

Miscellaneous.

THE REIGNING FAMILIES OF EUROPE—BIRTHS, DEATHS AND MARRIAGES IN 1896.

The study of the *Almanach de Gotha* has, says the Berlin correspondence of the *Times*, been rarely so interesting as in the present year, the past having been uncommonly fertile in family and political events affecting the illustrious subjects of the tiny, yet so weighty volume. Sixteen deaths are recorded in the sovereign families of Europe, 8 of the male sex and 8 females, viz: The Ladgrave Ferdinand of Hesse-Homburg last of his race, whose patrimony devolved upon Hesse-Darmstadt, and has since been conquered by Prussia; Don Miguel of Portugal, great uncle of the King; Prince Otho of Italy, son of the King; Prince Louis Philippe de Condé, son of the Duke D'Aumale, 21 years of age; Prince Anton of Hohenzollern-Sigmaringen, age 25; Prince Henry XII, Reuss, junior branch; Prince Sigismund of Prussia, son of the Crown Prince, 2 years old, and the youngest son of the Queen of Spain, only three weeks old. The 8 females are 2 dowagers—Queen Maria Amelia, ex Queen of the French (*nee* Princess of Sicily,) and the Countess Caroline De Waldeck (*nee* Baroness Lanstatt;) 3 married princesses—Princess Louise Von Holstein Sonderburg-Augustenburg, (wife of the Prince Michael Handjeri;) Princess Sophy of Lichtenstein, (wife of Prince Frederick, *nee* Löwe,) and Frau Von Frankenberg, morganatic wife of Prince Charles of Bavaria, (*nee* Schaller;) 3 unmarried princesses—Princess Philippine of Reuss Schleiz (sister of the reigning prince, aged 85 years;) Princess Catharine of Oldenburg, (20 years,) and Archduchess Elizabeth of Austria, (daughter of Archduke Joseph) aged 1 year.

Of Cardinals, 5 have died—Scitovsky, Archbishop of Gran and Primate of Hungary; Goussek, Archbishop of Rheims; Balussi, Bishop of Imola; Matteucci and Tusti.

The births number 8 princes and 5 princesses. Sons born to the Sultan, to Queen of Spain (since deceased,) to the Infante Sebastian of Spain, to the Grand Duke Michael of Russia, to the Duke of Montpensier, to the Duke of Chartres, to the Prince Charles of Tuscany, and to the Prince August of Saxe-Coburg-Gotha (married to the daughter of the Emperor of the Brazils.) Daughters were born to the Crown Prince of Prussia, to the Prince Napoleon, to Prince Ludwig of Hesse Darmstadt, to Prince Frederick of Schleswig-Holstein-Sonderburg-Augustenburg, and to Prince Henry XII, Reuss (junior line.)

Four marriages were celebrated; the Grand Duke Cesarewitch Alexander of Russia was married to the Princess Dagmar of Denmark; Prince Christian of Schleswig-Holstein-Sonderburg-Augustenburg, to Princess Helena of Great Britain; Prince Teck to Princess Mary of Cambridge; and Prince William of Hanau, son of the ex-Elector of Cassel, to Princess Elizabeth of Schaumburg Lippe.

By the death of the Landgrave of Hesse Homburg, and the dethronement of the King of Hanover, the Elector of Hesse and the Duke of Nassau the number of European sovereigns has been reduced to 40; viz: 5 Emperors, (including the Emperor of Mexico,) 1 Sultan, 1 Pope, 10 kings, 2 queens, 6 granddukes, 5 dukes, 10 princes, (including the Prince of Monaco.) The oldest sovereign is the Prince of Reuss Schleitz (past 77.) The Pope, the Prince of Schwarzburg-Rudolstadt, and the Duke of Anhalt are past 70. Of the other crowned heads 5 are between 60 and 70, 1 between 50 and 60, 17 between 40 and 50, 7 between 30 and 40, 5 between 20 and 30. The youngest is the Prince Reuss, (senior line,) a minor. The average age of the reigning potentates is 46½ years. Twenty have exceeded this age.

