

OSCAR II, THE KING WHO IS DIFFERENT

ALWAYS HE HAS BEEN AN
APOSTLE OF PEACE AND
MINGLES WITH HIS PEOPLE

A KING who is different—who could that be other than the venerable Oscar II of Sweden, and lately also of Norway?

The fact that he suffered the loss of his kingdom without making war to get it back, if possible, marks him as a marvel among rulers, past and present. And here is the real reason, according to the Swedes, why he suffered Norway to secede in peace:

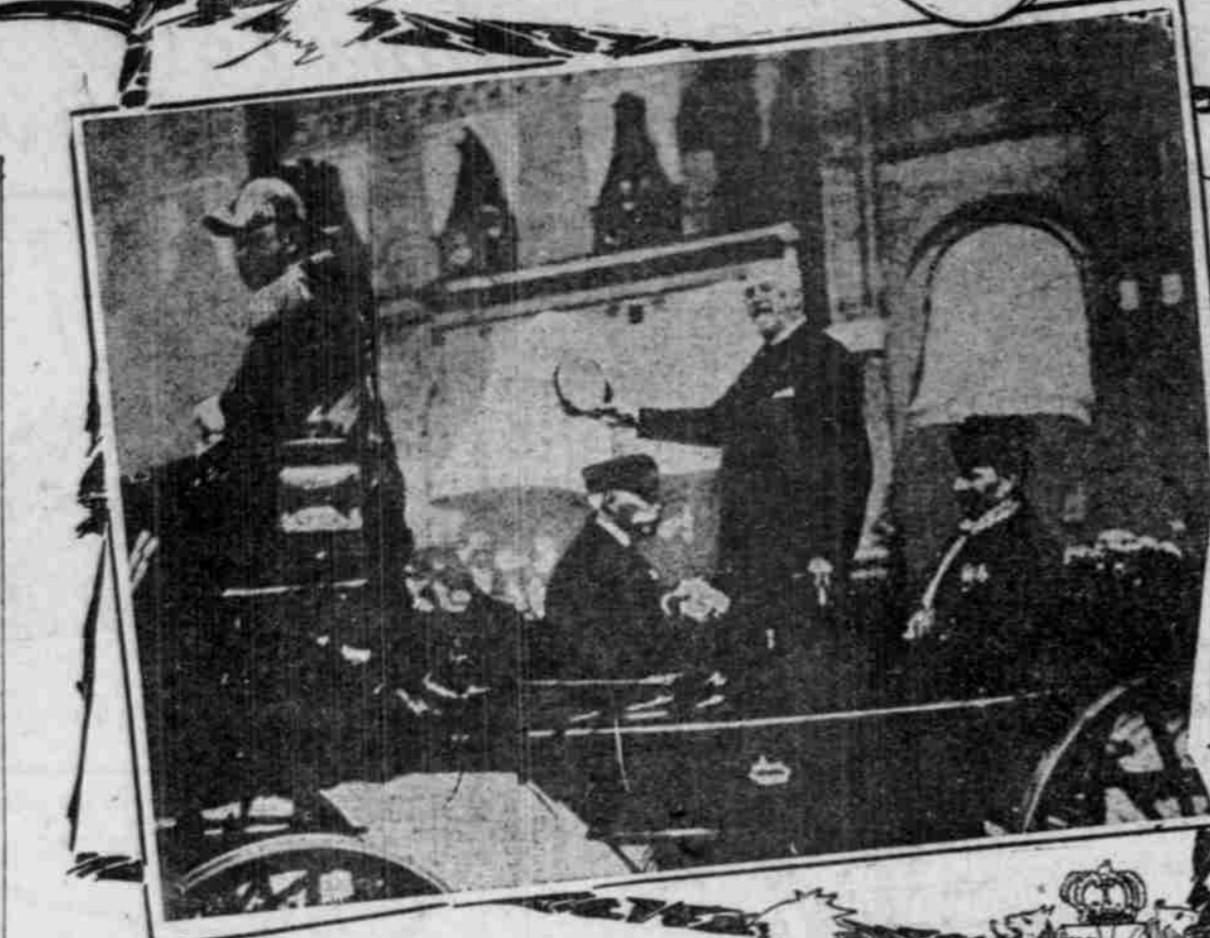
Ever since he ascended the throne unexpectedly in succession of his brother, Oscar II's one consuming desire has been to go down in history as "the King of Peace." His whole reign has been shaped toward this end. He endeavored times without number to preserve amicable relations between the two kingdoms by acceding to the demands, often oppressive to him, of the Norwegians. And when at last the Norwegians broke away and many of the King's counsellors urged belligerent methods to bring them to their senses, the old King shook his head and said in substance: "Let them depart in peace."

