

Superstitions of Monarchs

Strange Beliefs of the Living Powers of Europe,
Which Affect Their Every Day Life

Like his uncle, King Edward, the Kaiser is very superstitious on the subject of the number thirteen, and the case of any entertainment, and more than once has a mere substitution of the number twelve for the thirteen, been commanded at a moment's notice to join the Imperial party in order to avoid there being thirteen at table.

So writes the anonymous author of two volumes of avowedly intimate gossip, entitled "The Private Life of Two Emperors," William II. and Francis Joseph, which, in an entertainingly piquant style treats of the court life of half a century in Germany and Austria.

Of course, he says, Emperor Francis Joseph and Emperor William are imbued with all the old superstitions peculiar to monarchs. As an instance, they will give up an entire day's shooting, no matter how elaborate the arrangements for it, if a hare to cross their path, for this is always looked upon as being a very bad omen.

Both Emperors attach much importance to dreams and claim to have been furnished by them with premonitions of such misfortune that has overtaken them, and regard Friday as the most unlucky day of the week.

For months prior to the assassination of Empress Elizabeth, forebodings of an impending catastrophe were prevalent at the court of Vienna, and so imbued was Emperor Francis Joseph with ominous presentiments that he repeatedly exclaimed in the hearing of his entourage:—"Oh, if only this year were at an end!"

THE WOMAN IN WHITE.

These apprehensions on the part of the monarch and his court were due to an incident which took place on the night of April 24, 1898, and which was of sufficient importance to be comprised in the regular reports made on the following morning to his military superiors by the officer of the guard at Hofburg.

It seems that the sentinel posted in the corridor or hall leading to the chapel was startled almost out of his senses by seeing the form of a white-clad woman approaching him, soon after one o'clock in the morning. He at once challenged her, whereupon the figure turned round, and passed back into the chapel, where the soldier then observed a light. Hastily summoning assistance, a strict search was instituted, but the chapel was explored without any result.

The sentinel in question was a stolid, rather dull-minded Styrian peasant, who was possessed of but little power of imagination or education, and who was entirely ignorant, therefore, of the tradition, according to which a "woman in white" makes her appearance by night in the Hofburg at Vienna, either in the chapel or in the adjoining corridors and halls, whenever any misfortune is about to overtake the Imperial House of Hapsburg.

On each occasion this spectral appearance to the sentinel on duty has been described in the report of the officer of the guard on the following morning, and is absolutely a matter of official record. The previous visitations of the "White Lady" had taken place on the eve of the shocking tragedy of Mayerling; a few weeks previous to the shooting of Emperor Maximilian of Mexico; and prior to the burning to death of the daughter of old Archduke Albert, at Schoenbrunn; while the very fact that there should have been no supernatural appearance of this kind at the time when Archduke John vanished from human ken, leads the Imperial Family and the Court of Austria to still doubt the story, according to which he perished at sea while on his way round Cape Horn from La Plata to Valparaiso.

SPECTRE OF THE HOHENZOLLERNS.

The origin of the "White Lady" tradition at Vienna, is unknown, nor

is it possible to ascertain anything definite about her history, but there is plenty of documentary evidence, as well as a wonderful array of records concerning "the White Lady of the Hohenzollerns," who makes her appearance in the old Palace at Berlin whenever death is about to overtake a member of the reigning house of Prussia.

Thomas Carlyle went to no little trouble to procure evidence, when writing the history of Frederick the Great, that the "White Lady" had appeared to that famous monarch on the eve of his death. The King, it is asserted, was on the high road to recovery from his illness, when suddenly one morning he declared that he had seen the white-clad specter during the night, that his hour had come, and that it was useless to ward off death any longer. So he refused to take any further medicine or nourishment, turned his face to the wall, and died.

