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## THE COMPACT BETWEEN THE EMPEROR OF AUSTRIA AND MAXIMILIAN.

The Vienna correspondent of the *London Times*, in his letter of Decem-ber 27th, gives the subjoined translation of the official text of the often-mentioned compact between the Emperor of Austria on the one hand, and his brother, the Archduke Maximilian, now Emperor of Mexico, on the other:

The most illustrious Archduke Ferdinand Maximilian, having communicated his resolution to accept the offered throne of Mexico, and there, with the help of God, to found an empire, His Imperial Majesty, in family council, did take into consideration the conditions under which he, as the head of the Archducal House, could, in accordance with his dynastic duties, give his consent to the proposed State Act.

As a consequence of the deliberations on the subject in question, His Imperial Majesty, on the one hand, and the Archduke Ferdinand Maximilian, on the other, did agree to the following:

Art. I. His Imperial Highness the most illustrious Archduke Ferdinand Maximilian does, for himself and his male descendants, renounce all claim to the throne of the Empire of Austria, and to all the kingdoms and territories thereunto pertaining, in favor of the other male scions of the House of Austria, and of their male descendants, in the order of succession. And that in a way that as long as there shall be any male scion of the House of Austria, in respect of the order of succession, and more particularly of the family law, which, by the name of the Pragmatic sanction, was made on the 19th of April, 1793, by the Emperor Charles VI, and by the family statute issued on the 3d of February, 1839, by His Majesty the Emperor Ferdinand I—be Archdukes having claim to the succession of descendants of the same in the most distant degree, neither his Imperial Highness nor his descendants, nor any one in their name, shall ever be able to make the claim to the succession.

Art. II. This act of renunciation extends to all privileges connected with the right of succession, and, consequently, to the privilege given by the family statute to act, under certain conditions, as guardian to the heir presumptive to the throne, he being a male scion of the House of Austria.

Art. III. Should, however—which God forbid—all the other archdukes and their male descendants die, his Imperial Highness reserves for himself and his male descendants—being scions of lawful and equal marriages contracted in accordance with the statutes and customs of the Austrian Archducal House—all the rights of succession which appertain to him in virtue of the Austrian law of primogeniture of the above-mentioned family statute, as in such case the act of renunciation contained in Art. I. can be considered neither to his Imperial Highness nor to his posterity. In respect to the rights of the female descendants, in default of heirs male, the regulations contained in the above-mentioned family statute concerning the rights of succession are to remain unchanged. In no case can the illustrious descendants of his Imperial Highness hold the reins of Government unless they be of the Roman Catholic faith.

Art. IV. His Imperial Highness further declares, for himself and his male and female descendants, that he, under the subjoined conditions, renounces all claims to the present and to the future personal or real property of the most illustrious Archducal House, whether such claim be based on the ties of blood, birth or custom.

a. Should extraordinary circumstances occur and lead to an important change in the newly established relations of His Imperial Highness, he and his descendants are entitled to claim a participation in the revenue arising from the family maintenance fund, in such manner as is provided for in regard to the sovereign branches of the most illustrious Archducal House, in paragraph 44 of the family statute of the 3d of February, 1839.

b. Should it unfortunately so happen that all the other illustrious Archdukes, and their male descendants die, and that the heirs male of his Imperial Highness come to the throne, or should it happen that the male line of the Austrian House is totally extinct, and that their rights, in virtue of the above-mentioned regulations relative to the succession, have devolved on the female descendants of His Imperial Highness, then, and in such case, all the claims of His Imperial Highness and his descendants on the family property of the most illustrious Archducal House, whether arising from ties of blood, birth or custom, shall be in full force.

Art. V. As regards hereditary claims on the personal and real property of members of the Imperial House and of their descendants who may have died intestate, the regulations contained in paragraph thirty-ninth of the family statute of the 3d of February, 1839, for those members of the Imperial House who enjoy sovereign rights, are to remain in full force. But his Imperial Highness, for himself and his descendants, reserves the right to accept presents from his illustrious relatives, or to derive benefit from their testamentary dispositions, or to inherit property from other persons, as long as the rights of the Archducal House are thereby in no way encroached on.

