

Frederick William IV, reigned from 1840 to 1860.

Frederick William Louis or William I, reigned from 1860 to 1888.

Frederick III commenced and ended his reign in 1888.

The most cursory glance at Revelation XVII will show that the Roman Empire of the latter days was to have seven heads which the Spirit of God interprets as seven kings. See Revised Version. These kings were to be related by ties of blood and were to be successive in unbroken order. According to our text they were to be followed by an eighth, who "is out of the seven." It is this eighth king who shall have to deal personally with the "King of Kings" at His coming.

The German Empire ceased to exist during nearly the entire life of the sixth king, which is a requirement of prophecy. After the battle of Austerlitz, in 1806, Napoleon Bonaparte made a proclamation to the effect that the German Empire had ceased to exist, and established "the Confederation of the Rhine." It follows that after 1806, the Empire may be spoken of as "the beast that was and is not, until it again re-existed as it did in 1888 when a union of all Germany with Prussia at the head took place. The prophet of Patmos evidently looked forward in "the things that are" to the time when the sixth king, who was William I, would be on the throne of Prussia, and the Empire, though present in disunion and internal strife, non-existent as regards outward manifestation.

These historic facts should be sufficient to the mind of every dispassionate thinker not warped by interpretations of prophecy, that find in the Pope of Rome the Anti-Christ, and in the Roman Catholic church the mystic woman of Revelation. They show that the Roman Empire never ceased to have its representative on earth whether in avowed declaration of its succession or for a time in abeyance. The dynasty of Prussian kings within the pale of that representative Empire will not fail to satisfy honest and impartial criticism, and meet in a clear and unmistakable manner all the requirements of prophecy.

In addition to all that has been said, William II, the eighth hereditary king, has numerous marks that point him out with singular definiteness as the last great Kaiser of the Empire. These shall now engage our attention.

(1.) William II is a Caesar. The name by which he signs himself, and for which he has a well known predilection, is Kaiser. This is in conformity with Dan. IX 26. History informs us that Jerusalem was destroyed by the Romans in A. D. 70.

(2.) He is also King of Prussia, combining the titles of King and Emperor in one person, a prophetic necessity.

(3.) He is truly a wilful king. On his accession to power he immediately removed Bismarck from the chancellorship. The will of the king was too pronounced to work in harmony with the man to whom the Germans are wont to attribute the unity of the Empire. Dan. XI. 36, and other passages, are thus fulfilled in him.

(4.) He is as our text requires, the eighth king of the dynasty, a fact of the last importance when we reflect on that in no other dynasty of Europe can we find such an unbroken line of seven and only seven Fredericks.

(5.) He was preceded by a "wounded head" or king. His father Frederick III. was wounded in a surgical operation, and in consequence reigned only ninety days. Sir Morell MacKenzie, in his book entitled "Frederick the Noble," writes as follows,

when describing the operation performed by Professor Von Bergmann: "It was like a man trying to force a way through the wall of a house when the door stood open before him—the ordinary *canula* as used by Von Bergmann was in point of fact a circular knife." Again he says: "The fatal complication, be it remembered, was in no way the natural result of the disease, it was attributable solely to the injury done a few days before by Bergmann's random stabbing with an unguarded tube." In the *Contemporary Review*, February, 1889, we read as follows: "Even now when all is over, there is no saying how much longer his death might have been averted, but for the accident by which the throat of the Imperial patient was torn open by the German operator, whose *canula* was the most efficient ally of the cancer." Frederick III. was like a stricken deer hastening towards death with the Indian hunter's arrow in his neck. By comparing the fate of this wounded head with the reference made to the seventh king in Revelation XVII. 10, where it is said, "when he cometh he must continue a little while" (R. V.), we can understand how to the letter this scripture was fulfilled. The idea held by some that the loss of the temporal power of the Pope was a fulfillment of the prophecy respecting the "wounded head," is rather chimerical and far-fetched.

