

Previous Visits of Royalty to the United States

THE coming visit of Prince Henry, brother of the emperor of Germany, reminds us that, notwithstanding the fact that this country has at times been ban of royalty, it has had the pleasure of affording an asylum to or of entertaining as guests several scions of royal houses. The total number amounts up to nearly a score, including one king actually reigning at the time of his visit, one exiled king, one in prospective who afterward rose to eminence in his profession, probably owing to the shrewdness he acquired in America; one queen, one emperor, and nearly a dozen princes and princesses. Of the smaller fry, such as princelings, dukes, earls, barons and baronets, we have had as guests at one time or another more than one well could keep track of.

The United States has always had a great attraction for royalty, and it seems to be increasing as the years go by. It is safe to say that there is not a ruler on any throne of Europe who does not desire to see for himself or herself this great country which has absorbed so many European immigrants.

The royal visits began away back in the eighteenth century, one of the first immigrants of importance being Louis Philippe of France, afterward that country's sovereign. He came here for rest and recreation—also for his health—in the year 1796. He took passage on the ship America as a Danish subject and landed in Philadelphia. With his two

amiable but impetuous gentleman, extremely democratic in his manners and effusive in his friendships.

The emperor of Brazil was not the first representative of royalty, however, to make the United States a voluntary visit in the nineteenth century, but he was the second occupant of a throne to do so. It was in 1850 that Queen Victoria's eldest son, the Prince of Wales, now King Edward VII., paid this country a fleeting visit on the occasion of his first extended trip abroad. Under the tutelage of the Duke of Newcastle and bearing the insignia of "Baron Renfrew," he caught his first glimpse of America's shores off the coast of Newfoundland, landing at St. John's July 24, 1850. He was then only nineteen years of age and was as lively and frisky, his contemporaries of that time say, as any young man of his years. He has since made a record in various parts of the world and has never been accused of being slow. But King Edward of England, emperor of India, etc., is naturally a different person from the fun loving, fast living Prince of Wales. All agree that he was possessed of a winning personality, and they also agree that the United States "did itself proud" in entertaining him. He took in a goodly portion of the country—all that could be conveniently traversed by rail in the comparatively luxurious cars of that period—and he did not neglect to pay his respects to our chief executive at Washington. James Buch-

anan was then president, and he seemed to take great delight in his royal guest, writing to Queen Victoria that Albert Edward had "won all hearts by his majesty and graciousness."

The ostensible object of his visit was to see the Centennial exhibition of 1876 at Philadelphia, but he managed to attend a few social functions and have a good time generally. Dom Pedro was at that time fifty-one years old and had been crowned twenty-five years before. He was apparently beloved by his subjects and had them well under control, but thirteen years later he was dethroned and expelled to Portugal, the land of his fathers. Many are now living who saw Dom Pedro when he was here and bade him goodbye as he left this country for Europe. They describe him as a very

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SOME CLEVER CHILDREN WHO ARE CELEBRATED.

In the west of England there is a very clever boy organist who is attracting considerable notice in musical circles at the present time. He is only ten years old, yet he is sufficiently advanced in musical matters to perform the works of the great masters with peculiar facility and power.

He began playing the organ when he was five years of age.

Last year when King Edward (then Prince of Wales) was witnessing the Derby his attention was attracted by a smart small boy who was producing the portraits of certain famous folk in chalk upon a blackboard. He sent for the boy, asked his age and was informed that it was six years. He then commanded the clever child to draw his portrait, which he did in a masterly manner in less than a minute, and was rewarded with a sovereign from the gratified prince. This precocious boy is now earning many pounds a week at his profession.

Wales has recently produced a wonderful boy preacher whose pulpit power at the early age of fourteen has astounded all his auditors. He has a marvelous memory, an excellent delivery, and his exhortations are invariably sound, sensible and impressive.