In witness whereof, the present compact was made in two copies, which were signed and sealed by his Imperial Royal Apostolic Majesty on the one hand, and the Most Illustrious Archduke Ferdinand on the other.

Done in chateau Miramir, on the 9th day of April, in the year 1864.

FRANCIS JOSEPH, [L. S.]  
MAXIMILIAN, [L. S.]

The persons who witnessed the foregoing important convention were: The Archdukes Charles Louis and Louis Victor (brothers of the Emperor,) the Archdukes Charles Salvator, William, Joseph, Leopold and Reigier. Further, the Lord Marshal Count Knefstein, Feldzeugmeister von Benedek, Lieutenant-General Crenneville, the Emperor's Adjutant-General; Count Francis Zichy, who was Lord Chamberlain to the Archduke Ferdinand Maximilian when Governor of the Lombardo-Venetian Kingdom; Count Rechberg, M. von Schmerling, Count Maurice Esterhazy (who is a Minister without portfolio), M. von Karolyi, the Hungarian Vice-Chancellor; Baron Geringer, the Transylvanian Chancellor; and M. von Mazuranic, the Chancellor for Croatia and Slavonia.

## THE INDIAN DURBAR AT LAHOR.

On the 18th of last month, as the telegraph informed us, Sir John Lawrence "held a Durbar at Lahor." The meaning of this simple announcement was that the Queen of England had, by her representative and deputy, the Viceroy of India, been holding a levee in Central Asia, and had received the homage of six hundred Princes assembled from remote regions in her honor.

Perhaps in the narratives of Froissart we might find a description or two yielding some idea of the spectacles which Royal meetings presented before the splendor of semi-barbarism had been put aside by advancing civilization. But we may as well say at once that Europe never did, and never could, fur-

nish such a show as that at Lahor. Only in the East are the distinctions of long descent and interminable history combined with the primitive habits of half-civilized races. Only there is barbarism noble and magnificent. There Chiefs and Princes, who, at the invitation of the British Viceroy, went up to Lahor, might be deemed uncivilized, if measured by a modern standard; but one of them represented a line of Kings who, according to the firm belief of the country, have reigned in the same dominions for ten thousand years, and yet he only came seventeenth in the order of precedence. These men were all dignified, proud and powerful; and many of them so independent that they had never deigned to attend such a levee before.

The Punjab is the north-westernmost province of British India. So far does it penetrate into Asia that a single step over the border will take you into Independent Tartary. It is continuous with the rudest parts of China and the wilds of Afghanistan. On these frontiers reside chieftains amenable to little authority save that of opinion—monarchs with considerable territories or Princes with patriarchal power. In the province itself there is an aristocracy of no mean quality, whose allegiance has passed from a native sovereign to the Queen of this realm. To this province, as large and as populous as a European kingdom, Sir John repaired in the course of a progress through the Presidency, and there invited all the chiefs within range to a high Durbar. Six hundred and four obeyed the summons, including Kings under our protection, Princes of the Hills, Military Lords from the Afghan border, and the high nobility of the Punjab itself. No native monarch had ever convened such a court. The Mongul Sovereigns could not have thus commanded the Punjab; Ranjeet Singh, the great ruler of the Punjab, could not have controlled the Princes on the frontier. But on this occasion none were so high or so low as to neglect the call. Partly from the local renown of Sir John Lawrence, but partly also from the enhanced and growing reputation of the British rule, all concurred in tendering the compliment conveyed by the ceremony, even the old and infirm being brought to the rendezvous.

The Durbar was held in magnificent tents pitched on a smooth plain outside the walls of Lahor. The commencement of the ceremony was expected at nine in the morning, but the smaller chiefs began to arrive at seven, and before half-past eight the highest of the assembly were in their places. In the East magnificence of costume is still expected, and the dresses of these Asiatic Princes might be chronicled like the toilets of our Royal drawing rooms. The Rajah of Jheend was dressed in pure white muslin, gleaming all over with diamonds and emeralds, and a yellow turban. The Maharajah of Attala, a very important personage, wore a dress of rich lavender silk, but so overlaid with emeralds and pearls that the color could hardly be distinguished. The Maharajah of Cashmere and his son, a boy of ten, were in white, with red and yellow turbans, emeralds and diamonds. One Chief, of great stature appeared in black gold with a green turban; another showed his true Sikh extraction by a robe of pure yellow.