The longest reign is that of the Prince of Schwarzburg-Rudolstadt, who, including the years of his minority, has held the sceptre for 59½ years. The Duke of Anhalt, the next in seniority, has been a sovereign for 49½ years; 4 have reigned between 30 and 40, 5 between 20 and 30, 14 between 10 and 20; all the others, 15 in number, have succeeded to their thrones within the last 10 years—one of them, the Duke of Saxe-Meiningen, 1866. The average length of reign amounts to 16 years. 15 have exceeded this.

Six sovereigns have never been mar-

ried; with the Pope, the Kings of Bavaria and Greece, the Duke of Brunswick, the Princes of Lichtenstein and Reuss, (senior line.) One, the Queen of Great Britain, is a widow; 5, the King of Italy, the Grand Duke of Hesse-Darmstadt, the Grand Duke of Mecklenburg-Schwerin, (the latter for the second time,) the Duke of Anhalt and the Prince of Monaco are widowers. The Prince of Schwarzburg-Sonderhausen is divorced; the Prince of Schwarzburg-Rudolstadt has a morganatic wife, and the Sultan many wives. Twenty-four Christian sovereigns and the Queen of Spain are married to members of Royal families, one of them for the second time. Of their consorts, the oldest are the Princess of Reuss-Schleitz and the Queen of Saxony, both past 60; 1 is between 50 and 60, 11 between 40 and 50; 5 between 30 and 40; 4 between 20 and 30. The youngest, the Queen of Portugal, is 19. The average is rather above 40 years.

The successors of 24 sovereigns are sons. One, the Emperor of the Brazils, will be succeeded by a daughter; 8, (including the Kings of Bavaria, Greece and Sweden,) by brothers; 3, (including the Sultan,) by other relatives; 2, the Dukes of Brunswick and Reuss, (senior line,) are the last of their race. The Pope has an elective successor, and the Emperor of Mexico no successor at all. Of the 37 heirs to the thrones, the oldest, a Prince of Schwarzburg-Rudolstadt, is 68½ years. The 3 youngest, the Crown Princes of Belgium, Portugal and Waldeck, are respectively 7½, 3½, and 1½ years. The average in this section of royal society is 26½ years. Of the heirs, (exclusive of the Turkish Crown Prince, whoever he may be,) 12 are married; 1, the oldest, is a widower; 9 have children. Of their consorts, the oldest is Princess Charles of Hesse-Darmstadt, (mother of Prince Louis,) 51½ years of age; the youngest, the Crown Prince of Russia, just 19.

FAMINE.

This is a terrible word. Few persons in this country have before this, even been able to conceive the unspeakable horrors, and the long retinue of dismal woes that follow in its train. It has been to us little else than a word in the vocabulary, signifying the sufferings of dense populations in Asia or the isles of the sea, but incapable of ever being applicable to a state of things in our own loved land. A famine in the United States! The thing seemed impossible.

And yet there is a famine in the United States. The ravages of war, the disorganization of labor, floods and drouth destroyed the crops of the Southern States last year, and there are at this moment scores of thousands of human beings, our countrymen, in South Carolina, Georgia, Alabama, Mississippi and Louisiana in a condition of starvation. There are thousands of farmers, possessing vast plantations and farms, without a barrel of flour or a hundred weight of bacon; and there are tens of thousands of poor persons, white and black, who have not a handful of meal from day to day to appease their consuming hunger. In fact, the whole South is the victim of a famine, scarcely less terrible than that which lately afflicted India, and made the highways stink with the rotting corpses of its victims.—[St. Louis Dispatch.