"But if the Crown Prince had been on the throne when the Norwegians seceded, he'd have licked hell out of them," is the universal comment of loyal Swedes in Stockholm and elsewhere. They have been for war right along, but with the King's face sternly set against any such measure, they have been compelled to sit with hands folded, and nurse their wrath as best they may.

What the Result Will Be.

What the King himself thinks will result from the dissolution of the Scandinavian union is pretty clearly put in a speech that he delivered 32 years ago to the Norwegians in Christiania, on the 50th anniversary of the founding of the union.

After telling the Norwegians to "hold fast to what the Constitution dictated in its first paragraph—the kingdom of Norway is not only a free, independent and indivisible realm, but also a realm 'under one King united with Sweden,'" and that "the union means externally also not war but peace," he said:



remaining years of study, age, your entire manhood, be judiciously and carefully spent. To what extent this is to be done now in the first and foremost instance on—yourself."

Then, after alluding to the time when he might occupy the throne, the father

"Do not avail yourself of flattery for gaining popular favor, and none the less you must listen to the seductive voice of this siren. The word of the King shall be upright; his promise shall not be given in idle cause. His ear shall be open to what comes from his heart, low, strong, and righteous shall be his strength, duty his guiding star, labor his pleasure. Let the testimony of a good conscience always constitute your surest support, even should your honest labors not seem to bear immediate fruit, and your good intentions for a while appear unremunerated or be despised. Nor forget that the judgment of your own times shall be silenced before that of history, and that the verdict of history must in turn be set aside by that of God."

"Strive, therefore, first and foremost, to worship Him in all sincerity of thy heart; then thou shalt succeed. And be thou now welcome into the age of manhood! . . . God bless thee, my son!"

The King's Heart Revealed.

The father's heart revealed itself at the marriage of the Crown Prince to the Princess Victoria in 1881.

"The happiness of the children!" he said, in welcoming them home. "In castle as in cottage—that is the purport of the most ardent and sincere prayers of the father's and the mother's heart. When such happiness is attained then the joy is great; and the heart, deep toward the beautiful River, The Queen and I now experience this joy, this gratitude, in the fullest measure." Then, referring to the bride:

"Her first steps among us have been strewn with flowers. No doubt these flowers will soon fade in the Autumn days of the north; but never shall fade the flowers with which the path of conscientiousness and duty is strewed through love and veneration."

When all Sweden, on the occasion of his 61st birthday, poured in congratulations upon him, the King said:

"The calling of a ruler, always difficult, is perhaps in our days more difficult still, because the times are being must be, at times heavy enough to tread. But brightened as life is today, warmed as at present, the road does not seem heavy. Faithful sympathy and loyalty render the royal crown light to wear—yes, indeed, they make the burden easier. Thanked, therefore, beloved country, be thanked from my innermost heart!"

This little speech could fittingly be



CROWN PRINCE GUSTAF IS AN ENTHUSIASTIC TENNIS PLAYER AND THE CHAMPION OF SWEDEN

called "The Reminiscences of a Swede." It was delivered at the banquet held in Stockholm to celebrate the silver wedding of the King and Queen:

"Love of the spot in which his cradle stood is a feeling which still burns with undiminished warmth and strength in the

heart of the Northerner. What wonder, then, that I, too, love Stockholm, for here stood also my cradle. Here smiles so many a delightful reminiscence of my childhood, and glitters so many a warm and charming remembrance from my youth before my vision. . . . Here I



QUEEN SOPHIE OF SWEDEN
HER LATEST PHOTO

own so many a remembrance of those whom now the grave incloses; but who, in spite of departure and death, still live in my heart.