The "White Lady" is considered sufficiently real by the hard-headed matter-of-fact commanders of the Prussian Army, to lead to their adopting special measures whenever her appearance is reported. The moment she is seen, the sentinels within and around the Royal Palace are at once doubled. The object of this is not so much to protect the Royal Family from harm as to prevent the sentinels themselves from following the example of two who shot themselves while on guard at the Palace, in the year 1888, one, shortly before the death of the old Emperor William, the other, a few days before the demise of the Emperor Frederick, the men in each case declaring before they expired that they had seen the "White Lady," their story being in a measure borne out by the fact that their faces even after death seemed to be distorted with terror.

This dread apparition, that forebodes evil to the reigning house of Prussia, is supposed to be the spectre of the Countess Agnes Oriandine, who murdered her first husband, as well as her two children, who constituted an obstacle to her marriage with one of the ancestors of the Kaiser.

A HAUNTED CASTLE.

Another manner in which the Emperor William displays his superstition, is his absolute refusal to permit any steps to be taken to clear up the mystery which has existed throughout the entire country in connection with the hunting chateau of Grunewald, which, like the great Palace at Berlin, is popularly believed to be haunted. It is an old castle, built two centuries ago by the father of the first King of Prussia, and has been the scene of several tragedies.

The one which is supposed to have led to the haunting of the Palace is the murder of one of the Princes of the House of Hohenzollern, in a fit of passion, of a Prussian nobleman, who was his guest. The Prince is reported to have run, the nobleman through the back with his sword, while following him down one of the staircases from the upper story to the ground floor.

Endeavours have been repeatedly made to obtain permission from the Sovereign to tear down the brick wall so as to give access to this staircase, but the present Emperor has sternly forbidden that the matter should even be mentioned in his presence. This extraordinary reluctance displayed by both the Kaiser and his predecessors to discover what there is behind the brick wall leads to the conviction that the moultering remains of the victim of the treacherous hospitality of a Prince of Prussia lie concealed there.

THE CZARINA'S DREAM.

There is no colder, more unemotional and level-headed woman in the world than the young Empress of Russia, says the author, yet she, too, believes in dreams, as the following incident will show. It seems that during the Coronation festivities she was resting one afternoon, and had dropped off into a doze, when she suddenly found herself awakened by one of her ladies, who had been

frightened by the manner in which she dreamed, and even wailed in her sleep. The Empress then said that, in a bad dream, an old gray haired moujik, all covered with blood, had appeared to her and exclaimed:

"I have come all the way from Siberia, Czarlitsa, to see your day of honor, and now your Cossacks have killed me!"

The vision had been so real that the Empress hastened to her husband to enquire if any misfortune had happened. Nicholas, to soothe her, telephoned to the Minister of the Imperial Household, asking whether any fair in love and war, and only then learnt of the terrible disaster that had taken place in connection with the open-air banquet, where over two thousand lives were lost, through a panic that had seized upon the vast concourse of people, the terrible catastrophe being aggravated by the unfortunate attempt of large bodies of mounted Cossacks to restore order by riding into the crowd and using their whips and even their swords against the terrified masses of penned-up moujiks.

MR. ROSS EXPOSED

Continued from Page 9.

Hon. Mr. Stratton, James Connely, M. P. P. C. N. Smith, Liberal candidate for South St. Marie riding; the chief organizer of the Liberal party in Ontario, Mr. Vance; Mr. R. A. Grant, its solicitor and confidant; and Mr. William Coyne, then chief of the Consolidated Lake Superior Company, since the election so generously rewarded by Mr. Ross, and many others, acting under instructions from some of them—notably Mr. Sutherland and the Liberal party's chief organizer—were all implicated in the "Bos" election of Mr. Ross can change the facts or alter the judgments of the people which must be given on those facts.

What is Anti-Pill?

A-Somewhat Peculiar Name Explained—How Dr. Leonhardt Came to Call His Famous Prescription "Anti-Pill."

