About two centuries later, in 1530, the Chalons-Oranges disappeared, the last Prince, Philibert, dying without issue. Philibert left the Principality and title to his sister's son, Rene of Nassau-Breda, better known as Rene of Nassau-Chalons, who also had no issue. Rene made a will, leaving the possessions and title to his nephew, William of Nassau, the famous William the Silent. William had no connection whatever with the Chalons, or through the Chalons or any other House with the Houses of Baux or of Orange. He and Rene were connected because they had the same great-grandmother—a Dutch lady, Johanna of Polanen, who married Engelbert of Nassau-Dillenburg. At the time this will of Rene was of the utmost importance to the Netherlands. From a younger son of a younger branch of an unimportant German

He is a childless widower, but still young, being only about 30. Should he die without issue, the Crown goes to the Grand Duchess Sophia's daughters, like Queen Wilhelmina, great-grandchildren of William I.

Of these Princess Maria of Saxe-Weimar-Eisenach married Henry VII. of Reuss-Koestritz, and has three sons—Henry XXXII. (1878), Henry XXXIII. (1879), and Henry XXXV. (1887), and one daughter (1884). It may be mentioned that the Salic law prevails in Reuss.

If the sons of the Princess Maria die without issue the next heir is Grand Duchess Sophia's daughter, Elizabeth of Saxe-Weimar-Eisenach, who married Duke Johann Albrecht of Mecklenburgh in 1886, and is childless. Duke Johann Albrecht is Queen Wilhelmina's step-brother-in-law.

If all these should die before ascending the Netherlands Throne and without leaving issue, as there are no descendants of King William II. left, the descendants of his sister, the late Princess Marianne—Queen Wilhelmina's great aunt—becomes heirs to the Throne. Princess Marianne married Prince Albert of Prussia; she had a son, Albrecht, and two daughters, Charlotte and Alexandrine. The son, Albrecht (1837-1907), became Regent of Brunswick in 1885, and had three sons—Frederick Henry (1874), Joachim Albrecht (1876), and Frederick William (1880).

Princess Marianne's daughter, the late Princess Charlotte, had also a son and a daughter from her marriage with George II., Duke of Saxe-Meiningen.

The son, Bernard (1851) Princess Marianne's grandson, married Kaiser Wilhelm's eldest sister Charlotte, granddaughter of the late Queen Victoria. They have a daughter, Feodora, who is Princess Marianne's great granddaughter, and married in 1898, Prince Henry XXX. of Reuss of the younger line. Princess Marianne's grand-daughter (through her elder daughter, Charlotte, Duchess of Saxe-Meiningen) is the Princess Maria Elizabeth (1853), Princess Marianne's second daughter coming next in the line of succession. This is the Dowager Duchess Alexandrine of Mecklenburgh-Schwerin, Consort to the late Duke Wilhelm, by whom she has one daughter, Princess Charlotte.

Should again all these descendants of King William I.'s daughter Marianne die without leaving issue, the rights go to the descendants of her younger brother, William I.'s second son, the late Prince Frederick, Queen Wilhelmina's great-uncle.

Prince Frederick had no son, but two daughters, Louisa and Maria. The former (1828-1871) was Queen Consort of Charles XV. of Sweden, and her daughter Louisa (1851) is now Queen of Denmark. She is King Edward VII.'s niece, and she has eight children and four grandchildren. As Queen of Denmark, she cannot, of course, ascend the Dutch Throne; the Dutch Constitution allows two members of one family to wear a crown, but one person may not wear two crowns.

But even if all these 36 descendants of William II. and his daughter Sophia, and all those of William I. and his two other children, Marianne and Frederick, should die, leaving no issue, the succession is still secured. The Crown of the Netherlands would then go, according to clause 15 of the Dutch Constitution, to the descendants of King William I.'s aunt, Caroline, a daughter of the Stadholder William IV. and granddaughter of George II. of England, through his daughter Anne.

This Princess Caroline was married to Prince Charles Christian of Nassau-Weilburg. She had ten children, of whom seven survived her, and the present Grand Duke of Luxembourg, William of Nassau, is her direct lineal descendant.

