

**PRUSSIANISM AND PACIFISM;
THE TWO WILHELMS BETWEEN
THE REVOLUTIONS OF 1848
AND 1918**

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Prussianism and pacifism; the two Wilhelms between the revolutions of 1848 and 1918 by
Poultney Bigelow

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By *Poultney Bigelow*

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Prussianism and Pacifism

The Two Wilhelms
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UNIV. OF
CALIFORNIA

By

Poultney Bigelow, M.A., F.R.G.S.

Author of "The German Struggle for Liberty: a History"
(1806-1848)



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"And it was no small affliction to consider that he had lost in one hour all that glory and power which he had been getting in so many . . . bloody battles; and that he who but a little before was guarded with such an army of foot, so many squadrons of horse, and such a mighty fleet, was now flying in so mean a condition and with such a slender retinue, that his very enemies who fought him could not know him."

(PLUTARCH—referring to the end of Pompey the Great twenty centuries ago.)



PREFACE

IN this little book I have attempted to sketch the past seventy years of Hohenzollern glory and shame—beginning with the flight from Berlin of the first Wilhelm when Crown Prince (1848) and closing with an escape equally remarkable by his grandson (1918) to Amerongen. In the matter of names and dates any encyclopædia or college textbook could furnish all that these pages offer; but while German presses have issued endless material in this field, experience leads me to think that much of interest has been wilfully colored if not wholly suppressed through official influence.

It would be sinning against proportion were I to weight so slight a sketch with a bibliographic appendix or even an index. Much that I here print is opposed to popular history as made in Germany and still more has come through personal channels.

Of course I claim no credit unless it be for a desire to serve my country and at the same time tell the truth—rarely a grateful or even possible

task. It is to my father that I owe all that can give interest to this work. It was he who guided my studies and stimulated my taste for historic literature. From my earliest recollection to the close of his ninety-four years he frowned upon every needless expenditure yet was generous to extravagance in providing me with books however bulky or costly. It was to him that I owed my opportunities not merely at the court of the Wilhelms but also in the capital of Eugénie and her deplorable Napoleon. Above all it is to him that I owe a lifetime of study and travel without which this book could not pretend to the small portion of value recognized by my perhaps too indulgent publishers.

As I lay down my pen it is with the feeling that it will never be raised again—not even in self-defence! I am now too near the scriptural span of human life to cultivate the mock modesty of a sophomore in letters; and have more than once yielded to the temptation of garrulous reminiscence. If I wound the sensitive in any word, may he do me the justice to believe that I have set down naught in malice. If I awaken a responsive chord in the hearts of many whose faces I may never see, let them attribute this to the fortunate fact that in my long life I have suffered