Dr. Leonhardt found in his practice that chronic constipation and its kindred complaints were the result of a dried-up condition of the mucous membrane lining of the stomach and bowels. He investigated further and found that this condition was invariably brought about by the use of cathartics, which all contain a certain amount of resinous matter.

After the first action of such medicines a resinous residue remains behind and this has a drying effect on the lining of the stomach and bowels. He made up his mind to produce a medicine for all stomach and bowel derangements which would be entirely free from all resinous matter.

After much experiment, he succeeded, and to emphasize the difference between his treatment and the old-fashioned treatments, he gave it the name "Anti-Pill."

Anti-Pill will cure dyspepsia, biliousness or constipation perfectly and for ever—cure to stay cured—with no pill habit left to be overcome later. 50c. All druggists, or The Wilson, Fyfe Co., Limited, Niagara Falls, Ont. Sole agents for Canada.

THE SENSATIONS OF A PARACHUTIST.

Many persons who have watched a balloon ascent and the subsequent drop of the aeronaut by the aid of a parachute must have wondered what the sensation is like. In Outing a man who has had the experience many times tells how it feels to drop through the air from a balloon. The account is all the more interesting because it deals with his first attempt.

"The hand struck up," he says, "and the crowd applauded as I came up. The parachute was stretched out from the straining balloon. As the man with me snapped the rope on the ring he showed me where the rope hung, and showed me how to pull it when cutting loose. He was the excited one. I was in a semi-stupor."

"Let her go!"

"With a cleaving of the air and a rush of sound like the coming of a cyclone, the balloon shot up. I gripped the bar and, as I tried to swing up on the bar, but the rush of the ascent straightened me out like a rod of iron. I thought my arms would be pulled out. A deathly sickness came over me. Then the motion became more easy, and I swung up on the bar. I was accustomed to gazing down from the height, and I felt no fear as I stared at the fading crowd. I could see them waving their hats and could hear the band playing. I was conscious of a pleasant, dreamy sensation and of a steady, easy rising."

"Then the crowd appeared smaller and seemed to be waiting away from me. I had commenced to drift. Now was the time to cut loose. I wished I might stay where I was, taking chances with that limp bag of a parachute did not look safe. But it had to be done."

"I caught hold of the rope, braced myself, and gave a short, hard pull. 'Fish!' My breath left me! For the first time fear, deadly fear, entered my heart. The jerk nearly unseated me, but in a moment I was sailing pleasantly through space."

"Then I began to calculate as to the manner in which to strike the ground. Like many other problems, it settled itself. I struck in a corn field, was dragged and badly scratched, lost consciousness, and came to myself in the arms of my manager, who was greatly relieved to see me return to life."

There is no greater delight than to be conscious of sincerity on self-examination.

However vain may appear the world in which we move, we all of us live in a limited circle.

SOME WAR RUSES EMPLOYED IN THE EAST

From the days of Ozymandias, of Egypt, the first warlike king, who carried fire and sword into Asia two thousand one hundred years before the time of Christ, down to the present conflict in Manchuria, the governing sentiment has been, "All action has brought with it a modification of this sentiment, but it has also brought more cunning and more terrible engines of war."

Even in the mythical days of Palamedes, of Argos, who first ranged an army in regular line of battle, the ruse in warfare was accomplishing more than the strong arm of the swordsman, and it was the ruse that enabled the Greeks to capture Troy after it had withstood a ten years' siege. The present to the defenders of a hollow wooden horse filled with a few armed men effected what thousands had vainly tried to do. The ruse of the present day represents the higher form of intelligence, and a higher form of bravery is the concomitant of the higher form of intelligence. Mind has always triumphed over matter, and to that fact is due the great success of Japanese arms. On the Russian side the great exponents of the ruse are the Cossacks. Little has been heard of them, and if the report of an Italian paper is to be relied on, their inaction is due in some measure to the liberal use of the "crowsfoot."

THE CROWSFOOT "CROWS FOOT."

