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PRINCESS VICTORIA, EMPRESS OF RUSSIA, SISTER OF EMPEROR WILLIAM



PRINCE ADOLPHUS



COUNT LEOPOLD OF LIPPE-BEISTERFELD AND HIS WIFE, THE PRINCESS MARIE

No more interesting game could be possible to play or watch than that which is now engaging Emperor William of Germany and his brother-in-law, Prince Adolph of Schaumburg-Lippe, on the one hand and Count Leopold Lippe-Beisterfeld, backed by the people of Lippe-Deimold, on the other.

The point involved is largely technical and duly aristocratic. Count Leopold, who has for a wife the Princess Marie of Hesse, curiously enough had for his great-grandmother that exceedingly charming German woman, Modeste Von Unrith, who, while connected with the very highest aristocracy of both Bavaria, Saxony and France, or, in other words, Alsace-Lorraine, came just a trifle short of belonging to that haute noblesse which is composed exclusively of reigning families or of those whose families have reigned.

To go back to the beginning, it was nine years ago that Prince Waldemar of Lippe-Deimold died, and owing to the fact that his younger brother, Prince Alexander, was, as he still is, insane, a regency became necessary. Prince Waldemar had in his lifetime nominated as future regent, Prince Adolphus of Schaumburg-Lippe, himself a claimant to the succession of the Lippe-Deimold principality, and brother-in-law of Emperor William by his marriage with Princess Victoria of Prussia. Prince Adolphus accordingly assumed the regency when Prince Waldemar died, in 1895.

In the meantime, however, a protest against this settlement had been entered by the head of the collateral line of Lippe-Beisterfeld, Count Ernst, who claimed both the regency and the ultimate succession. A special court of arbitration composed of six members of the Supreme Court of the empire, with the late King Albert of Saxony at their head, sat to decide the question; and, dismissing the contention of the rival lines that the Lippe-Beisterfeld claim was vitiated because Count Ernst's grandmother had been a woman of the petite noblesse, it declared him entitled to the ultimate succession.

Prince Adolphus of Schaumburg-Lippe thereupon withdrew from Detmold, proclaiming his regency at an end. Count Ernst of Lippe-Beisterfeld stepped into his place and was welcomed as the "popular" candidate to the dignity, which he occupied until his recent death.

No sooner, however, was Count Ernst's personal claim established than the controversy entered on a fresh phase. The rival lines of Schaumburg-Lippe and Lippe-Weissenfeld challenged the claim of his descendants to succeed, on the ground that his wife, like his ancestors already referred to, was merely of the petite noblesse.

The Government of Lippe-Deimold, with the Diet's consent, settled this question, as far as it was concerned, by promulgating a law giving succession to Count Leopold, Count Ernst's eldest son. There was an appeal by the rival lines to the Federal Council of the Empire, and speculation was rife in Germany as to whether this body would, or would not, declare itself competent to deal with the case. In January, 1890, it did so in a guarded judgment, which affirmed that there was then no adequate necessity for actually settling the succession, while adding that its verdict was without prejudice to any future decision on the validity of Lippe-Deimold law.

The Princess Victoria, who is quite a charming woman, with a marked family resemblance to the Emperor himself, is decidedly ambitious. She is disposed to take as a personal affront the fact that, while the sister of the Emperor himself, she is not a consort of a reigning monarch in a land where sovereigns, counts, princes and dukes are as thick as gooseberries and where an express train in a day's run could easily pass through 15 or 20 separate and distinct states of the first class.

Prince Adolphus, who is a descendant of



THE PALACE FOUGHT FOR IN THE LIPPE-DEIMOLD CONTROVERSY

a younger sovereign than the line represented by the Count Ernst, was, in 1893, advocated by the Emperor as Prince Regent of Lippe-Deimold to succeed Prince Waldemar, who had held the throne of Lippe-Deimold for over 30 years,

but while the Emperor is all-powerful in certain matters, such as controlling the army and navy of his empire, the countless little kingdoms which together make up the modern empire of the Hohenzollerns have certain rights granted to them

under the Reichsland or compact which binds all these states together. The most important of these is that the Emperor shall not interfere in matters concerning the internal ruling of these little kingdoms.

Count Leopold, who wears a Vandylke beard parted in the center and a graceful mustache, for years made himself useful by making speeches to the good citizens of Detmold. Princess Marie, for her part, like a well-trained aspirant for a pretty German kingdom, lived quite a domestic life, visited the sick in the hospitals, headed subscription lists to aid the poverty-stricken Detmolders and is today undoubtedly the most popular individual in the little kingdom.

In fact, while it is also a personal triumph for these two that the will of the War Lord of Germany was thwarted and his favorite sister is still without a throne to pose upon, the real triumph is due to the sturdy burghers of Detmold, who for six days and nights surrounded the council chamber, made long and stupid speeches in the streets, built bonfires and talked about building barricades until the Em-

peror's agent was compelled to repack into his valise his golden crosses and diamond-studded decorations and slipped across the Lippe-Deimold frontier, some eight miles away.

With the departure of Count Weissenfeld the bottom fell out of the Emperor's plot to seat Adolphus on the throne. The council, no longer bewildered by the blaze of jeweled presents from the Emperor, yielded to the popular clamor for Count Leopold and declared him elected to succeed his father, Count Ernst. Thus twice inside of a decade Emperor William had attempted to force the sovereign on this little principality, and twice the Emperor's candidate has been forced to keep his coronation robes in campher and carefully pack away his unworn crown in the spare room in the palace at Potsdam.

Bavaria is especially anxious regarding the outcome of the Lippe controversy.

The question of the present regent, Prince Leopold, may soon come up, owing to the regent's advanced age. It is also said that the "unequal birth" of Count von Lippe-Beisterfeld affects the house of Saxe-Meiningen, for Count Leopold's sister Adelheid married Prince Friedrich of Saxe-Meiningen.

The family now reigning which would be the nearest touch by any further attempt on the part of the Emperor to drive Count Leopold from his kingdom would be that which now rules in Saxe-Meiningen as Modeste was the great-grandmother of the children of Prince Friedrich, heir presumptive of Saxe-Meiningen, who married Adelheid, Count Leopold's sister. Friedrich's elder brother, Bernhard, who has no son, married the Emperor's sister, Charlotte. As three of the Emperor's sisters married members of German royal families, and as the Crown Prince is to take a German bride, some of the newspapers suggest that the empire is being cemented by the Hohenzollernizing of the ruling houses of other states.

The German newspapers, for the most part, despite their dread of the Emperor's might and the danger of being shut up over night for insulting his Imperial Majesty, have gazed William strongly and made much fun over the Lippe-Deimold controversy, heading their dispatches as though from a war zone; but at Detmold public meetings gravely discuss what is called the assault on the constitutional rights of the principality, and announce a determination not to let the Prussian King or Bundesrath impair their sovereign rights.

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