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Difficulties of the Court of William II

RELATIONS between Emperor William and his son and heir, the German Crown Prince, have now become so strained as to be a source of embarrassment to the whole court of Berlin. Vienna, a sort of clearing house for gossip of this sort, is filled with sensational stories in explanation of the Emperor's refusal to attend the festivities of last month in honor of the Crown Princess. As for the Crown Prince, he communicates with his father in formal official documents bearing on military matters alone. Even written communications between the pair, say the French despatches, have almost ceased. His Majesty communicates with His Highness through the court marshal and His Highness replies through the same medium. One of these communications has taken the form of a bitter protest against the Emperor's action in having the Prince's regiment inspected by a staff officer instead of making the inspection himself. Thus the difficulties between father and son, inferred in the beginning to arise from temperamental accidents or those natural and inevitable collisions between senior and junior, grow apace and attract marked attention in Europe. The Crown Prince, as is well known, announced a purpose, if matters do not soon mend, of taking up his residence in England until he comes himself to the throne. Stories of the dismay of the Empress at the crisis, of the vain efforts of exalted functionaries to effect a compromise and of the extreme measures to which His Majesty may yet resort, are too sensational for credence.

Great Britain a Bone of Contention in Emperor William's Family

UNGOES throughout Germany seem now on the eve of changing sides in the long and sullen controversy between their sovereign and his son. The frank fashion in which the young man is forever revealing his hostility to Great Britain, while delighting the hot-heads of Berlin, embarrasses the Imperial Chancellor, if we may believe the *Matin*, to such an extent that he discussed the theme with the Emperor. Acting in his capacity as head of the house of Hohenzollern, which gives him absolute power over all members of the family, and exercising his function as commander-in-chief of the army, William II. has given drastic orders to the youth who may soon be the ruler of the empire. Yet the result has been disconcerting. Whenever the Crown Prince enters a theater, the audience will, as likely as not, cheer him to the echo. "The Crown Prince," says the *London Standard*, "by demonstrating his dislike of the German Government's peaceful policy and especially by giving vent to some degree of animosity against Great Britain, has captured the popular imagination and for the moment thrown himself into the forefront of German politics."
