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As was announced in these columns some time ago, the "Brooklyn Arion," one of the finest German-American singing societies in the United States is to come over this year and give concerts in the large cities of Germany, for charitable purposes, the object being to show the high efficiency of German-American singers. They, of course, desire fervently to sing before the Emperor, and when the matter was submitted to him, he wrote on the paper in his own hand: "I shall be very glad indeed to hear the Brooklyn singers." The first intention was to invite the society to attend the Kiel regatta and perhaps sing to aboard the Imperial yacht "Hohenzollern." But unfortunately these people cannot leave New York before June 27th, near the end of the Kiel week, and they are due in Bremen on the "Barbarossa", which they have chartered, on about the 7th or 8th of July. The reason of this delay is that many of the best men of the chorus are teachers in public schools who cannot get away earlier.

When they arrive the Emperor will be absent on his yearly cruise in the North Sea, from which he does not return before the 1st of August. The concert tour of the "Brooklyn Arion" ends on the 31st of July and they will sail for New York on August 9th. Usually the Emperor spends some time in Wilhelmshöhe, near Kassel, after his return from the cruise. So Ambassador Tower, who has repeatedly seen the Secretary of Foreign Affairs Baron von Schön, and the Oberhofmeister Count zu Eulenburg about the matter, is now trying to arrange for the Brooklyners to sing before the Emperor there on or about the 5th or 6th of August.

The German-American visitors will give concerts in Bremen, Berlin, Dresden, Frankfort on the Main, Munich, perhaps Vienna, and some other cities. They will also visit the Wartburg, and the Grand Duke of Saxony has gladly consented to attend the concert which they intend to give on that romantic spot, where in olden times Herren Tannhäuser, Heinrich von Ofterdingen and other equally famous vocalists were engaged in a singing contest.

It may interest our readers to hear that there already exist some relations between this society and the Imperial court. Some years ago, the Emperor presented the *Nordöstliche Sängerbund* of America, a national organisation of German-American singing societies, with a prize to be contested every four years, the winning society to keep the costly prize, the statue of an old *Minnesänger*, for that period. This prize was always strenuously fought for and the "Brooklyn Arion" was the first to carry it off. Therefore, they were elected to send a delegation to Berlin to thank the Emperor for his gift and to present him with a fine specimen of American art, a big album showing views of all the cities whose singing societies belong to the *Bund*. And when Prince Henry of Prussia, the brother of the Emperor, was in New York six years ago, the "Brooklyn Arion" sang before him the song with which they had carried the much coveted *Kaiserpreis*.

The president of the "Brooklyn Arion" is Mr. Henry Führer, a well-to-do business man of Brooklyn; the conductor is Mr. Arthur Claassen, a composer and musical director of no ordinary qualities.

Mrs. Hadley has sent out a large number of invitations for a farewell tea this afternoon at the Hotel de Rome.

1908 being a leap-year, some of the enterprising young ladies of the American Woman's Club have proposed to hold a dance for February 29th, as this date is a Saturday and the Club intends, any-

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RECOLLECTIONS OF PORTUGAL.

THE QUEEN DONA AMELIA.

(Specially contributed.)

If ever Nature intended a queen to be worthy of her position Dona Amelia was that queen. Whether I met her in gorgeous attire at State functions or in a simple cotton dress and sailor hat in the rustic outskirts of Cintra, or by sick-beds in the poverty-stricken homes of Lisbon, she always impressed me by her quiet, dignified demeanour.

She towered over her husband in stature just as she towered over him in love and sympathy, in grace and virtue; but intellectually she was greatly his inferior. Her charitable deeds were never a mere fashionable investment or an aristocratic duty; her compassion is genuine to the detriment of her immense private fortune. Not many years ago she rescued a man from drowning at the peril of her own life: small wonder that she offered her own body as a target to shield her sons in that horrible butchery at Lisbon. Dona Amelia is not a learned woman, she is not even a really clever one; she is only brave, sincere, firm and deeply religious. If we could include "broad-mindedness" in the enumeration of her qualities the Queen would be the best-beloved woman in Portugal today. Dona Amelia's candid veneration for the Catholic clergy is such that it places her entirely in its power. The Portuguese people, who are comparatively only just beginning to free themselves from the tyranny of the priests, have always resented her attitude, often with little enough cause; but what burned child does not dread the fire?

