

that no less than 10,000 people die of *dilirium tremens* every year in Germany.

Berlin derives its chief importance from being the capital of United Germany. Federation is usually the result of long reasoning. It was so in Canada. It was so also in Germany. In 1848 Germany awoke out of a long sleep and began to entertain the idea of Federation. A scheme was concocted and seemed to be on the eve of accomplishment when suddenly, "the bubble burst," and the German states remained in *statu quo*—a conglomeration of rival petty principalities—until 1871, when the Empire became confederate under the presidency of the King of Prussia. Berlin thenceforth became the centre alike of German legislation, fashion, and culture. It has grown very rapidly. In 1852 the population was under half a million: in December, 1884, it was 1,263,196—including 25,000 soldiers. The population of the twenty-six German States in 1880 was 45,250,000. The rate of increase for some years past has been at the rate of 525,000 per annum. The large numbers who have emigrated to America during the last half century have not perceptibly reduced the redundant population, hence the policy that has recently been forced upon the government—to provide German colonies to which the people may remove without severing their connection with Fatherland. Berlin is surpassingly brilliant at night, when its gay shops and arcades are aglow with electric lights. Good King William is chiefly to be credited for the taste and splendour of his capital, although it was his illustrious ancestor, Frederick the Great who laid the foundation. We have already said that the venerable Kaiser is regarded with unbounded admiration by his people. His popularity is undoubtedly due to his personal worth, his decision of character, his punctillious accuracy in the management of every day affairs, and to the knowledge that he subjects himself to discipline as strict as that imposed upon the lowest subaltern in his army. He is now 87 years of age. The Empress Augusta is 74. It is said of her Majesty that, ordinarily, she is one of the plainest dressed women in Germany. The heir-apparent, Frederick William, was born in 1831, was educated at Bonn University, and married Victoria the Princess Royal of

Great Britain in 1858. The Royal family have always been exceedingly simple in their mode of living. They dine at four o'clock. The Crown Prince is an accomplished carpenter and book-binder. He and the Princess have personally superintended the education of their family. They have had eight children, of whom six survive. The eldest, William, is married and has a son, William, so there are now four Williams in the direct line of succession. The second son is a midshipman and said to be one of the pluckiest sailors afloat.

The German Army, on the peace footing consists of about 450,000 men—that is one for every one hundred of the population. The Imperial Navy in 1883 consisted of 89 steamships, carrying 532 guns—including 24 ironclads. The total length of the railways in the Empire in that year was 21,679 miles, of which nearly three-fourths are under government control. They seem to be well managed. The second class cars are very comfortable. It has passed into a common saying that nobody travels in the first class except kings and fools. They do not attain the high speed of some of the English railways, and they have not the "style" of the *Canadian Pacific*, but the directors have a wholesome regard for life and limb. Civility is everywhere and always the order of the day. The distance from Berlin to Hamburg is 178 miles: time five hours. The intervening country is a vast sandy plain and the journey, in ordinary circumstances, rather a dreary one, but we were fortunate in our travelling companions—a Spanish gentleman, and a Bavarian Burgomaster and his wife with their charming daughter who acted as interpreter. We reached Hamburg at 9 p.m. The city was in a blaze of light. An agreeable surprise awaited us at the station.

P. S. A few days previous to our arrival at Berlin the tenth International Conference of the Young Men's Christian Association was held in the city. It lasted four days and was an occasion of great interest. Between three and four hundred delegates from all quarters of the globe were present. Count Bernstoff, chamberlain of the Emperor, and many other notable men took part in the proceedings. At the Count's request, Rev. Dr. Burn's of Halifax, who represented the committee of the Maritime