

**THE REAL CROWN
PRINCE: A RECORD
AND AN INDICTMENT**

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The real Crown Prince: a record and an indictment by Anonymous

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THE REAL CROWN PRINCE

Nerissa : How like you the young German ?

Portia : Very vilely in the morning, when he is sober ; and most vilely in the afternoon, when he is drunk ; when he is best, he is a little worse than a man ; and when he is worst, he is little better than a beast.

THE MERCHANT OF VENICE, *Act 1, Sc. 2.*



THE GERMAN CROWN PRINCE
in the uniform of the Death's Head Hussars.

THE
REAL CROWN PRINCE:

A Record and An Indictment

BY THE AUTHOR OF
"KING EDWARD VII."

UNIV. OF
CALIFORNIA

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PREFACE

SOME painters are fond of depicting in a symbolic fashion the fatal fascination of military glory. We are shown the Spirit of Conquest, with a mocking smile on her lips, speeding on ahead, while there stumbles painfully behind her a motley crowd representing the varied elements of a great nation—labourers, poets, artists, savants, traders—all lured from their proper pursuits to follow this will-o'-the-wisp.

Such a picture might well stand for modern Germany, and foremost among the pursuing host would assuredly be striding the strange, ominous figure of the heir to the Throne.

The Crown Prince's face is almost that of a moral degenerate. The caricaturists have naturally seized on its ridiculous aspect, but this is misleading; it is really the sinister, predatory side which dominates the whole countenance.

Seldom in the history of the world has a prince been so plainly destined from his cradle for the waging of war. He was born at Potsdam, the head centre of the most powerful military organisation of the modern world, and from his earliest years he was accustomed to the delights of

cavalry charges, infantry attacks in massed formation, and the rolling thunder of guns. This nurture amid the constant sights and sounds of mimic warfare was entirely successful in its object. It hardened him while yet a boy into a creature of the military machine, fixing his mind entirely on the work of steady preparation for a gloriously short and successful war.

War, which refines and purifies a character originally noble, has brought out in the Crown Prince those base qualities which were largely latent amid the normal restraints of peace. Only once before in the Prince's life had those restraints been similarly removed. This was when, on his visit to India, he was free to indulge his lower instincts as much as he pleased, secure in the knowledge that his hosts had every motive, both of policy and of courtesy, to prevent his misdeeds from being published abroad.

The idea of war, ever present to his mind as child, as youth, and as man, furnishes the key to his whole character. But it was not the idea of war as waged by the great captains of the past. It was war for victory by any and every means, the mechanical application of a vast superiority in men and material; it was also war on women and children—the exhibition of "frightfulness" for the terrorising of civilians and the acquisition of loot.

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