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DRESDEN

King Friedrich August and Prince Johann Georg travelled to Altenburg yesterday, in order to attend the funeral of the late Duke Ernst I. They expected to return to Dresden yesterday evening.

To-night's performance of Richard Wagner's *Tristan und Isolde* is for the benefit of the widows and orphans of members of the Royal theatres. Herr Plaschke will take the part of König Marke for the first time.

The arrangements have been finally perfected by which the Minstrel Show which recently took place with great success at Krolls Theater, Berlin, will be reproduced in Dresden on Tuesday, February 25, 1908, at eight o'clock in the evening, in the Vereinshaus, Zinzendorf Strasse. The Committee of arrangements, consisting of Messrs. T. St. John Gaffney, Chairman; Victor Ila Clark, Hon. Secretary; Alvin Kranich, Rev. F. Ward Denys, David R. McKee and Ulysses J. Bywater, have decided to issue only 300 tickets, 150 at 10 marks, including reserved places, supper and dance, and 150 at 5 marks for the performance only. It is necessary, therefore, that immediate application be made at the following addresses:

Victor Ila Clark, Esq., Mosezinsky Strasse 1,
American Consulate-General, Ammon Strasse 2,
Daily Record Offices, Struve Strasse 5,
Fr. Bremermann, Esq., Prager Strasse 49,
Dresdner Bank, Prager Strasse 39.

It is hoped that the Anglo-American colony will give a cordial reception to these artists, who are prominent members of the American colony in Berlin, and who come to Dresden without any compensation whatsoever, giving their time and talents for the purpose of aiding the American Benevolent Fund.

The newly founded *Dresdner Eislauf Verein* will, weather permitting, hold an ice meeting on the Palais-Teich in the Grosser Garten on Sunday afternoon next, the 16th instant, beginning at half-past two o'clock. Many skating experts, ladies as well as gentlemen, have very kindly expressed their willingness to assist, in concert with some of the notable skaters of Dresden, in arousing the interest of the public in ice sports by exhibitions of skill, singly and in pairs. Among the skating artists who have already promised their assistance are: the world champion of art-skating Gustav Hügel, of Vienna; Herr Georg and Fräulein Elise Müller, of Berlin; Fräulein Bartel and Herr Wilschek, of Troppau—perhaps also Fräulein Hedwig Müller, 13 years old, with Herr Aigner, both of Troppau; Herr and Frau Kreidl, and Herr and Frau Dr. Winzer of Dresden.

His Majesty King Friedrich August has been pleased to intimate his intention to be present, with his sons. It is to be hoped that the weather will be favourable and that there will be a large attendance of the public.

Any profit arising out of the charges for admission to the spectacle will be devoted to charitable purposes. Tickets will be obtainable on the day of the meeting at the entrances: for reserved places at 2 marks, promenade 50 pf.; for carriages 3 marks. The offices of the *D. E. V.* are in the Sport Café, Sport Platz, Lenné Strasse, and at the shop of Herr K. Ansel, Georg Platz, where information as to the *Verein* may at all times be obtained.

Frau Hella Rentsch-Sauer, a still very young Berlin singer, gave a *Liederabend* on Tuesday evening at the Palmengarten which was remarkably well attended. But Frau Rentsch-Sauer is too much of a beginner to make the most of such a sign of popular favour. Her beautiful soprano voice—in which the well cultivated high notes are particularly delightful, while the middle register is wanting in clear resonance—is not yet so absolutely under the artist's control as to enable her fully to carry out her own intentions. Hence, whether she sang Strauss, Liszt, Schubert, or Hugo Wolf, one had always an impression of something intelligently comprehended and well learnt; yet one could not

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