"And now, if I turn my thoughts to the events which have happened recently, the present date rises before me, one of the most precious is that of the day when I brought home among you my wife. Here was our common home formed and here precious sons reared. And, although we have, during the five-and-twenty years which have gone by, encountered both dark and bright days, we must in them be grateful to Providence that the grace of Providence has been with and upon us."

Neglectful of Prerogatives.

The "Kingly Bard of the North" has never been a stickler for ceremony, has never insisted on exercising many of his prerogatives. For example, he can preside in the Supreme Court and possess two votes, but he has always neglected to take advantage of this privilege, holding that he should not influence the decisions of the tribunal, since he is not trained in legal matters.

It is the easiest thing in the world for any one to secure an audience with Oscar II—infinitely easier than for an American to get into the presence of the President.

Does a subject—Lapp from the far north, a poor peasant, a lumberman from the forests, a well-to-do townsman or foreign visitor—need to have an audience with the King? All he need do to accomplish his object is to write his name in a book three days previous to the next ensuing public reception, usually held on Tuesday afternoon at the palace in Stockholm, and on the appointed day he will find himself standing before the Swedish monarch, who will engage him in conversation and treat him in a thoroughly democratic manner.

How the King Aided a Journalist.

The King is quite ready to grant any favor that he can consistently, and he not infrequently puts himself to some inconvenience to do so.

Shortly before the end of the last century he was on his way to deliver a speech at the opening of a certain railway, when, while his train was halted at Gothenburg, a Danish newspaper man, detailed to report the ceremony, asked the King for a copy of the speech he was to deliver.

"But I cannot give it to you. I have not written it out yet," said the King. "I will, however, explain that if he did not secure a copy of the speech within the next hour or so it could not be published in his paper the next morning, and it was of vital importance to him for the speech to appear."

The King waxed sympathetic at the young man's earnestness, and when he had finished said:

"Come all, come into my carriage and I will tell you what I am going to say."

And then and there, the ruler of Sweden and Norway dictated to the reporter the speech that he intended to deliver.

When the King Showed His Temper.

"Europe's most learned King" is extremely fond of traveling in the nooks and corners of his realm, and he delights to get in touch with the people wherever he goes. As a result, scarcely a cottage is without its anecdote of him. Here is a representative one:

Before the days of railways in the province of Smaland, the King was traveling through it by diligence. He was to pass through a certain village and the inhabitants assembled along the roadside to cheer him and shower him with bouquets of flowers, according to custom. But one old woman, the widow of a veteran, longed to honor her King in some exceptional manner, so she prepared for him a wreath of leaves, roots, and twigs. The King accepted her placing it in a bucket of water, and proudly took her stand with her kinsfolk by the roadside.

In due time the welcome cry, "Here comes the King!" arose. A moment or two later the King was being showered with flowers. He was bowing right and left, responding with a smile, when suddenly he was staggered by a blow on the head, and when he had partly recovered from the shock found that a green wreath, sooping wet, was lying at his feet and his face was dripping water.

The diligence was halted.

"Who did that?" demanded the King, in some heat, of the amazed and all but pale-faced villagers. "Who did that, I say?"

Tremblingly, and with her face covered with the blushes of mortification and disgrace, the old woman acknowledged that she was the cause of the accident—that in her excitement to honor her King she had hastily grabbed the wreath from its bucket, and was so forgetful of its weight that it had hurtling toward him with all her strength.

Instantly the King was mollified, his frown turned to a smile, then to a hearty laugh, and the kind words he spoke to the widow and the shake of the hand he gave her restored happiness, and won him a prolonged volley of cheers that undoubtedly came straight from the heart.

