

clearly shown at the very beginning of his reign, for on the day of his coronation in an address to his army he spoke as follows:

"I would direct your gaze to my grandfather, who stands before the eyes of all of you, the glorious war-lord, worthy of all honour—a spectacle more beautiful than any other. So we are bound together, I and the army, so we are born for one another, and so shall we hold together, whether, as God wills, we are to have peace or storm."

And on a later occasion when addressing the German troops sent to China, during the Boxer rebellion, he gave them the following instructions:

"When you encounter the enemy you will defeat him; no quarter shall be given; no prisoners shall be taken. Let all who fall into your hands be at your mercy. Just as the Huns, one thousand years ago, under the leadership of Attila, gained a reputation in virtue, of which they still live in historical tradition, so may the name of Germany become known in such a manner in China, that no Chinaman will ever again dare to look askance at a German."

The letters of King Frederick plainly show the principles then guiding the greatest of the Hohenzollerns. The fruition of his ideas had, however, little chance of accomplishment during the stormy Napoleonic period which so soon succeeded his demise, nor for many years afterwards; but during all that time the Prussian dream of empire was being quietly nursed, and about the middle of last century found vent through their King William, who afterwards became the first emperor of Germany, and his great aides Bismarck and Von Moltke. These men carefully watched their opportunities and brought about in close succession the Danish and Austrian wars, the result of which clearly established Prussia's position as the leading German state. Then through the dishonorable intrigue of Bismarck, France was led into the trap so adroitly set for her and declared war against Prussia. The result of this fatal step on her part was the loss of the provinces of Alsace and Lorraine, and the culmination of Prussia's great dream, the establishment of the German empire. To add to the bitterness of defeat France was compelled to pay her conquerors one billion dollars as a war indemnity, and was still further humiliated by being forced to witness the crowning of the German emperor at Versailles, the beautiful and historic home of her own kings and emperors for many past centuries.

The present kaiser ascended the throne about twenty-seven years ago. Through the efforts of his grandfather, Emperor William I, and his great Chancellor Bismarck, the status of the German empire as one of the first class powers had been fully established and she had already reached high commercial position. Clever, ambitious, an indefatigable worker, restless, but cunning to a degree, William II. conceived the idea of building up a still greater empire, one that would be world-wide in extent and