

## GERMANY'S NEW AMBASSADOR.



BARON SPECK VON STERNBURG.

BARONESS  
SPECK VON STERNBURG.

Baron Von Sternburg is slated to succeed Dr. Von Holleben as German minister to Washington. This is his latest photograph. Also that of his charming wife, who will rule over the German embassy at Washington.

### The Durbar--What It Is and Means

By Fellow of Punjab Oriental University.  
I was present at the Delhi durbar in the year 1877, and as reminiscence is one of the consolations, if not one of the virtues, of age, I should like to trouble you with a few observations on that great historic event.

That great oriental pageant was the creation of the semitic mind. It originated with Lord Beaconsfield, the prime minister of England, and was carried out by his secretary for India, then Lord Salisbury, strictly in accordance with the prime minister's wishes. It is well known that Lord Beaconsfield had hoped to make Queen Victoria empress of Great Britain. But the British people thought such a title contrary to constitutional government. The case was otherwise with regard to India. The title was singularly suitable, and the prime minister said he had discovered that in certain almanacs the queen had already been styled Empress of India. He set about to make her one in great earnest. The good old queen who was always imperial in her conceptions of things, was immensely flattered. Lord Beaconsfield rose in favor.

For such a distinctively poetic conception of imperial rule in India, it was necessary to have a poet viceroy, and so it came to pass that the author of "Lucille" was entrusted with all the details of the great imperial durbar at Delhi. He was made viceroy for this very pur-

pose, and not to fight the Afghans. This is important as a distinction, because it has been said that, if Lord Beaconsfield was distinguished for his knowledge of men, why did he send out a man of Lord Lyton's stamp to fight Russia in Cabul? It was never contemplated. It was hoped that an imperial durbar at Delhi would settle once and for all England's prestige in Asia.

A suitable Persian title must be found to express the English word emperor. A wide search was made and it was found that all the emperors had claimed the title of "Shah-un-Shah," or king of kings. It was a title with which the native mind was accustomed. But an objection was raised by the bishop of Calcutta, who called attention to the fact that in the Hindustani prayer books this term was applied to the Almighty, in the prayer for the queen.

Dr. Leitner, an Anglo-German educationalist, and the founder of the Punjab Oriental university, came to the rescue. He suggested the title of "Kaisar-i-Hind" or the "Caesar of Hindustan." The title commended itself to every one, and almost every one has claimed to be the originator of it! But the credit belongs exclusively to my old friend the late Dr. Leitner, and to no one else.

Then an imperial salute had to be fixed. The ordinary royal salute of twenty-one guns was given to certain native princes, such as the nizams of Hyderabad, the rajah of Mysore, and the maharajah of Cashmir; and so a great imperial salute of 101 guns was assigned to the viceroy. What a blazing away of powder there was! Each of the forty-two native rulers entered Delhi under

salute ranging from nine to twenty-one guns. Then all the high English officials, secretaries of states, governors, and commissioners, had their share of powder.

But the native princess liked it. How well do I remember the intense delight of a great rajah as he entered Delhi on a splendid charger, at the head of some magnificent troops, as his twenty-one guns were booming. The whole Anglo official community laughed at it, and there was something in "Owen Meredith," the poet viceroy, the little man in uniform on the great golden elephant, to excite the risibility of his brother Britishers. But there were 250,000,000 natives of India, from Peshawur to Cape Comorin, who did not laugh, but who said it was a revival of the days of Akbar the Great.

Yes, "Little Bobs" was there. He was a man of no account. But he performed his duties as quartermaster general with satisfaction to every one. He had to see that every one had tents and boots and knapsacks and swords. The commissary department took care of the rest. He was only a colonel. And no one for a moment dreamed that this little man who hustled from camp to camp would in time be Field Marshal Earl Roberts, K. G., the greatest of English generals, Wellington excluded. There were men in that camp such as John Watson, V. C., and Sam Brown, V. C., of whom this may have been predicted, but not Roberts.

It is almost impossible for the average American to realize what this imperial durbar at Delhi means. British India and the United States are so different in their whole make-up. The great native princes of India, some of whom have large standing armies, would not care two straws about a Brooklyn bridge over the Chenab, or a rapid transit through the Afghan hills, but they do care about their historic dignity and their state independence. And this is what the imperial durbar of 1877 assured them, and this is what the imperial durbar of 1903 confirms.

No matter who rules England, Queen Victoria, or King Edward, or King George, the great rulers of the native states will still retain their royal rank, and are as much a part of the British empire as the lord mayor of London and General De Wet. The independent state rule of India is as closely bound up with the interest of the empire as independent state rule is essential in the United States of America.

The expense of this durbar is enormous. But it gives employment to hundreds of thousands, and the great rajahs, sultans, nizams, gulkwars, nawabs, and ameers are scattering gifts at Delhi at the present time as freely as a divine Providence gives rain in its season. It fact, it is impossible to catalogue all that this imperial durbar does give. But, in the concrete, it assures a population of about 300,000,000 people in India of everything which Mr. Chamberlain is endeavoring to impress upon the lesser millions of South Africa, namely, that the imperial rule of Great Britain is firm, stable, and enduring.

It is a notable incident in this durbar that the duke of Connaught, although he is a royal prince, and represents the king of England, ranks below the viceroy, who in his person represents the emperor of India. Only twenty-one guns of explosives are expended on Prince Arthur and his royal princess, while 101 honor the presence of Lord Curzon and his American wife.

I have often been asked how it is that 75,000 Britishers keep in check 300,000,000 people, some of whom are the finest soldiers in the world. My reply is that if carefully studied the answer will be found in the intensely cosmopolitan and democratic condition of Delhi durbar.

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