

"For Fatherland, for Fatherland
Are all our sons—their powers
Of mind and soul, their strength of
hand—
But not their blood—'tis ours!

"For Fatherland eternally
Be every true heart's beat!
Yet, ere their time cut off, to see
Our sons slain at our feet—

"Those to whom we've given birth
Whom reared with tender care,
Their heart's blood to bedew the
earth,
To sleep their last sleep there—

"This of a mother ask no more!
Speak not of enemies!

In hostile troops led forth to war
But mothers' sons she sees!

"Triumphs of science, useful arts
Be for our native land—
But sacrifice that breaks our hearts
It never will demand.

"Christians have called their brother
foe!

Save in the sick-ward.—There
United in their pain and woe
They whispered but one prayer.

"The one word "Mother!" loud or low
On pale lips trembled. Nay,
The Earth, our Fatherland, will know
Yet Eden's peace one day."

CONSTANTINE CONSTANTINOVITCH.

Grand Duke Constantine Constantinovitch, whose drama, *The King of the Jews*, is discussed elsewhere in this number, died on June 15, 1915, in St. Petersburg of heart-disease at the age of fifty-seven years. He was born in 1858, and married Princess Elizabeth of Saxe-Altenburg, Germany, a school-friend of the German empress, in 1884.

As a member of the reigning family and general of infantry the grand duke was one of the commanding figures in the Russian nobility, and one of the most influential men around the czar. He was severely arraigned with other grand dukes in 1908 for attempting to influence the actions of the Duma. He was also not immune from revolutionist plots. The previous year an attempt had been made to blow up at Orel the train on which he was a passenger. When the present war broke out he and his wife with their children were at Willungen in Germany for their health, and had to leave the hostile country. It is believed that he was strongly opposed to the war and that his death was due to the sudden shock the outbreak of hostilities between his country and Germany gave him. Who knows whether he might not have been able to prevent the war if he had been in St. Petersburg in July, 1914.

Grand Duke Constantine represented that type of a Russian in higher circles which is highly respected by the Western world. He had little of the Tartar and more than a mere veneer of civilization, and his sudden death at this critical hour was a severe blow for the intellectual, liberal party in Russia. Providence was indeed favorable to him in taking him away before he could live to see the misfortunes of his country.

President of the Imperial Academy of Sciences, and head of the Department of Military Schools, Constantine Constantinovitch was the most educated and scholarly man in the imperial family, and throughout his lifetime was deeply interested in the sciences, arts and letters. He was noted as a Shakespearean scholar and translated Hamlet into Russian. He also had this play staged for the imperial family and he played the title-role. It was said in

1907 that his constant study of the melancholy Dane had preyed upon his mind until he became insane and was ordered under restraint by the czar. (Was the czar of all the Russias afraid of his influence?) Emperor Nicholas issued a decree appointing his younger brother Demetrius guardian of his eight children, but later the grand duke was reported to have recovered from his mental aberration. (In other words, pressure was brought upon Little Father, and he had to yield to the general clamor of the St. Petersburg aristocracy.)



THE GRAND DUKE CONSTANTINE.

He was also the author of several popular volumes of poems and dramas, all of which are signed "K. K." (= Konstantin Konstantinovitch).

Besides Hamlet he also staged his play, *The Bride of Messina*, in 1909, and his sacred drama, *The King of the Jews*, in 1913-4, before Emperor Nicholas and the imperial family. In the latter play he took the role of Joseph of Arimathaea. With regard to the latter see Dr. M. J. Rudwin's article on "Modern Passion Plays" on another page of this issue.