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### Esoteric They Call Him.

Considerable surprise was felt when it was announced the other day when the Emperor Francis Joseph had not only consented to but had apparently been a keen supporter of the betrothal of his granddaughter to a non-royal count, her brother's military tutor, Count Waldburg.

Princess Elizabeth Françoise is the daughter of the Archduke Louis Salvador who is, if not the most eccentric, certainly the most unconventional member of the Austrian royal family. He cares nothing for the court and its surroundings and has spent practically his whole life in geographical research and yachting.

His favorite residence is Miramar, in the island of Majorca. It is a plain looking house surrounded by olive and oak trees. One visitor, on being presented there to a man "dressed in a blue pilot jacket and cap, all over dirt, who, with his hair unkempt and his somewhat uncooth features looked like a member of a German band," was surprised to learn that this was the Archduke.

But in spite of his appearance the Archduke is a highly cultivated man. He speaks a dozen different languages, including English, fluently, and is perhaps the most intellectual member of his

ancient family. He calls his yacht, which always lies with steam up, his only real home. He has described his experiences when he was wrecked in her off the coast of Africa and narrowly escaped capture by the Rifis in a charming book called "Shipwreck, or a Midsummer Night's Dream."

Although not royal, the family of Count Waldburg is of great importance. The Emperor's advocacy of the match is alone sufficient testimony of this. The Waldburgs have an unchallenged twelfth century descent and have played a great part in imperial politics since that date. They have great possessions in Germany and Austria, and are now a mediocrity family, which gives them the right, according to German ideas, of being allied with royal houses, most of which they probably regard as parvenu families.

### A Republic That Failed.

The condition of Portugal is again the subject of more or less of alarmist despatches.

The London Standard's Lisbon correspondent describes the country as a seething volcano of political corruption, petty tyranny, monarchial conspiracies and active preparations for an early revolt against the republic, which many of its

erstwhile supporters admit has utterly failed.

Taxes virtually have doubled and the cost of living has increased. Personal liberty is dependent upon the process of the individual subject. Revenues are being spent chiefly in establishing a more or less disguised form of military rule. Many say the political leaders are grafting on the revenues, especially the secret organization known as the carbonario, whose reputed chief, Alfonso Costa, dictates the appointment of members of the Cabinet and generally controls the Government.

All Portugal knows, says this correspondent, that a royalist revolt with a view of restoring King Manuel is imminent. Trade and shipping are stagnant and everybody is waiting the revolution and the restoration of settled conditions, confident that there will be a monarchist victory.

Other despatches report serious rioting at Oporto in connection with the trial there of the royalist conspirators. Several persons were wounded by the explosion of nine bombs.

### The Evils of Idleness.

It has been said that idleness is the mother of mischief. It is also the mother of ill-health.

The lack of muscular and mental activity plays havoc with the various tissues of the human body. The science of physiology teaches that idleness and inactivity breed disease and death. Decay follows stagnation as naturally as night follows day.

The law of life, whether purely physical or intellectual, is activity—ceaseless activity. Just in proportion as you cease to work you cease to live.

In health we sleep sweetly and soundly, and work willingly. We eat with a relish, and are hopeful and happy. Our skies are bright, our hearts are full of May-day music and of love. The world seems to us just about right now, and to be growing better. The people in it do the best they know how. They are growing wiser day by day, and will soon know enough never to do wrong.

Health means energy, enthusiasm and

ardent activity. It means a child like trust that all is well, and that it will be well with us forever more.

Torpor begets stupidity, suspicion, hatred, misanthropy, and every vile thing. Activity begets the glow of hope, the flush of joy, the holy balm of aspiration and a glorious anticipation of the great hereafter.

Increasing years, silver hairs, old age, are not necessarily associated with a staggering mind, a stagnant memory, a decrepit body, a complaining tone, an absence of all that is real in life.

We hear much of people sick from overwork. There are many more sick from doing nothing. The person who attempts to go through life avoiding all effort, letting all others carry the burdens, "reaping where he has not sown," is not likely to make substantial progress in mental culture or physical development and strength.

### The Force of Lightning.

The amount of light given by a single lightning flash is enough, an electrician calculates, to illuminate an area of two square miles, the bolt itself would be visible several miles further off, but the remotest part of the region mentioned would have as much light as would be given by a candle, quite enough to read by.

To produce such a light it would be necessary to expend 13,000 horse-power for a second. These figures appear large but the time is short. The flash might be for only 1-1000 part of a second, but the impression on the eye would continue for a tenth of a second anyway. Reckoned down to an exact hour, this moment of force would mean only about four horsepower.

The question of how the static electricity gets into the clouds is difficult to answer. One theory is that it is generated by the evaporation of water by the sun's rays. Another is the static discharges are continually taking place from the earth into the air, and are there readily collected by particles of moisture. When the particles of moisture condense they form heavy thunder clouds and this formation of raindrops causes the lightning flashes as explained—Chicago Tribune.

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