

the will of the king"). But his Majesty was not done with his Latin. Another photograph of the Emperor reached a distinguished minister with the inscription, "*Nemo me impune lacessit*" ("No one with impunity shall injure me"). One of his ancestors was called "William the Silent." Kaiser William II. will certainly not be known to posterity by that name. He has already spoken as much in public as a half-dozen of monarchs have often done in a lifetime. In spite of Carlyle's dictum that speech is silvern but silence golden, his idea is that "free and frequent utterance is in harmony with the rapid methods of the age, and its wire-hung whispering gallery of a shrunken world." "In all his after-dinner and ceremonial oratory, there is ever a fine manly ring of resolution and of originality, and sometimes it is positively aflame with patriotic fervour. Were his Majesty's speeches always as much distinguished by tact as they are florid with startling imagery and instinct with striking force of character, he might perhaps rank as one of the most effective orators who ever sat upon a throne." Wherever he goes, his visit is not complete without a speech. An irreverent critic, on learning that the Kaiser had travelled some 19,000 miles in a single year, wanted to know what his Majesty's talking mileage had been for the same period!

Frederick the Great was very chary of sitting to a painter, and left but few original portraits of himself. Not so with William II. Not two years had he been on the throne when his portraits and busts might have filled a goodly sized gallery. And then, too, how heroic the attitudes, how magnificent the drapery, and suggestive the setting of all these presentments of his Majesty!

"Hyperion curls; the front of Jove himself;
An eye like Mars', to threaten and command;

A station like the herald Mercury,
New-lighted on a heaven-kissing hill."

The Kaiser's passion for military review—as a French wit called it, "*défilé-ium tremens*," is absorbing. Military manoeuvres and surprises are his favourite pastimes. He delights in taking garrisons unawares. And when his Majesty happens to be around, the troops have learnt the useful art of sleeping with one eye open. He has proved himself an enthusiastic military reformer too.

"In my army," he said, "every soldier shall be lawfully, justly, and worthily treated." Formerly the officers had mainly been recruited from the ranks of the noblesse, but now William II. was willing to accept "nobility of sentiment" as an equivalent for "nobility of birth."

Among other things, he was quick to adopt smokeless powder—he elaborated the use of war-dogs—employed wire-fencing to impede the forward rush of an enemy—introduced armoured turrets on wheels as a kind of movable field-redoubts; simplified the uniform and kit of the soldier; supplied him with a field-tent at once wind, water, and fire-proof; and consented to the reduction of the period of conscript service with the colours, from three to two years.

It is to be observed that Kaiser William is German Emperor, but not the Emperor of Germany—which is a distinction with a difference. The present German constitution recognizes no such official as an Emperor in the absolute sense in which that term has been ordinarily applied, as, for instance, in the case of the First Napoleon. He is simply "*primus inter pares*" ("First among equals"), among the fellow German sovereigns, and as Imperial