(6.) The present Emperor of Germany has also a wonderful mark in his own person. He has a "withered arm," which is in accordance with Zechariah XI. 17, when speaking of the idol shepherd we read the following words: "His arm shall be clean dried up, and his right eye shall be utterly darkened." Now, compare with this prediction an extract taken from a public newspaper in England. An American who saw the German Emperor with the other royal personages at the Covent Garden Opera House, writes: "I was wholly aware of the unfortunate defect in the Kaiser's left arm. I knew that it was incapable of movement except by lifting with the right arm, that the Emperor had to eat with one hand, using a combination knife and fork, and so on, yet with all this preparation, the spectacle of that helpless withered arm hanging limp and dwarfed at the side of this stalwart man, came upon me as a painful shock."

Zechariah, as we have seen, predicted that "his right eye shall be utterly darkened." Nearly two years ago, an accident happened on board of his yacht, "Hohenzollern," which looks like the shadow of this prediction. The following was taken at that time from one of the daily papers: "It was while a steel hawser was being rigged up under his personal direction that a rope snapped and the end struck him in the face.... The private letter, giving this authentic account of the incident, says: 'The eye is very gravely hurt, and it is quite possible that the Kaiser's sight may be permanently affected. With a defective eye, ear and arm, he would be the worst maimed ruler Europe has known for centuries.'"

The German Emperor has already, in conformity with the destiny of the last great enemy of the Jewish people, commenced operations in order to secure a foothold in Jerusalem. On January 22nd, 1898, the following appeared in one of our newspapers: "The Sultan has determined to send 15,000 soldiers to Palestine in honor of Emperor William's visit there. The garrisons at Beirut and Damascus will be re-equipped, and His Majesty will also give the German Emperor a piece of ground at Jerusalem, which according to tradition was the site of the Last Supper." The attitude of Germany during

the late Graeco-Turkish war may explain all this.

Kaiser William represents a country, the geographical position of which harmonizes with the demands of Daniel VIII, 9, which reads thus:

"And out of one of them came forth a little horn, which waxed exceedingly great toward the south and toward the east and toward the pleasant land." The Swabian ancestry of the Hohenzollerns, if tradition can be relied on, is more likely to be of Grecian origin than otherwise. Greece had colonies toward the four winds of heaven. From a lack of reliable historical data, we are obliged to form our opinions from what we find in the sequel and as a matter of fact. We know that the shores of the Adriatic, as early as the Christian era, were in close commercial relations with the Baltic on account of the amber trade. Some one of the ruling families in Northern Greece, say from either Macedonia, Epirus or the adjacent Illyria, may have found their way to a more northern home in Swabia or Prussia proper in this manner, or by means of the Danube, which is not far from the confines of Greece. That Prussia has "waxed exceedingly great" toward the German states, toward Austria, and recently toward the Turkish Empire, all lying to the south, no one can deny. That she is to-day waxing great by railroads, colonization, schemes, etc., towards the pleasant land of Israel is equally true. South east, then, is her course in conformity with the language of the prophet.

And lastly, the German Emperor's historical connection as a horse with his rider, presented in Rev. XVII, 7, warrants us in expecting the Beast's association with another nation of sufficient tact and sagacity to make use of him. If thus found together in prophecy, they will be found together in history. They co-exist. To establish, therefore, the present day existence of the mystic woman will strengthen the argument for a similar existence of her carrier. Her historic setting and prophetic marks will help to determine even more clearly the same with regard to him, and will be discussed at length in the following discourse.

Now my dear friends, I must now draw to a close. You may require a little time to fully digest and verify what I have given you in support of the startling fact that we have now on earth in one of the Sovereigns of Europe the great prophetic King of Revelation. There are not a few indirect supports to the argument which I have cautiously suppressed. The marks adduced are direct, liberal and easy of comprehension. To dogmatize in such matters is absurd. Yet one thing is certain. If the prophecies respecting the Anti-Christ are to have a literal fulfillment such as took place in regard to the earthly career of the Christ, which is a reasonable expectation, there can be no harm in being on the look out. When we find so many varied marks, involving facts of history, personal peculiarities and geographical relations, all blending into one harmonious result, it becomes a matter of duty as well as of prudence to look this question straight in the face. This I have endeavored to do, and it will be for you in turn to judge whether I am justified or not. If justified, then the coming of our Lord draweth nigh with all the solemn realities of that eventful hour. I need make no further application. Common sense will dictate the great importance of being in right relations to Him, who though "King of Kings and Lord of Lords," is now waiting to act as the mighty Saviour of every anxious and repentant sinner.