

*The German
Emperor in
private life.*

The temperate and judicial tone of
M. Maurice Leudet's chatty book,
"The Emperor of Germany at

Home" (Dodd, Mead & Co.), is to be commended. As a Frenchman, M. Leudet has not forgotten Sedan, and he plainly looks forward to a day of reckoning with Germany; but he speaks by no means unkindly of the Germans, and not disrespectfully of their Emperor. To his view William II. is an ambitious, somewhat flighty, yet clever and versatile young man, who believes that a King's business is to *be* a King, and not the ward of a Chancellor or the mandatory of a majority. That William is vain, with a pompous, peacock species of vanity, that prompts him to sun himself in the public eye in raiment of gorgeous hues and infinite variety, M. Leudet does not deny; but he scouts the notion that the erratic young ruler is a mere empty megalomaniac — the neurotic "William the Witless" of the more irreverent English journals. William's particular *bête noire* is England; and against her he would combine Russia, Germany, and France — a scheme which M. Leudet regards with

much disfavor. Republican America, with its irreverent notions of royalty and its habit of jeering at the pretensions and theoretical sacrosanctity of Consecrated Persons in general, William naturally dislikes, regarding her politics and her pork with a jealous and hostile eye. To M. de Blowitz he once observed: "I fear on one side the danger of a certain invading and continued extension with which Europe is threatened by one of her races" (the English, thinks M. Leudet), "armed with all the resources which civilization puts and will put at the service of her ambition; and on the other side I fear the intervention of the New World, which is beginning to develop appetites from which it has been up to now free, and which will before long wish to interfere in the affairs of the Old World and to meet half way the ambitions, always waking, which are stirring around us." The famous telegram to old K ttiger, and the doings of "Brother Henry" at Manila, may be taken as some evidence of the sincerity of the above manifesto. All in all, the Emperor of Germany appears in M. Leudet's pages to be, politically considered, a personage whose demise the world in general will in all probability regard with an equanimity bordering on satisfaction. He is temperamentally a disturbing factor whose elimination will make for European stability. M. Leudet's book contains a good deal of detailed description of the Berlin royal family and *m nage*, drawn largely from a recently published German book on the successor of Frederick III., by Herr Oscar Klaussmann. To show the reader William II. in private life is M. Leudet's aim, though political questions are pretty freely touched upon throughout. Judging from the pictorial display in this book, the Emperor has, among other eccentricities, a mania for getting himself photographed.