

The White Lady of Berlin

THE heavens themselves blaze forth the deaths of Princes." If this be so, we need not be surprised at such melancholy occurrences being foretold by visitants from the spectral world. Some Royal Families, indeed, have special ghosts in attendance, whose function it is to announce death and calamity. The most famous of these apparitions is the White Lady of Berlin. Her advent is held to be a sure sign of the immediate approaching death of some member of the Royal House of Prussia. She was seen (and fired at by a sentry) on the eve of the death of Prince Waldemar in 1879; and, we believe, again when the Emperor Frederick was gathered to his fathers. The White Lady wears a widow's bands and cap; her countenance is placid and bland. She appears, but seldom speaks. In fact, during four centuries of haunting she has only twice been heard to utter a syllable. In December, 1623, she was overheard to cry: "Veni judica vivos et mortuos! Judicium mihi adhuc superest!" (Come judge the living and the dead! I am still awaiting judgment!)" About a century later a Princess of the House of Hohenzollern was dressing in the castle of Neuhaus, when the White Lady suddenly appeared from behind a screen, and passing between the young lady and the mirror remarked, "It is ten o'clock, your love" (this last being the mode of address between Royal personages in Germany). The Princess fell ill a few days later and expired.

The White Lady was once supposed to be Agnes, Countess Orlamunde, mistress of one of the earlier Margraves of Brandenburg. Having murdered her children, she was in turn put to death by the Margrave. Her bones are said to have been discovered beneath a spot on which she appeared (or rather made herself heard by playing a harp) to a Fraulein Doring, a lady of the Court, about a hundred years ago. But a portrait discovered in one of the royal castles some years since has led to the identification of the White Lady with Countess Bertha von Rosenberg, who lived in the fifteenth century—a theory countenanced by the anguish manifested by the spectre during the Thirty Years' War, when the peasantry, to whom she had been particularly devoted during life, were sorely and grievously distressed. The White Lady seems in fact, to have had most respectable antecedents, for she is shocked and put to flight by any profane or improper language. There is a well-recorded instance of her appearance to King Louis I. of Bavaria and his court; and it is whispered that she is not unknown to our own Royal House. This is easily explained, as the blood of Bertha von Rosenberg runs in the veins of all the three great dynasties mentioned.

Traveller and Sociologist

Great is the privilege in these days when civilisation is producing a wearying, conventional type of man, to meet one of originality; with unconventional conceptions, with strange places to talk about, and whose words carry weight. Not a globe-trotter, not a man with a chronometer, a man whose long intercourse with Nature has taught him to sleep when tired and rise when refreshed; who does not rely on a coupon when he wants a meal but on the power of his negotiation with the strange tribes amongst whom he may find himself. There is one amongst us now, in the person of Oliver Bainbridge, Hon. I.E.S., D.Sc., F.R.P.S., F.R.G.S., etc., etc., who, in pursuance of his study of man has been in many strange places and situations, and knows most of the odd corners of the earth, covering something like 200,000 miles during the last ten years.

Mr. Bainbridge will deliver lectures in the leading Eastern cities of Canada. He appears in Toronto on the

28th, at the Metropolitan Church, under the patronage of the Lieutenant-Governor.



Mr. Oliver Bainbridge and His Imperial Highness, Prince Pu Lu.

A Gallant Admiral

ADAMIRAL, SIR ALBERT MARKHAM who retired from the Navy on November 11th, is the hero of at least two adventures—a trip "Farthest North" and a desperate fight with Chinese pirates. Polar exploration is his hobby, says "M.A.P.," and he has written several books on Arctic research, including a life of Sir John Franklin. He commanded an Arctic expedition in 1875-6, when he succeeded in planting the Union Jack in a higher northern position than anyone had reached up to then. For another feat of Arctic exploration he obtained the thanks of the Canadian Government. He also received a testimonial watch from the Royal Geographical Society.

When the Admiral was a young officer on the China station he was sent in a Chinese junk, with a crew of twelve men and a fighting force of twenty, to capture a piratical junk manned by eighty desperadoes armed with matchlocks, gingalls, and other weird and wonderful weapons. After a most desperate encounter, lasting four and a half hours, Markham accomplished his mission with a loss of five men. For this he was promoted by the Admiralty, who also caused a letter to be read on the quarter-deck of Markham's ship setting forth their lordships' approval of the dashing young lieutenant's pluck and resource.

The feat for which he was thanked by the Canadian Government was equally remarkable. He journeyed, on behalf of a railway company, from Halifax through Hudson's Strait to York Factory in his old Arctic ship, the "Alert," and thence in a birch-bark canoe, accompanied only by a couple of Indians, to Winnipeg—a distance of about a thousand miles. During this extraordinary voyage, which lasted four months, food ran so short that for three days he and his Indians had to live solely on tea and tea-leaves.