CARNEGIE SEES GREAT WAR AHEAD

That a great conflict is threatened between Great Britain and Germany was the declaration of Andrew Carnegie before the annual business meeting of the Peace Society, of which he is president. Mr. Carnegie said, in part:

The chief nations of Europe have recently retrograded and are now spending nearly half of all their revenues arming themselves against each other as if mankind were still in the savage state.

Fresh clouds have just risen upon the horizon. Never in our day has the world's peace been so seriously threatened. We have been assured that "an overpowering army and navy is the cheap insurance of nations," that "peace is secured by nations arming themselves until they are too powerful to be attacked," and "if you wish peace prepare for war."

Danger of War Increased

These maxims the chief nations have long followed, ever building new and more destructive weapons, yet their relative positions remain substantially the same. None is more secure from attack than before; on the contrary, the danger of war has increased as their attitude as jealous rivals arming themselves against each other has become more and more pronounced. Britain spent upon army and navy last year \$345,000,000, most of this upon her navy; Germany \$233,000,000, about half upon the navy; the United States expended upon army, navy and war pensions no less than \$470,000,000.

Is Hopeless Task

Never were nations as busy as today in the hopeless task of becoming "too powerful to be attacked." Britain has just discovered in Germany a menace to her existence. Germany, having equal rights upon the sea, fails to recognize the right of Britain to remain a menace to her, which she long has been claiming to be "mistress of the seas." The United States, no longer free from naval conditions, is in no mood to remain menaced by any power. France and Japan are building Dreadnoughts which have returned to plague the inventor, and Russia is about to follow. Last of all, Austria announces she has resolved to build three Dreadnoughts. Ominous decision indeed—suggestive of German alliance. Europe has awakened at last to the presence of impending danger.

Nations are only aggregations of men, and the history of man proves the folly of arming themselves in the vain hope of securing immunity from attack. California is one of the most recent examples. Her gold mines attracted hardy adventurers from all parts of the world. Courts of justice were unknown. The maxims quoted above were followed for a time, each individual resolving to become "too powerful to be attacked" and arming himself as the best means of securing peace and safety. The result was entirely the reverse, as it has proved to be with nations. The more men armed themselves, the greater the number of deadly feuds.

There was no peace. Anarchy was imminent. The best element arose and reversed this policy. At first the vigilance committee, a rude court, was formed of the most enlightened citizens, which was soon superseded by regular courts of law. Only when the arming of men was not permitted did the reign of peace begin. Thus was that community led to peace under the law, by disarmament, and thus only can international peace be finally established and nations rest secure under a police force to maintain, never to break, the peace.

Realizing the Danger

Europe is at last realizing the danger into which the policy of mutual arming has led, but is slow to see that there is but one mode of escape, and that through concurrent action of some or most of the naval powers.

Within a small radius the two gigantic fleets of Britain and Germany will operate, often in sight of each other. The topic of constant discussion in every ship will be their relative power and the consequence of battle. The crews of the respective navies will regard each other with suspicion, jealousy and hatred, in this representing too truly the feelings of their countrymen. Under such strain a mere spark would suffice.

A few marines ashore from two of the ships, British and German, would be enough—a few words pass between them, an encounter between two, both probably under the influence of liquor, begins; one is wounded, blood is shed, and the pent-up passions of the people of both countries sweep all to the winds. The governments are too weak to withstand the whirlwind, or, being men of like passions with their fellows, probably are in part swept away themselves after years of jealous rivalry into thirst for revenge. Such the probable result, given national jealousy and hatred, any trifle suffices to produce war.

Mission of United States

It seems pre-eminently the mission of the United States, which most fortunately lies beyond the vortex of militarism which engulfs Europe, to lead the world to the reign of peace under law. She it was who led The Hague conference in urging an international supreme court. Her congress, alone among the chief nations, has shown a wise moderation in voting from time to time only one-half the number of Dreadnoughts recommended by the executive. She covets no new territory.



HER MAJESTY, THE QUEEN OF HOLLAND
The Netherlands is Occupying a Great Deal of Public Attention Just Now, Owing to the Fact that a Domestic Event of High Political Importance to Holland Has Been Announced

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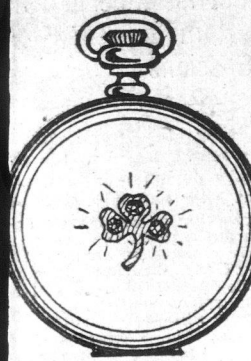
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