The "crowsfoot" is a device used essentially against cavalry. It is a dangerous obstacle, and is simply a ball of iron with three sharp spikes protruding from it. The spikes are so placed that no matter how the crowsfoot is thrown one spike stands up perpendicularly. A horse treading on this spike would at once be rendered hors de combat. These crowsfeet are scattered over places suitable for the movement of cavalry, and are as effective against a charge of cavalry as Robert the Bruce's piff were at the Battle of Bannockburn.

Crowsfeet can also be used to protect a camp against a sudden attack in the night, but their use has been practically superseded by wire entanglements. However that may be, these obstacles, according to the Italian report, are being used by both combatants, and the Cossacks, fearing a Japanese ruse, and having a wholesome dread of crowsfeet, born of experience in the Russo-Turkish war, have carefully avoided innocent looking ground in the immediate front of their enemies. Wire entanglement, which has been used with terrible effect in the recent battles is part and parcel of the ruse, the result being that advancing infantry are obstructed at a certain point, the exact distance of which is known, and decimated by a galling fire. The wire is laid in an intricate maze breast high, and to overcome this obstacle the Japanese infantry battalions are served with formidable wire-cutters. But before the wire has been cut the slaughter has been terrible.

In the trenches, too, the Russians have exercised their ingenuity. At Liangpang, where they vacated the trenches, they left a grim souvenir behind them. In many of the trenches they had prepared sharp pointed stakes, and under direction of their engineers placed them so that there was no escape for the foremost Japanese. As the victors leaped excitedly into the trenches they were impaled on the stakes.

The Russians have also made good use of electric land mines and fougasses, the use of pretending to retire precipitately being used to lure the pursuing Japanese on the dangerous ground. The fougasse is a device used at the enemy's side of the entrenchments. It is a deep mine with a powerful charge, filled with stones and concealed with grass or brushwood. In the entrenchments far behind the last Russian waited until the Japanese hurled themselves forward, and as they were about to scale the earthworks pressed a button, and the mine was exploded electrically.

WAR WITH BOMBS.

When the official history of the war is written, and all its many incidents faithfully recorded, perhaps one of the most interesting to read will be the exact story of the Japanese assault between 19 and 23 September, on High Hill or Ithan, the powerful fort lying to the north of Port Arthur. The Japanese were then in possession of the lines of advanced entrenchments on the lower slopes of Ithan, and were ultimately driven from them. Since then they have taken possession again.

But the plan of Russian attack on the occupied entrenchments that temporarily rid them of the Japanese, was in originality worthy of the imagination of the great Skobeloff. On the night of 25-26 September, a large body of sappers and riflemen moved stealthily down the slopes towards the captured lines of entrenchments. No details are given regarding the mechanism of the bombs.

The Russian official report briefly stated that the attack was very successfully carried out. The Japanese were surprised, and the shower of missiles exploding in their lines spread devastation and dreadful panic.

Lieut. Podgorsky was the heroic leader of this storming party. Gen. Stoessel attributes the "principal share" in the work of compelling the enemy to withdraw entirely from High Hill to his skill and great gallantry.

New ostrich plumes show the light color at the stem, deepening toward the tip.

Every man should bear his own grievances rather than detract from the comforts of another.

Trust Your Appetite

It Knows What is Best for Your Health.

Your appetite knows what is best for your health.

That is the theory of modern medicine—the doctrine of common sense. Bread your appetite does not like is bread that is bad for your health.

How easily the human system assimilates good bread?

How hard bad bread is on health.

First, it's hard to eat the soggy, tasteless stuff, so many families call bread.

Your appetite rebels against it. The appetite is wise.

It knows what's best. You can trust it.

If it doesn't want a certain bread, make up your mind the bread is wrong. The appetite is never wrong.

We can safely leave our bread to the judgment of the appetite.

Once one has tasted Royal Household bread, made just right by following the recipes, that person will accept no other.