The character and histories of these Princes were as striking and varied as their apparel. There were two high priests of the Sikh nation, lineal descendants of the very prophet who founded the State. There was the very Sikh nobleman who, as the best horseman of his race, had led the charge against us at Chillianwallah. There was the noble Persian of the Kussibashi tribe who had rescued the English prisoners from Cabul. There was a little Nabob, only seven years old, who behaved with as much intelligence and composure as the most experienced ruler. One Chieftain present was noted as the handsomest man in the North-west; another as the wittiest, a third as the heaviest—who was so large indeed, that the arms of his chair had to be cut off before he could be seated. Not a State, not a dynasty, not a principality, not an office, not a dignity remained unrepresented in that Durbar.

And who were they who received the reverence of this unparalleled assembly? The two first representatives of the Sovereign of India had been Irish lads at school at Londonderry; the next was a blue-coat boy at Christ's Hospital less than thirty years ago. One of these however, now in the name of his Queen, governed the whole of India more completely and absolutely than it ever had been governed by the Great Moguls; and as the entire meeting rose in his honor he addressed the chiefs in his own language with the ease and fluency of a native. Never up to this time had such a proceeding been recorded. Some of the earlier Governors of India could certainly have spoken Hindostanee, but they never enjoyed such an occasion of doing so. It was reserved for Sir John Lawrence to unite the accomplishments and the power which thus brought him into direct intercourse with the Rajahs, the Marajahs, the Nabobs, and the Sardars of territories once beyond our knowledge, and to these Princes he addressed words of simplicity and force. He told them how, when he had lately stood in the presence of the Queen of England, she had inculcated to him the duty of promoting their welfare, and how her Consort, the Prince whose greatness and goodness were everywhere known, had always felt the deepest interest in the prosperity of India. He reminded them of the solid advantages which they had actually derived from the English rule, and acknowledged the devotion by which in the hour of our peril they had repaid the obligation. He told them to educate their children in sound learning, and to acquaint themselves with the true policy and intentions of their rulers, so that they might discern and recognize the character of our government.

Then the whole six hundred were presented to him one by one, Princes and their heirs-apparent, great Ministers of States, Rajahs and Nabobs, spiritual Potentates and military Chiefs.

It was thought that six hours would be required for a list of presentations of which none could be omitted or hurried; but so successfully were the ceremonies conducted that half the time was saved, and the Durbar was over at noon.

First rolled away the Viceroy's carriage escorted by his Body Guard and under a Royal salute, and then three or four Princes of the highest rank were escorted with almost equal ceremony. But when the most lordly of the grandees had departed, the assembly broke up, and resolved itself into a stately mob of Oriental dignitaries. Conspicuous in the crowd were two ambassadors from Kogan, a city remote and obscure, even in the eyes of the Sikhs themselves, who had arrived on a mission from the fabulous regions beyond Bokhara. Two battalions of British infantry, with a few squadrons of cavalry, sufficed to represent the military power of that Empire to which all this reverence had been paid; and one of these regiments conducted in no slight degree to the gratification of the nobles assembled. Whether from fastidiousness of taste or otherwise it might be dangerous to enquire but of all European music, the Indian ear loves that of the Scottish bagpipe alone, and when the pipes of the 93rd were ordered out to play, the gratification of her Majesty's princely vassals was complete. Three times were the pipes brought up and played round the great tent to the delight of the company; and the Maharajah of Cashmere, we are informed, has sent an embassy to Sealkote for the express purpose of getting instructions on the instrument from the Highland corps quartered there, while another Hill Chieftain has bespoken the genuine article direct from Edinburgh.

"John, where is your master to-day?"  
"O, he's off, sir, recruiting."  
"Recruiting, is he? that's good! Where's he recruiting?"  
"Up in the White Mountains, sir, recruiting his health."  
"Ah! he's sick, is he? What's the matter?"  
"He took cold on account of the draft."  
—Two-thirds of the product of the oil wells in America have been shipped abroad.