DISABLED YOUNG MEN.—The discussions in France about the proposed changes in the army are bringing out some curious statistics. The Paris correspondent of the *London Times* says that the number of men whom Napoleon proposes to take annually for the army amounts to almost the entire product of able-bodied youth which France can produce. It will astonish many to learn what a large proportion of the young men who are forced to draw lots every year and liable to serve as recruits in the order of their numbers are rejected by the medical inspectors. In 1864 the number of men liable to serve was 326,000. Of these were rejected—18,106 below the standard height; 30,624 weak constitution, consumption, &c.; 15,988 mutilated from birth, hernia, &c.; 9100 humpbacked and flatfooted; 6988 blind or deaf; 693 stammerers; 4103 insufficient teeth; 6213 goitre and scrofula; 2158 lunatics and paralytics, and 15,546 with other incapacities. The total youth of the year unfit to serve in the army was over 109,000.

[Special to the DESERET NEWS.]

By Telegraph.

Pattsville, Va., 13.

By a fire damp explosion in the Bancroft, Ashland, colliery, twelve miners were killed.

London, 13.

The *Times* has a congratulation article on the defeat of the Liberals' reform bill in the House of Commons last evening. The course pursued by Gladstone is severely criticized, while that of the Liberal members who deserted the party is lauded. It thinks the Liberal bolters hold the balance of power now, and virtually control the reform bill.

In case of war between France and Prussia, Bavaria and Baden will make common cause with Prussia.

Nashville, 13.

Gov. Brownlow has issued a proclamation declaring the registration of voters in counties of Benton, Caffein, Franklin, Hardeman, Humphrey, Lincoln, Stewart and Wilson null and void. A large meeting of Radical colored people was held at the capital, and resolutions were adopted supporting Gov. Brownlow; delegates were appointed to the congressional convention on the 16th of May.

St. Louis, 13.

The loss by fire last night was greater than at first supposed; Scott Millier's loss is \$80,000; insured \$60,000.

Washington, 13.

The Secretary of the Interior has received information that the 3rd section, 270 miles, of the Central Branch Union Pacific Railroad, formerly known as the Atchison and Pike's Peak road, is completed.

The Senate to-day confirmed Mr. J. Forbes, of Pennsylvania, Consul at Moscow; Charles B. Brockaway, of Pa., Consul at San Jose, Costa Rica; and Christopher Carson Indian Agent in New Mexico.

New York, 13.

The Paris correspondent of the *Standard* says the feeling is unanimous that the French Government stands committed to a step as regards Luxemburg, which, while it fails to allay the apprehension and irritation caused by Prussia, is regarded as likely to precipitate a European war. The official *Gazette* of Holland prospectively denies that the Duchy of Been has been ceded to France, and adds that there can only be a question of such cession, when the great powers who are interested have first come to an understanding on the subject.

A telegram from Luxemburg says hand bills are circulated in the town in favor of annexation to France, and inciting the inhabitants to acts of violence against Prussia. Four regiments of Chasseurs who garrison the fortress have attempted to revolt.

In the North German Parliament Her Von Beringsen asked Bismarck whether there was any truth in the rumor of negotiations between Holland and France for the cession of Luxemburg, and whether Prussia proposed to say that it will withstand any attempt to sever Luxemburg from the rest of Germany. Beringsen's motion also declares that all parties would be united in giving their utmost powerful support against separation from Germany.

The *London Times*, of the 29th, says Great Britain is now ready to pay whatever sum an umpire may award for the depredations by the Alabama.

Berlin, 13.

Von Beringsen's motion was put today. Beringsen said we wish for peace, but will not shrink from war, if it be necessary to repel the very first attempt of France to attack our honor; let us give a speedy and resolute answer to the warlike tendencies of France, and we shall stifle them in the bud. Bismarck, in reply, said the Prussian Government did not know that an arrangement for the cession of the Duchy had been concluded between Holland and France, but the federal allied Government believe that no foreign power will endanger the undisputed right of Germany; they hope to protect these rights more safely by peaceful means, and to preserve good relations with foreign powers, the more the debates in Parliament shall show the indissoluble ties that exist between the Government and the people.

The Vienna correspondent of the *Bank Gazette* says the Austrian Ambassador at Berlin has been instructed to declare to the Prussian Government that in the hour of danger Austria will stand by Germany.