

Ferdinand's Death Puts Heavy Burden on Shoulders of Aged Ruler; Dissolution of Dual Monarchy Feared



Emperor Francis Joseph; Archduke Francis Ferdinand, his wife and family.

VIENNA.—Special.—The assassination of Archduke Francis Ferdinand throws all the burdens of government on the shoulders of the aged Emperor Francis Joseph, now in his eighty-fourth year. The late archduke had a tremendous strong personality and wielded a powerful influence in every department of political, naval and military affairs. His assistance lightened the burden of Francis Joseph, who because of his advanced years is unable to perform the many arduous duties of his office.

Because of the extreme age of the emperor, the political unrest in Austria-Hungary and the ancient weakness of the present heir apparent, Archduke Karl, grave fears as to the future of the dual monarchy are felt. Thus the death of Francis Ferdinand becomes an event of international importance. His killing is a distinct menace to the peace of Europe, because it threatens a great power with the chaos which might result from splitting asunder its two chief divisions.

There is nothing, apparently, which could take the place of a dual sovereign—Emperor of Austria and King of Hungary—in keeping intact the most heterogeneous and unnatural state in Europe. At least ten languages are spoken in the Austro-Hungarian army. In numerous instances there is deep-seated hostility between nationalities living side by side in limited districts. The dominant races in Austria and Hungary are jealous, often unfriendly and sometimes extremely antagonistic. The whole empire-kingdom feels the pressure of centrifugal forces tending to shatter it to pieces. Its chief bond of union has been a sovereign acknowledged by the entire country. These facts show the great and immediate importance of the succession. The new heir presumptive is twenty-seven years old and untested in large affairs. He is a grandson of the emperor Francis Joseph's second brother,

Mexican Pottery.

Almost every one of the tourists who visit Mexico during the Winter season carries away some specimen of modern Mexican pottery. It is the gray, blue, and red Guadalupe, the green-glass of Oaxaca, the terra cotta incised with chips of broken china-ware from Cuernavaca, or the blue and white pottery of Puebla, often called for purposes of sale "Talavera."

This particular pottery is in itself very attractive, the characteristic type being that of a grayish-white ground partially covered with a pattern usually of deep Delft blue with white browns and yellows are sometimes sparingly used in combination. The patterns are generally acralde and almost invariably crude and medieval in design.

French Opium Smokers.

Dr. Jeannelme, one of the professors at the Paris Faculty of Medicine, states that the opium habit is much more common among French navy officers than is generally supposed, and he thinks it quite possible that the prevalence of this curse may explain the numerous disasters which have overtaken the French navy of late. Dr. Jeannelme sets the number of opium smokers in the colonial infantry regiments at 15 per cent, in the foreign legion at 20 per cent, and among Europeans in native regiments at 25 per cent. He says that opium dens abound at Toulon, Brest, Lorient, Rochefort, Cherbourg and Paris.

Making Stage Money.

It is a curious coincidence that most of the "stage" money flashed by villains in melodramas, and for which murder in sensational plays, is made in Washington, almost within the shadow of the Bureau of Engraving and Printing. The demand for it has caused it to develop into quite a little industry. It is widely used as "prop money" for regular dramatic productions and also for amateur theatricals. It is engraved on green paper like "greenbacks."

The Harbor at Manila.

The amount of money spent in the harbor of Manila and the Pacific River during the past year totaled at nearly four and a half million dollars. It is now the best and safest harbor in the Orient. Breakwaters and large covered docks have been constructed and channels cleared. The improvements are not yet completed.

ROYAL HANDS ILLINOIS TROPHY

Peoria Couple Confident Part of Mummy is That of Princess Thermuthis.

THE GIFT OF HER BROTHER

He Told Sister Getting it Cost Him "as Much as My Head is Worth."

Peoria, Ill.—Mr. and Mrs. Thomas Petherbridge, of this city, are confident that they have in their possession the mummy that spanked Osiris, the prophet who led the children of Israel out of Egypt.

It is the right hand of a mummy, said to have been severed from the mummified body of Thermuthis, or Neferari, a daughter of Ramesses II, who was supposed to have been the oppressor of the Hebrews referred to in Bible history.

The hand, which is in a glass case and kept in a safety deposit vault when the family is away from home, came into the possession of Mrs. Petherbridge upon the death of her brother, Dr. James Bastow, who got the hand while traveling in the land of the Nile. Just how he got the hand is a story that he never told, but he said to his sister that it cost him "as much as his head was worth."

