

Princes and Rulers.

How comes it that we search in vain in our Albums for the features of the rulers of some of the most important empires in the world? The Emperor of China, the Czar, the Kaiser, the Mikado, and the Sultan are all alike unknown upon the Philatelic page. The explanation of the exclusion of the last-mentioned from our royal portrait gallery is particularly interesting; being in fact the operation of the Mohammedan law, which forbids the use of effigies and pictures. Consequently upon the coins and earliest postage stamps of Turkey, instead of the profile or bust so usual in other countries, we have the paraph or sign-manual of the Sultan. But the objection may be raised that we have a full-faced representation of the Shah upon the stamps of Persia, which also owns the sway of the Prophet. And this elicits the fact that there are schisms or divisions in the Moslem world as well as in Christianity. The Sunnites or Orthodox Musselmans, recognize the Sultan of Turkey as their chief, and conform strictly to the letter of the law. But the Persians belong to the Shiites, a sect of Mahomedan dissenters, who claim greater liberty of action for themselves, and accordingly do not observe the prohibition.

Let us now turn back to the year 1862, and then we find that five emperors are depicted as reigning together in all the fulness of pride and power over Austria, Brazil, France, Mexico, and Persia. And when we recall what has happened to each and everyone of them since then,

well may we exclaim with the Hebrew mourner—"How are the mighty fallen!" Little could any of them have foreseen what the fates had in store either for himself or the others. At the above mentioned date, the shameful day had not arisen for unhappy Maximilian, when betrayed and deserted he should be led out between two of his faithful generals for execution as a malefactor. Napoleon III had not dreamt of disaster and disgrace at Worth or Gravelotte or Sedan, ush-

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