Crown Prince and the Queen.

In many respects the Crown Prince Gustave is like his learned father, who since Goethe's day is the only man to have conferred upon him the honor of Doctor Quadruplex by any university.

He is a son of the people of stock, in touch with all classes of the people, a lover and promoter of outdoor sports. He is especially fond of tennis, and is the champion player of the country over which he will some day rule in all probability.

His mother, the Queen, is not so well known by the people generally. However, she is a woman to whom all the various religious bodies in the kingdom, and by whom she is hailed continually. When she is not attending a religious gathering she spends the greater part of her time in her home, loving that above all other places. She is essentially what Americans would call a home body.

Her favorite among her four sons is Gustavus, who when he married one of his mother's ladies in waiting, swore away all pretensions to the throne. He too, is intensely religious, and this trait undoubtedly accounts for the partiality which his mother shows him. His wife is well beloved of the Queen and fervent in religion, and with his husband and son, Gustavus, she spends much time to the Salvation Army and Y. M. C. A. movements.

SVEN JOHNSON.

PERSONALITIES OF REAL POWER IN THE WORLD TODAY

Continued From Page 38

United States, became President in 1877. He seized the reins of power with a former hand than Mexico had hitherto known, and it was not long before his power was realized and respected. From that time the status of Mexico and the character of its people began to improve.

It soon became apparent that this would be the case.

"Your youth lies beyond you. During that period you have had the inestimable benefit of the tenderest, the most excellent mother's care and guidance. You have acquired principles and knowledge of the utmost value in the days to come. But mind you this: The principles must be hardened in the furnace of life, and knowledge be made to bear fruit in your calling in the world. To you, with your future position in the community, it is of particular importance that you

four years after he ascended the throne of the union the Crown Prince came of age. It was an auspicious event for the two peoples and the joint Swedish-Norwegian Council of State met to take cognizance of and observe it. The young man was summoned before the Council; in its presence his father wished him happiness and gave him his blessing, and then added this fatherly advice—just such advice as many an American has received on the day when he found himself a man in the world:

"Your youth lies beyond you. During that period you have had the inestimable benefit of the tenderest, the most excellent mother's care and guidance. You have acquired principles and knowledge of the utmost value in the days to come. But mind you this: The principles must be hardened in the furnace of life, and knowledge be made to bear fruit in your calling in the world. To you, with your future position in the community, it is of particular importance that you

do not avail yourself of flattery for gaining popular favor, and none the less you must listen to the seductive voice of this siren. The word of the King shall be upright; his promise shall not be given in idle cause. His ear shall be open to what comes from his heart, low, strong, and righteous shall be his strength, duty his guiding star, labor his pleasure. Let the testimony of a good conscience always constitute your surest support, even should your honest labors not seem to bear immediate fruit, and your good intentions for a while appear unremunerated or be despised. Nor forget that the judgment of your own times shall be silenced before that of history, and that the verdict of history must in turn be set aside by that of God."

"Strive, therefore, first and foremost, to worship Him in all sincerity of thy heart; then thou shalt succeed. And be thou now welcome into the age of manhood! . . . God bless thee, my son!"

The King's Heart Revealed.

The father's heart revealed itself at the marriage of the Crown Prince to the Princess Victoria in 1881.

"The happiness of the children!" he said, in welcoming them home. "In castle as in cottage—that is the purport of the most ardent and sincere prayers of the father's and the mother's heart. When such happiness is attained then the joy is great; and the heart, deep toward the beautiful River, The Queen and I now experience this joy, this gratitude, in the fullest measure." Then, referring to the bride:

"Her first steps among us have been strewn with flowers. No doubt these flowers will soon fade in the Autumn days of the north; but never shall fade the flowers with which the path of conscientiousness and duty is strewed through love and veneration."

