

THE GUELPH FUND.

A Subject That Is Profoundly Agitating the German Empire.

How the Fund Was Created and the Uses to Which It Was Put by Bismarck When He Was in Power.

The uses to which the Guelph fund was put have been cynically admitted by Prince Bismarck, who while he was chancellor had the fund at his disposal free from all parliamentary restraint. The Guelph fund had its origin in the sequestration of the property of the late King George V. of Hanover. The events that led to the sequestration of the property may bear repetition, says the New York Herald, in view of the fact that a reconciliation has been effected between the king of Prussia and the duke of Cumberland, the rightful heir of the property.

Hanover was a sovereign kingdom from 1814 to 1866. The monarchy was hereditary in the male line. In 1866 Hanover became involved in a war with Prussia and was defeated. Hanover became a Prussian province, and the property of the king was sequestered by the victor. It was entirely owing to the obstinacy with which the late king refused to renounce his rights to the throne of Hanover, that Prussia felt herself constrained to keep a firm grasp of the rich inheritance which became hers after the battle of Langensalza in June, 1866.

Not only did he assert his claim to be the legitimate king of Hanover after its annexation to the Prussian dominions, but he did everything in his power to make good his claim by arms. On his death, in 1878, the present duke of Cumberland, his son and heir, issued a proclamation from his residence in Austria declaring that he, too, maintained his ancestral claims to the throne, and again, upon the death of Duke William of Brunswick, in October, 1884, he endeavored to assert his rights to succeed the duke.

As he persisted in his pretension to Hanover, the government of Brunswick refused to acknowledge him as heir to the dukedom, and in the following year the runderath confirmed their decision, and declared his accession to the dukedom incompatible with the fundamental laws of the empire. It was plainly impossible for the Prussian government to make over the immense wealth of the late king to heirs who openly avowed their claim to an integral portion of the Prussian kingdom.

Negotiations to settle the question were begun, and an understanding was arrived at by which the duke of Cumberland entirely renounced the impracticable position which he had maintained in the face of modern Germany. In April last the Prussian diet removed the sequestration and the duke of Cumberland came into his property. The property has been estimated to represent a capital of 40,000,000 marks and a revenue of 500,000 marks. Prince Bismarck applied the money to the requirements of the secret service and to the subsidization of the "reptile press," and he has never hesitated to justify his expenditures in these directions.

FOR HIGH AIR SOUNDINGS.

A Frenchman Has Invented a Balloon for Making Meteorological Observations.

The employment of free balloons for meteorological observations at very great heights has long been discussed, but hitherto with little practical result, because as yet no balloon suitable for this purpose has been devised. M. Ch. Renard, a French scientist, however, has just presented to the Paris academy a design for such a balloon which promises to be a success.

His proposed miniature vessel for sounding the atmosphere, according to the New York Herald, is supplied with a very light self-recording barometer and self-recording thermometer, partly made of aluminum, each weighing less than five pounds. To prevent derangement of the registering apparatus upon the fall of the balloon he provides each instrument with an elastic guard so effective that the clockwork of the instrument is not interrupted by the shock of the fall. The total weight, instruments included, does not exceed twenty-one pounds avoirdupois.

*If found to work satisfactorily this simple and apparently cheap device will mark a new era in meteorology. At present meteorologists know but little more by direct instrumental gauging of the upper atmosphere than the fauna inhabiting the floor of the Atlantic know of the gulf stream and its associate surface currents.

Civil Marriage in Hungary.

The ecclesiastical struggle in Hungary precipitated by Premier Wekerle is beginning to attract attention all over Europe. The premier is endeavoring to force the passage of a bill making a civil marriage sufficient in law, and the bishops are united in opposing him. The latter have issued manifestoes protesting against the proposed law on the ground that it is contrary to the law of God, and they have called upon the representatives, whose official acts they are supposed to greatly influence if not control, to vote against the measure. The fate of the bill is uncertain. It will doubtless be passed by the lower branch of the legislature, but may be defeated by the upper branch. This struggle has called attention to the fact that in all other continental countries the civil marriage is recognized as legal, and that in France, where the church fought so bitterly to preserve all of its rights and privileges, the civil marriage is now the only legal one, the religious ceremony being regarded only as a profession of faith.

Flowers of the Nations.

Some of the flower badges of nations are as follows: Athens, violet; Canada, sugar maple; Egypt, lotus; England, rose; France, fleur-de-lis (lily); Florence, giglio (lily); Germany, corn flower; Ireland, shamrock leaf; Italy, lily; Prussia, linden; Saxony, mignonette; Scotland, thistle; Spain, pomegranate; Wales, leek leaf.

They Wanted a Change.

In the old days along the Missouri river, when a steamboat was sighted, people took up the cry in the streets very much as they would at the breaking out of a fire. "Steamboat!" some one would yell. Then others would join in the shout, until, ten minutes later, half the populace would be on the levee, waiting for the boat to land.

"Why were you so anxious?" a young man asked an old-timer recently. "I suppose you were looking for news from the east?"

"News!" blurted the gray-haired man, who was young back in the forties. "No, we didn't go after no news in them days. We plunged down the levee and over the rail, reckless-like, to be the first to git a change of whisky. That St. Joe hiker we had got mighty tiresome between boats."—Detroit Free Press.

Stub Ends of Thought.

It is always wise to discount the face value of a woman.

The best men never know how good they are.

All of us know how other people should spend their money.

The rose cannot inhale its own fragrance.

Do not fear sin; overcome it.

The devil shakes hands with the man who drives a hard bargain.

Cupid doesn't hesitate to foreclose his mortgages.

Don't have money transactions with your friends if you can avoid them.

Speak kindly of the rich; they need it.

A full stomach giveth courage.—Detroit Free Press.

He Showed Signs.

A certain congressman, famous principally for his untidiness, was in one of the small towns of his district making a speech. During the day a couple from up the creek saw him on the street corner.

"Who's that, Hiram?" inquired the wife, who was interested in all the sights.

"Why, Marthy," was the reply, "don't you know him? He's our congressman."

"Ugh!" she exclaimed uppishly, "he wears a powerful dirty shirt."

"In course, in course," said her husband; "but, Marthy, he's got to do somethin', to show he's a congressman."—Detroit Free Press.

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