Other bread is flat and tasteless compared to it.

Eating Bad Bread Sours the Stomach.

Bad bread sours the stomach—lies undigested—creates dyspepsia. No dyspeptic can work well. No dyspeptic can be happy.

Those with weak stomachs, the sick—invalids—convalescents, need and crave, most of all, thin slices of light, white well baked bread.

In the sick room Royal Household is indispensable.

What the Invalid Should Eat

Give the invalid the best bread you can secure—give it to all your family and keep them well.

Keeping well—health by good living—is the modern way.

Royal Household is the modern flour. Send for the recipes.

Send now. Don't wait till to-morrow. We send them free.

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TEA-TABLE TRICK THAT IS GREAT FUN.

Here is a tea table trick that will astonish everyone. You will need two forks, a pitcher and a toothpick. Interlace the tips of the prongs of the forks so that they hold firmly together in V shape. Then insert a toothpick through these interlaced prongs just far enough to secure it firmly. Sometimes the pressure from one or at most two prongs is sufficient for this. The toothpick should be inserted from the inside of the V, like a tongue, between the fork handles. The other end of the toothpick should then be lodged in the mouth of a pitcher which is held enough to allow the handles of the dependant forks to clear the table.

With nothing to hold it, the single toothpick will then support the two forks without tipping or breaking, a feat most puzzling to the ordinary spectator and a most fruitful source of speculation and animated discussion.

FAMOUS PEARLS OF THE WORLD.

The most famous single pearl in all the world is owned by the shah of Persia and called the Tavernier. It was named after the celebrated traveler of that name and was sold to the shah's ancestors by him for \$500,000. To-day it is probably worth more than \$650,000. Another eastern king, the imam of Muscat, has in his collection a pearl worth \$165,000, weighing 12 1/2 carats. The daylight can be seen through it. Princess Youssouff's finest gem is wonderfully beautiful. It was first heard of in 1626 when Georgibus of Calais sold it to Philip of Spain for \$100,000. The pearl is worth \$80,000. It has descended in a regular course to the present incumbent of the throne from one of the earliest popes, who became possessed of it in a manner which has not been told.

These are all of the truly celebrated pearls. But there are remarkable pearl necklaces which have an enormous value. They are usually made up, pearl after pearl being added to the set, and leading jewelers are constantly on the watch to secure more to add to the chain. Pink pearls are not as valuable as either the black or white. Queen Victoria had a necklace of pink pearls which is worth \$80,000, and the dowager empress of Germany has one of 32 pearls which would easily sell for \$125,000. The women of the Rothschild family have gems of this sort which far exceed in value those owned by royalty. Baroness Gustave de Rothschild possesses one made up of five rows of pearls which is valued at \$200,000.—Cincinnati Commercial Tribune.

HERE AND THERE.

There is a large promontory in the Aegean Sea, known as Hayon Horon, which extends 3,000 feet above the level of the water. As the sun swings around, the shadow of this mountain touches one by one a circle of islands separated by regular intervals, which act as hour marks. It is the largest sun dial in the world.

Under the Belgian law, unmarried men over twenty-five have one vote, married men and widowers with families have two votes, and priests and other persons of position and education have three votes. Severe penalties are imposed on those who fail to vote.

The Vienna police are about to experiment with a phonograph in taking a prisoner's answers to questions asked in the preliminary examination, so that when the actual trial takes place there will be no dispute as to what was said.

No man ever lived long enough to regret the right.

Head-ache

Most headaches are caused by the liver. This vital organ becomes torpid. No bile is excreted, bringing Constipation. This affects both stomach and kidneys. And they in turn, bring the headaches from which so many people suffer.

Fruit-atives

or Fruit Liver Tablets

make dull, aching heads as clear as a bell. They act as a tonic on the liver—increase the flow of bile—cure Constipation—prevent Indigestion and Dyspepsia—and keep the kidneys strong and well.

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Your druggist has them.

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