When all Sweden, on the occasion of his 61st birthday, poured in congratulations upon him, the King said:

"The calling of a ruler, always difficult, is perhaps in our days more difficult still, because the times are being must be, at times heavy enough to tread. But brightened as life is today, warmed as at present, the road does not seem heavy. Faithful sympathy and loyalty render the royal crown light to wear—yes, indeed, they make the burden easier. Thanked, therefore, beloved country, be thanked from my innermost heart!"

This little speech could fittingly be

when a Berlin publication invited its thinking readers to name the world's ten most powerful men, and awarded prizes among the ten according to the votes thus brought out. The resulting list was as follows, in the order of the number of votes cast for each:

Tolstol, Monnisen, Marconi, Ibsen, Edison, Nansen, Roentgen, Menzel, Koch, Emperor William.

The intensely German cast of mind which characterizes him stands up in the list.

It is shown by the inclusion of the German historian Monnisen, the German historical painter Menzel, and the German Emperor, alone among the world's rulers.

Three of the ten, the first second and fourth, were writers. No soldier, no statesman, no orator, no statesman, except the Emperor.

Clearly, these voters believed the pen far mightier than the sword. In their minds literature, the peaceful arts and the sciences took precedence over everything else, and the world as a whole acquiesced in their view two years ago.

Tolstol, whose name, heads the list, is undoubtedly the most powerful writer.

Clearly, these voters believed the pen far mightier than the sword. In their minds literature, the peaceful arts and the sciences took precedence over everything else, and the world as a whole acquiesced in their view two years ago.

Tolstol, whose name, heads the list, is undoubtedly the most powerful writer.

Clearly, these voters believed the pen far mightier than the sword. In their minds literature, the peaceful arts and the sciences took precedence over everything else, and the world as a whole acquiesced in their view two years ago.

Tolstol, whose name, heads the list, is undoubtedly the most powerful writer.

Clearly, these voters believed the pen far mightier than the sword. In their minds literature, the peaceful arts and the sciences took precedence over everything else, and the world as a whole acquiesced in their view two years ago.

Tolstol, whose name, heads the list, is undoubtedly the most powerful writer.

Clearly, these voters believed the pen far mightier than the sword. In their minds literature, the peaceful arts and the sciences took precedence over everything else, and the world as a whole acquiesced in their view two years ago.

Tolstol, whose name, heads the list, is undoubtedly the most powerful writer.

Clearly, these voters believed the pen far mightier than the sword. In their minds literature, the peaceful arts and the sciences took precedence over everything else, and the world as a whole acquiesced in their view two years ago.

Tolstol, whose name, heads the list, is undoubtedly the most powerful writer.

Clearly, these voters believed the pen far mightier than the sword. In their minds literature, the peaceful arts and the sciences took precedence over everything else, and the world as a whole acquiesced in their view two years ago.

Tolstol, whose name, heads the list, is undoubtedly the most powerful writer.

Clearly, these voters believed the pen far mightier than the sword. In their minds literature, the peaceful arts and the sciences took precedence over everything else, and the world as a whole acquiesced in their view two years ago.

Tolstol, whose name, heads the list, is undoubtedly the most powerful writer.

Clearly, these voters believed the pen far mightier than the sword. In their minds literature, the peaceful arts and the sciences took precedence over everything else, and the world as a whole acquiesced in their view two years ago.

Tolstol, whose name, heads the list, is undoubtedly the most powerful writer.

Clearly, these voters believed the pen far mightier than the sword. In their minds literature, the peaceful arts and the sciences took precedence over everything else, and the world as a whole acquiesced in their view two years ago.

Tolstol, whose name, heads the list, is undoubtedly the most powerful writer.

Clearly, these voters believed the pen far mightier than the sword. In their minds literature, the peaceful arts and the sciences took precedence over everything else, and the world as a whole acquiesced in their view two years ago.

Tolstol, whose name, heads the list, is undoubtedly the most powerful writer.

Clearly, these voters believed the pen far mightier than the sword. In their minds literature, the peaceful arts and the sciences took precedence over everything else, and the world as a whole acquiesced in their view two years ago.

Tolstol, whose name, heads the list, is undoubtedly the most powerful writer.