

HÖHENLOHE FOR POPE.

Triple Alliance Slates a German Cardinal to Succeed Leo.

The Candidate is the Brother of the Kaiser's New Chancellor, and is Opposed by the Jesuits.

BERLIN, Nov. 3.—"Thou shalt be my chancellor." So read the convincing cipher dispatch, indited by the emperor in person, which made the veteran who only a few weeks ago asked to be relieved of the imperial lieutenantancy of Alsace Lorraine because he had grown too old for the service, assume a ten times more burdensome and harder task.

Caprivi, after all, was scarcely above the commoner; before he was made chancellor of the royal army list used to abbreviate the prefix of the lower nobility in front of his name, to indicate that his claims to knight hood even were doubtful. With Hohenlohe-Schillingfuerst it is another thing. His ancestors, two hundred years ago, ranked equal with the Hohenzollerns in the holy Roman empire of German nationality; the title of prince was conferred upon them when the sovereign of Prussia was still known as "le petit Marquis de Brandebourg," when the pope denounced him as a "church robber," and the German kaiser refused to address him otherwise than as "your excellency." Well, the great Frederick changed all that, and when the Hohenlohes persisted in ignoring him, forced them to acknowledge the suzerainty of the margraves of Ansbach, who had agreed to let their dominions be united with Prussia in the absence of male heirs.

Prince Cledwig has never been above profiting by the experiences of his family. When, in 1806, the hated Prussians assumed German leadership he advised his suzerain (the king of Bavaria, who finally succeeded in Ansbach by way of an exchange of territory) to submit to the inevitable and seek to strengthen his own position by an alliance with the victor. Four years later, just after resigning the Bavarian premiership, he again advised the king, in his capacity as hereditary councillor of state, to declare war against France for the benefit of Prussia.

A diplomat, then, and a business man is this prince of Hohenlohe-Schillingfuerst. Yes, and above all, a grand seigneur.

Kaiser Wilhelm, in his Koenigsberg speech, likened the aristocracy of the realm to evergreen ivy entwining the royal throne. Eugene Richter in consequence rose to say that his party, the Freisinnige, would watch the crawling exercises of knights and princes with compassion, preferring to face the spectacle standing up boldly in the stirrups. Thereupon there was a great uproar among the members of "his majesty's most submissive opposition," the national liberals and the ultramontanes; the aristocrats of the Hohenlohe stripe on the other hand rather enjoyed the simile. They are haughty enough to those "below them." The sovereign, who has it in his power to confer higher ranks and decorations, or, also, clip their wings by closing his door against them, is in their eyes the true representative of the deity, whom they serve without asking bothersome questions.

William has long fished for a man so constituted. He would have nominated Hohenlohe after Bismark's fall if family tradition—that is, the wish of the dying William II—had not pointed toward Caprivi, for with all his professed progressiveness William like Bridgen, dearly loves a lord.

He prefers noblemen, not only for social reasons, but, as already pointed out, on account of their endearing tendency for obedience to the imperial will. The chancellor-elect is not only a prince but a fuerst, that is, an actual chief of a princely house. And he is not fuerst in name only, but a natural toy monarch reigning over 6,000 souls, as they call it in Germany. These 6,000 are nominally Bavarians, to whose government they pay taxes and which enlists the men into military service, besides administering to the post and telegraph; but in all other respects, economically and in respect to home rule, they are subjects of Prince Hohenlohe-Schillingfuerst.

The principality is situated in Middle Franconia near the Wurtemberg frontier and three miles west of Ansbach. It comprises a territory of one square German mile, including two towns and several villages. Schillingfuerst is the capital. It has 3,000 inhabitants and a residential castle high up in the mountains, resembling an ancient fortress. The prince owes everything in the town and everybody as well, as everybody is either a princely tenant or official. His grace administers justice as well as spiritual advice, for he nominates the judge, who pronounces sentence in the name of the Fuerst, and engages the pastor of "his" Catholic church, who, at the conclusion of mass, prays aloud "for the princely house," adding a benediction for "our gracious suzerain" the king of Bavaria. The church contains the graves of the princes of Hohenlohe which, by

their gorgeous sarcophagi, take up more room than is allotted to living worshippers, always excepting the "reigning family," of course, that sits in a semi-theatrical box embellished with crests and baldachin to the right of the high altar.

The townspeople do not benefit in the least by the provision of the Bavarian constitution guaranteeing to each community the right of electing a mayor and a city council and of regulating expenses according to its wants. In Schillingfuerst as well as in other towns of the principality, Frankenhelm, the prince decides about the local taxes to be levied and about the manner in which they are to be spent. If the citizens desire improvements to be made they must petition his grace and his grace will consider the matter in course of time. His grace likewise issues pardons, except in the case of capital punishment, when the remission of penalty must be countersigned by the king of Bavaria. There is no such thing as municipal police. The Schillingfuersters are kept in order by "princely court chassours."

The state religion is Catholic. Protestants will not be suffered to build churches within a radius of sixteen English miles comprising the principality. Jews must worship in the seclusion of their houses.

If the Fuerst is residing in his capital 100 select young men and veterans must act as his body guard. They wear real uniforms and real weapons. They have a colonel, a captain, and several lieutenants. The Fuerst himself acts as commanding general.