The cleverest child of recent years is the famous Miss L. Hughes, who appeared about four years ago at a London theater and impersonated her part with great ability. This talented young lady had then just celebrated her twelfth birthday.

A few years ago a clever child planned to go to Hungary to perform in London. At the early age of seven she had won a gold medal at the Berlin Conservatoire of Music, and her marvelous performances in England were greatly appreciated by all who heard them. The boy pianist Josef Hofmann, who created so great a sensation in musical circles about ten years ago, was another eminent example.

ELECTRICITY AND OPTICS.

Dr. Emil Bese of Breslau, says a French scientific journal, has discovered an electro optical phenomenon which, besides its theoretical interest from the point of view of the relations which are gradually becoming more narrowed between optics and electricity, may be able to receive a number of applications.

In describing his work the journal says: "If in a lightly acidulated solution a current is passed for a long time between gold electrodes, the appearance of anode is considerably changed, and it is found to be covered with a layer of hydroxide. If the charging current is stopped and the electrodes are connected to a galvanometer of high resistance, the light will be found to be traversed by a current of which the intensity is a function of the illumination of the electrode covered by hydroxide."

"Differences of potential obtained from different luminous sources amount to as much as one-tenth of a volt, and they depend both upon the color and the intensity of the light. Intense light lowers the potential of this element. The violet obtained by decomposing the light of an electric arc by a prism acts similarly to white light. Sodium light and the yellow and green parts of spectrum do not exercise a sensible effect. Red light, such as is obtained from a lithium flame, augments the electromotive force of the elements to a value higher than it develops in the dark. X rays have a powerful action, similar to that of white light."

"These widely different actions of red and violet radiations constitute one of the rare cases in which the different parts of the spectrum act qualitatively in different fashions. In almost all other optical phenomena the effects of red and violet rays are qualitative in the same sense and differ only in quantity. If in later studies, as appears possible, effects proportional to the cause may be obtained, the new phenomenon may be immediately utilized in the construction of a direct reading photometer."

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brothers, he later made a tour of the United States, calling upon General Washington at Mount Vernon in 1791. He then went to Havana, whence he tried to get to Spain, where his mother was in exile, but was prevented by the Spanish government and compelled to return to the United States. He finally went to England in 1806, carrying with him a deep regard for this country and its people if not for its institutions.

In the year 1815 America received another royal guest in the person of Joseph Bonaparte, elder brother of the great Napoleon, who came hither for safety and resided at Bordentown, N. J., and elsewhere for years as the "Count de Surville." But everybody over here knew that the quiet, elegant gentleman was none other than "Brother Joseph," ex-king of Spain, etc., who much against his will had been compelled by the imperious Napoleon to mount a throne. Then there was Napoleon's younger brother Jerome, who in 1808 became enamored of and married the beautiful Miss Patterson of Baltimore. The marriage was annulled in 1809 by imperial decrees, but was a legal union just the same and was so considered by all the world.

Our only imperial visitor was Dom Pedro, emperor of Brazil, who came to this country of his own volition and was highly honored wherever he went. The ostensible object of his visit was to see the Centennial exhibition of 1876 at Philadelphia, but he managed to attend a few social functions and have a good time generally. Dom Pedro was at that time fifty-one years old and had been crowned twenty-five years before. He was apparently beloved by his subjects and had them well under control, but thirteen years later he was dethroned and expelled to Portugal, the land of his fathers. Many are now living who saw Dom Pedro when he was here and bade him goodbye as he left this country for Europe. They describe him as a very

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THE MANY VICISSITUDES OF THE PANAMA CANAL.

THE project of connecting the waters of the Atlantic and Pacific oceans had its inception in the early years of American history. Columbus sought on the isthmus a passage of which he had heard vague reports. Balboa, first of all Europeans, saw the Pacific from a peak in Darien, and Cortes had a canal in mind when he made his explorations southward from Mexico. The mouth of the Chagres attracted most of them as offering entrance to the narrowest cut across the isthmus, and the river route was examined more than 200 years ago.

