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I want to get into correspondence with every man that reads this advertisement, who has a desire to own a farm on the Pacific coast. I would appreciate it if you will tell me in your first letter just what kind of a place you desire—whether a fruit ranch, a vineyard, an intensively cultivated garden, an alfalfa and stock ranch, a dairy or a poultry farm.

We are in possession of a large amount of information that will be of the utmost value to you in deciding where to locate. We can tell you something of land values, terms, market conditions, taxes, cost of cultivation, cost of water and the hundreds of other things which you must know, and which would take you weeks and months to get for yourself.

After you have found the spot, we will send to you one of our expert agriculturists, a man who knows local conditions and can intelligently advise you how to lay out your place and how to avoid the pitfalls the stranger in a new country is likely to encounter. All this service is free. It is the Santa Fe way of insuring the home-maker as far as possible against failure.

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What the San Joaquin Valley is, and what others are doing here, is told in two books, which are free and are yours for the asking. Then, if you are interested, we want you to ask further questions—we are eager to answer them.

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the Palace, and paying their respects to their future sovereign at the early hour prescribed for the levee intime by the archaic regulations of Court ceremonial. Karl had a word and a smile for each. He received protestations of devotion and condolence with becoming gravity and every appearance of attention. He hoped that the Hofdame had not been fatigued by her long journey from Niederbad, and the Erbprinzessin had slept well in the Neptunburg. Then the Lord Chamberlain whispered something in his ear and he rose. The company parted into two rows; the Lord Chamberlain walked backwards before him, and with a bow to right and left Karl withdrew solemnly from the Reubenssaal. He traversed a corridor and entered a much smaller room, used by his father for the transaction of private business. Here two gentlemen were awaiting him: the Freiherr of Kragg and the Arch-duke Cyril of Wolfsnaden.

He bade them a formal good morning. He did not like the Freiherr. He found him invariably dull, and was conscious of suppressed irritation in his presence. The Arch-duke he did not mind. He had an air of fierce geniality, and looked less of a lay figure than most of the people who frequented the Palace. But Karl never forgot two pieces of advice tendered by his father with almost monotonous reiteration, and emphasized with especial earnestness when the end was known to be approaching: "Trust Saunders to any extent. Do not trust Cyril of Wolfsnaden one inch."

"As President of the Honourable Council of the Rathsherren," the Freiherr began formally, "it is my privilege to instruct Your Majesty in the details of the day's sad ceremonial."

"I have learned my part by heart," was the lad's weary response; "is it necessary to recapitulate it afresh?" "It is desirable," said the Freiherr, with a dry cough, "because certain details have been altered at the last minute."

"Without my sanction?" The Freiherr slightly raised his eyebrows. "Your Majesty is not of age," he said. "We are experiencing an interregnum. Your Majesty is 'Your Majesty' by courtesy alone." "Quite so. At least let us have courtesy."

"It is a habit of mine, sire. What I meant to imply was that your position is a difficult one. You are not the King, but the King who is to be. Till you come of age your authority is not even nominal. It is true that we offer you, as head of the Ruling House, the titles and honour of royalty. We call you 'Your Majesty' because it is a little difficult to know what else to call you."

"I understand perfectly," said Karl. "Some day I shall be a substance. At present I am only a shadow. If rumour speaks true," he added maliciously, "the Freiherr himself was very near entering the world of shadows last night."

The Arch-Duke Cyril suppressed a smile, and hastened to his affronted colleague's assistance.

"It is in connection with that—episode, and other illegal actions that we are importing Your Majesty. The Council of the Rathsherren have elected me Regent—" "I thought," interrupted Karl dryly, "that such decisions were kept a profound secret for a week."

"There are no secrets from the King," retorted Cyril.

"But I am not King. I am scarcely even a figurehead. I presume I am entrusted with this secret—because it is no longer a secret."

"Our decision has certainly leaked out," conceded the Freiherr irritably, "and so far I have been unable to discover who has been guilty of this gross betrayal of trust. But the partial knowledge of the fact emphasizes the necessity of proclaiming it still more openly. Our choice is not popular with certain disaffected elements of the Stadt. We must make it impregnable, otherwise the authority of our Council is brought into contempt."

"That seems quite probable," said

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