

# The Hohenzollern Family, Its History and Traits

The visit of a member of the Hohenzollern family to the United States in the person of Prince Henry, brother of the Kaiser Wilhelm, is certainly an even of social if not of political importance.

The Hohenzollerns undoubtedly deserve to rank highest of all the kingly families of Europe, their name having been written more conspicuously on its pages for the past thousand years than that of any other single family.

Prince Henry is a marked contrast in disposition to his imperious brother. He is an admiral in the German navy and possesses the medal for distinguished service, won by unusual brav-

The prince or emperor who would live up to the highest Hohenzollern standard must be both great as a warrior and great as a man.

The greatest of all the Hohenzollerns was the grandfather of Prince Henry, Emperor William I. As a contradiction to an impression which has become general, it is remarked by a prominent historian that the Germany of today might have been without a Bismarck but could not have been without Emperor William.

It was through this great monarch that the German dream of unity and independence was realized. The once disintegrated kingdoms which constitute it today were vanquished and sor-

the revolution, was one of continually rising progress.

The father of Prince Henry, the beloved Frederick, seems scarcely to have been a Hohenzollern of the conventional type, having been too ideally romantic and cosmopolitan of sentiment for such distinction. The present emperor is a typical Hohenzollern, in disposition, if not in achievement.

It is a long hark back to the first Hohenzollern of note. He was a certain Count Thasso, who lived about the beginning of the ninth century. The count founded a castle near Hechingen, on the Zollern Heights, whence his descendants derived their patronymic. In the eleventh century the fam-

ily by rulers of the Hohenzollern line as to make the exceptions almost more forcibly illustrate the rule. It is true that the first genius who appeared in the line of descent, Frederick the Great, was an exception, but even he, although possessed of extravagant qualities, used his ingrained canny to acquire the title of king of Prussia from the impecunious Emperor Leopold. Since that occurrence each succeeding Hohenzollern has added his mite toward upbuilding the power of Prussia, whilst other royal houses gained power by the help of the French against their own people.

To understand correctly the position of the Hohenzollerns today, one must study the past, and not more particularly in regard to what they did than to what they purposely refrained from doing.

It may justly be asserted that weighed impartially by their virtues and their shortcomings, they were far superior to the occupants of other European thrones.

The court of the Hohenzollerns was peculiarly clean and free from venality, or worse taint. But freedom from rascality was not the only conspicuous trait of the Hohenzollerns. They proved themselves true to the greatest motto of them all—that the king is first servant of the state. It was the constant ambition of these sovereigns to work out the development and welfare of the nation, independent of class distinctions. This the people have always felt, from the humblest upwards. No better example of this fact could be given than the reply of the miller to Frederick the Great, when that monarch threatened to expropriate him unjustly: "There are still judges in Berlin, your majesty."

The Hohenzollerns, at the commencement of the last century, were introducing compulsory education amid the derisive sneers of rival nations and abolishing serfdom among the agricultural class by assisting peasant farmers to exist by means of government loans. At the beginning of the twentieth century we find them breaking fresh ground in new industrial directions and economic measures for the welfare of the masses.

As ever, the present representative of the house shows that he understands a nation does not consist of a small minority of privileged persons, but in a sovereign people who deserve the greatest solicitude of the one who has been placed in sovereign power over them. It is the response of the people to the Hohenzollerns that enables Germany to face her enemies in arms and inspires a Von Buelow to assert her constant readiness to do so.

"What do you think, James," remarked Mrs. Meekton, "Mother wants to be cremated."

"All right," replied Meekton, quickly, "tell her to get her things on and I will take her down now."



ery and coolness in action. He commenced his nautical career at a very early age and has been for twenty years a sailor. "Unser Heinrich," as he is called, is about forty years old, and is much more of a favorite in Germany than is the kaiser. It has been said that he cannot leave Kiel, where his present position in the navy compels him to reside, without special consent of the emperor. Prince Henry was the favorite grandson of Queen Victoria, whom he delighted to visit, and was also the best beloved child of the Emperor Frederick and his imperial consort. His valor and hardihood form the theme of many oft told stories among the men of his command and the Prussians who love most to honor him.

rowful at the time William I. ascended the throne of Prussia. They had been ground between the millstones of other powers for centuries. The war with France, which led to the coronation of William I. as emperor of United Germany, in the palace of the French kings at Versailles, brought about the unification of the empire which had been moulding for centuries.

William I. was the descendant of a long line of great ancestors and was endowed with a character, which, but for a few rather narrow traits, was formed to achieve distinction. This ruler reached the pinnacle of worldly fame gradually, it is true, and not without grave set-backs, but his career, after his return to Prussia from exile, into which he was driven by

ly became split into two branches. The representative of the younger branch, who was the first burgrave of Nuremberg, purchased the margravate of Brandenburg from the impecunious Holy Roman Emperor Sigismund, and founded the family fortunes.

From this occurrence on, the family of Hohenzollern supplies us with a series of extraordinary instances of the transmission of certain mental and moral traits from generation to generation, which have been a part of the bone and sinew of the race for the last eight hundred years.

The Hohenzollerns are of Swabian origin and that region has a well-established reputation for being the home of canny and thrift. These traits have been possessed so gener-

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