

The Kaiser Abdicates

YE made me what I am. From childhood's prime
Ye fenced me round with cringing, fawning
guards

Who clicked their heels, or bent the servile knee,
And made my foolish whims supremest law.
Ye fed my mind and heart with tales of blood
And ravage done in weaker neighbor lands,
And praised their doers as the kings of men.
From earliest years ye fed my thoughts on war,
And warped my judgment with ideals false.
The men ye called the great were ever clad
In glittering steel, with crested helms of gold;
And from their brazen belts hung swords that
flashed

Like glories in my young admiring eyes.
Ye dressed my infant limbs in uniform
Of brilliant hues, and girded to my side
A burnished blade with jeweled hilt and sheath—
My very playthings, implements of war.
While yet a child, ye gave me high command;
My breast with clasps and medals ye adorned—
Titles and honors that I never earned.