Centuries passed, however, before the first survey was made by General Bolivar of New Granada, who declared the route feasible for a canal. During the next fifty years various routes were surveyed by engineers of our government, and the French made a report as early as 1819, suggesting among other novel features a tunnel 120 feet high and 1,700 feet long.

In 1844 American engineers made an exhaustive survey and recommended a canal with locks from Colon to Panama at an estimated cost of from \$60,000,000 to \$115,000,000, according to the sum-

mit level adopted. It was in 1879 that the project assumed tangible shape, when Count Ferdinand de Lesseps, who had successfully projected and completed the Suez canal, proposed an "international congress" to determine upon an interoceanic canal between the Atlantic and the Pacific. This congress met in Paris in May of that year and at its adjournment the Universal Interoceanic Canal company, under a concession from the government of Colombia, was immediately organized in France for constructing the Panama canal.

At this point, it may be said, the real difficulties began to be encountered, for, though De Lesseps found no trouble in raising the first sum called for—\$50,000,000—he made the mistake of arbitrarily reducing the estimated cost of construction from \$200,000,000 to \$125,000,000 and beginning operations with insufficient capital. Starting off with \$50,000,000, the stockholders to receive 5 per cent interest from the date of subscription, the canal company handicapped itself with an immense obligation which, as events soon proved, it could never fulfill. In 1882 another loan of \$25,000,000 was called for, this time at a discount of 12 1/2 per cent, and the next

year it was found necessary to issue \$50,000,000 of "3 per cent" at more than 40 per cent discount. In 1884 still another issue of stock, amounting to \$47,728,700 of "4 per cent" at 33 per cent discount, was floated, and in 1885 De Lesseps obtained permission from the French government to issue \$120,000,000 of lottery bonds to further his great scheme.

This permission was withdrawn upon the adverse report of engineers sent out to investigate, but the next year the indefatigable promoter got his scheme through and raised \$135,951,948 on nominal obligations of approximately \$223,000,000. Up to the year 1888 the company secured in its various loans a total of \$258,526,940 on nominal obligations, as stated at the time, of \$426,723,700. It had not completed quite one-third the actual distance across the isthmus, and that was the least difficult portion. At that time it was estimated that the company had paid at least \$1.75 for every dollar it had received and was subject to an interest drain of nearly \$17,000,000 per annum.

Work was suspended in 1889 owing to charges of extravagance, if not of misappropriation, and a government investigation was ordered. Thrown into the

hands of a receiver and a legal examination instituted at the instigation of stockholders, the Panama canal company was the subject of a scandal the like of which has perhaps never been equaled. Nearly all the poorer people of France had contributed to swell the resources of De Lesseps' great company, and the country was shaken to its center. Defaulters and blackmailers were pointed out on every side, suicides of accused or suspected persons became frequent and a ministerial crisis occurred. One prominent man was accused of having received 5,000,000 francs to boom the canal and pay for advertising, and all the evidence adduced went to show that in the effort to influence legislation money was poured out like water. In 1892 the French government prosecuted De Lesseps and other officials of the company for bribery and fraudulent dealing and sentences of imprisonment were passed, though in De Lesseps' case this was not carried out.

A new company, with a capital of \$15,000,000, all paid in, was formed to complete the canal in 1894. It began operations as De Lesseps should have commenced his, by a careful preliminary study of the engineering features, with surveys and borings to determine exactly the nature of the soil and rock to be encountered. At the outset De Lesseps' idea of a sea level canal was abandoned and the present plan contemplating a lock system adopted.

The investigation, conducted by 150 engineers and their assistants, occupied four years and cost more than \$1,000,000.

pared with a soldier's life, the plaid days even of a clergyman are full of danger, for his death rate is eleven in 1,000, or more than twice as great as that of his militant brother.

The baya bird of India spends its spare time catching mammoth fireflies, which it fastens to the side of its nest