All this and more royal prerogatives have been conferred upon the prince of Hohenlohe, as well as twenty or twenty-five other mediatised lordlings, by the Vienna congress that rearranged the map of Europe after the downfall of the first Napoleon. The most valuable "right" held by these worthies is the immunity from taxation and from military service. The prince chancellor may import as many goods as he pleases, if he says they are for use in his family or among his officials; no custom-house officer dare levy duty on them. Likewise all the letters written by himself, members of his family, or his officials pass through the mails of the fatherland free of charge. The German reichstag has more than once tried to abolish these privileges smacking of the middle ages, but the princes and lords are unwilling to yield them up except for a tremendous equivalent in money.

Personally the new prince chancellor is a very amiable man, and not unprogressive as long as the prerogatives of his caste remain untouched. As soon as Eugene Richter and his patriots begin to nag his grace on questions of regalism, or regality (territorial jurisdiction), they will find the new chancellor an obstinate, though silent opponent. Hohenlohe has always thought it beneath the dignity of a prince of the ancient regime to fight his own battles in parliament, that most modern of political institutions as far as Germany is concerned. His state secretaries will echo his grace's views and opinions publicly, which relieves the chancellor from all embarrassments arising through sudden attacks and the heat of debate.

As it behooves so powerful and rich a grand seigneur, Prince Hohenlohe has always tried to increase his importance and family fortune by alliances with other great nobles. His wife, the Princess Marie Antoinette, is a daughter of the house of Sayn, which, like the house of Hohenlohe, enjoys royal privileges and has been declared fit for intermarriage with princes and princesses of the blood royal. His eldest son and "Crown Prince" Phillip is the husband of the Princess Ypsilanti, whose family is among the largest landed proprietors in the world. He has one daughter, Elizabeth, who preferred becoming an old maid to marrying a man not above her own caste. His two younger sons are yet unmarried.

A brother of Hohenlohe has accepted a dukedom from the crown of Prussia. He is known as the Duke of Ratibor, Lord of Kieferstadel and Zembowitz, two territories in Prussian Silesia, where hunger-typus appears every winter with dreadful regularity. The great social drama by Gerard Hauptmann, "Die Weber," represents types and scenery from the dukedom of Ratibor. Indeed, the grace's starving tenants are the dramatist's persons. The piece has been played in Berlin recently, but it is doubtful if it will ever be seen again on the public stage here, now that the feudal slave driver's brother has assumed the German chancellorcy.

The leading politicians of Europe contend that Hohenlohe will never be a Gladstone in regard to retaining capacities for work. At the very best they gave him five years in office. In 1899, they say, the present crown prince will be old enough to assume the throne of Alsace Lorraine, which is to be raised to a grand duchy, or kingdom, for the benefit of the eldest son of each king of Prussia during his sire's lifetime. But in these five years of his regency one great epoch-making event will occur that is liable either to convulse or pacify Europe for times unknown—the election of a successor to Leo XIII. Fuerst Hohenlohe's second brother,

Gustave, is the well-known cardinal and arch-priest of Santa Maria Maggiore, who hopes to be the next pope, and in this aspiration is backed by the Italian government, as well as by his relatives, the emperors of Germany and Austria.

In September last emissaries of all these potentates met in secret session in Buda-Pesth during Emperor Francis Joseph's sojourn there. The object was to effect a combination among themselves and other friendly sovereigns, notably the rulers of Belgium and England, that would lead to Cardinal Hohenlohe's election to the holy see, the projectors claiming that such a scheme, if carried out, would presuppose a formal and lasting truce between vatican and quiral, as well as a betterment of the relations between Austria and Italy. If the differences between Austria and Italy are once settled, it was argued, the triple alliance will stand firmer than ever before, especially as a German pope would enlist the sympathies of the Catholic Britishers for the triple alliance and bring the chief political party of Belgium to an appreciation of German leadership and influence.

It is said that Francis Joseph, William, and Umberto agree to accept none other but a German as a successor to Leo XIII, and that of all the candidates Cardinal Hohenlohe was voted the one best fitted for the office. Since then, the Westphalian Catholics, who play a leading part in Germany, have endorsed Hohenlohe's candidacy, and the cardinal has also received the backing of Prince Alois Liechtenstein, chief of the Austrian Catholics. With the support of emperors and kings, political parties and leaders, and a brother at the head of the leading power of the world, Cardinal Hohenlohe's chances for the three crowns of St. Peter are indeed most brilliant.

Who knows but these considerations have played a part in the selection of Prince Hohenlohe-Schillingfuerst for the post vacated by Caprivi. One thing is certain, Cardinal Hohenlohe's candidacy kept the Jesuits out of Germany for several years, when the Kaiser and Caprivi personally were not opposed to their readmittance. The Jesuits have an interest in seeing an Italian crowned pope. They are fighting Cardinal Hohenlohe, and Prince Hohenlohe-Schillingfuerst has made it his business to fight the Jesuits whenever an opportunity offers itself. He fought them as Bavarian Prime Minister from 1866 to 1870; he fought them in the Bavarian Chamber as a Deputy, and he continued to fight them as a member of the federal government and as Imperial lieutenant in Alsace-Lorraine. That is one of the reasons why the ultramontane press of Germany is not satisfied with the Catholic chancellor.

Berlin society is delighted with the change, for the prince will make the old Radziwill palace on Wilhelmstrasse his official residence, once more the center of aristocratic entertainments. He is immensely rich and inclined to ostrivise even his sovereignty in pomp and circumstances. Half the great manufacturers in Alsace-Lorraine sport signs inscribed, "Purveyor to the court of Prince Hohenlohe-Schillingfuerst." It has been announced already that his grace's sons, Prince Phillip, Maurice, and Alexander will take up their residence in the Radziwill palace. They are all officers of the Guard Cavalry.

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