Dr. Bastow was in Cairo when he was invited to accompany a party of British archeologists who had organized an expedition for the purpose of locating the tombs of the Pharaohs. The excavators were successful in unearthing the tombs of ancient monarchs and the mummy of Thermuthis was found. It has not been explained how the right hand came to be severed, but Dr. Bastow came from the Princess.

Four years ago Mr. and Mrs. Petherbridge made a trip around the world. They visited the Egyptian Museum in Cairo, in which the bodies of Ramesses II and his daughter Thermuthis are preserved. The visitors tried twice to find out whether the body of the Princess was minus a hand, but the mummy was so arranged that only the head and feet were visible and the guide would not permit them to make a close investigation. They did not tell him that they had the hand of the Princess in a safety deposit vault in Peoria.

They were much disappointed but left the Nile confident that the hand in their possession belongs to the ancient mummy of the Princess.

The hand is of normal size and is so artistically wrapped that the lines of the finger nails can be seen through the cloths. Each finger is wrapped separately and this indicates that the body is that of some royal person, Mrs. Petherbridge says. Exposure to the air for 25 years has caused the bandage to turn brown in spots. In the palm of the hand the thumb is thrust slightly, leaving the bone of the thumb prominent through the bandage.

Only a portion of the Egyptians were permitted to embalm their dead. The first group was three classes. The lowest class wrapped the bodies from head to foot in one long bandage. The middle class of the group were allowed to wrap the arms and legs separate from the trunk but only royalty wrapped fingers and toes separately.

The story of the adoption of Moses by the daughter of Pharaoh is familiar to every Sunday school pupil. She is not named in the Bible story, but historians have agreed that she was Thermuthis, daughter of Ramesses II, who generally has been identified as the Pharaoh who ruled from 1300 to 1250 B. C. He was the son of Seti and Neferari and was the king of the nineteenth dynasty. He was famed as a warrior and builder. His great war was with the Hittites, whom he defeated in the great battle of Syria. He fortified the coast of Egypt by erecting a great wall from Heliopolis to Tanis.

In his reign Nebet became the leading city of Egypt. Here he erected the temple known as the Ramesseum with a sitting statue of himself 60 feet high. He was the father of Menephthah, under whose reign the exodus of the Hebrews took place. His mummy was discovered near Thebes in 1851 and placed in the museum at Cairo.

The Earliest Irish Immigrant.

It may interest some of your Celtic readers to know that certainly one Irishman accompanied Columbus on his voyage of discovery. He is so ubiquitous it is not surprising that he should be found in any country or in any climate.

In a "list of the persons who were left by Columbus on the Spanish island (San Domingo)" and found killed by the Indians when he returned to settle it in the year 1493 (Navarrete) we find the name of Guillermo Ires; natural de Calney, en Irlanda." It may be a question whether "Ires" was intended for Irish, but Galvez evidently meant for Galway—Ex-Mayor S. A. Green in Boston-Herald.

Orchids Easy to Grow.

There is an idea that only the rich can afford orchids. That is a mistake. A well-shaded, thirty orchid plant in bloom may be had for about \$3. Its blossoms will last longer than those on a \$20 azalea, and when they are gone the plant will be in better condition than the azalea. Or, choose for the owner of a small greenhouse or a sunny window the varieties of orchids she can grow to advantage are comparatively limited, though such a list is the popular lady slipper, which does well in a sunny greenhouse. The Cystoglossa cristata is rated among orchid growers as the best white variety, each blossom being four or five inches across. It can stand a temperature of 40 degrees, and is one of the best and easiest grown of orchids. Good flowering plants of this variety are not costly, and after the blossoms are gone a plant can be kept in a house window, where it will thrive and be ready to produce an increased number of flowers next season. These blossoms will last, cut or uncut, at least two weeks. There are many other varieties equally desirable for window culture which any good dealer will point out to a purchaser for the asking.

Potting is really the only unique feature in orchid culture. Aside from this orchids should be treated about as other window plants are. The standard potting materials are peat and moss, which hold the necessary moisture for the proper length of time. Baskets or some other open receptacles are always used, because it is necessary to admit plenty of air to the roots. That is orchid culture in a nutshell, so you can see that there is nothing too difficult for the window gardener.

PATENT FIRM EXPANDS.

Barthel and Barthel, who for fifty years have conducted the business of patent attorneys in the Buht building, Detroit, have been joined by Mr. Lewis E. Flanders, who was formerly with the firm of Moulton & Flanders, Grand Rapids, Mich. The firm is now known as Barthel, Flanders & Barthel. It is a puzzling and cruel predicament for Miss Polly. Her friends say she won't get out of the family even to please so important a person as Lady Scott.

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