SWEDEN AND NORWAY.

(SVERIGE och NORGE.)

Reigning Sovereign and Family.

Oscar II., King of Sweden and Norway, born January 21, 1829, the third son of King Oscar I. and of Queen Josephine, daughter of Prince Eugene of Leuchtenberg. Succeeded to the throne at the death of his brother, King Carl XV., September 18, 1872. Married June 6, 1857, to

Sophia, Queen of Sweden and Norway, born July 9, 1836, daughter of the late Duke Wilhelm of Nassau. Offspring of the union are four sons; namely, Gustaf, heir-apparent, Duke of Västergötland, born June 16, 1858; Oscar, Duke of Gotland, born Nov. 15, 1859; Carl, Duke of Westergötland, born Feb. 27, 1861; and Eugene, Duke of Nerike, born Aug. 1, 1865.

Sister of the King.—1. Eugenia, Princess of Sweden and Norway, born April 24, 1830.

Mother of the King.—Josephine, Queen Dowager of Sweden and Norway, born March 14, 1807, daughter of the late Prince Eugene of Leuchtenberg; married June 19, 1823, to Oscar I., King of Sweden and Norway; widow, July 8, 1859.

Niece of the King—Princess Louisa, only child of King Carl XV., born Oct. 31, 1851; married July 28, 1869, to Prince Frederik, eldest son of the King of Denmark.

King Oscar II. is the fourth sovereign of the House of Ponte Corvo, and grandson of Marshal Bernadotte, Prince de Ponte Corvo, who was elected heir-apparent of the crown of Sweden by the Parliament of the kingdom, Aug. 21, 1810, and ascended the throne Feb. 5, 1818, under the name of Carl XIV. Johan.

The royal family of Sweden and Norway has a civil list of 1,266,000 riksdaler, or 70,333l., from Sweden, and 136,900 speciedaler, or 30,234l., from Norway. The sovereign, besides, has an annuity of 300,000 riksdaler, or 16,666l., voted to King Carl XIV. and his successors on the throne of Sweden.

The following is a list of the kings and queens of Sweden, with the dates of their accession, from the accession of the House of Vasa:
The average reign of the nineteen rulers who occupied the throne of Sweden from the accession of Gustaf I. to that of Oscar II., amounted to eighteen years.

By the Treaty of Kiel, Jan. 14, 1814, Norway was ceded to the King of Sweden by the King of Denmark, but the Norwegian people did not recognize this cession, and declared themselves independent. A Constituent Assembly met at Eidsvold, and adopted, on May 17, a Constitution, and elected the Danish Prince Christian Fredrik King of Norway. The Swedish troops, however, entered Norway without serious resistance, and the foreign powers refusing to recognize the new-elected king, the Norwegians were obliged to conclude, August 14, the Convention of Moss, by which the independency of Norway in the union with Sweden was solemnly proclaimed. An extraordinary Storthing was then convoked, which adopted the modifications in the constitution made necessary by the union with Sweden, and then elected King Carl XIII., King of Norway, Nov. 4, 1814. The following year was promulgated a Charter, the Riksact, establishing the union on the following terms. The union of the two kingdoms shall be indissoluble and irrevocable, without prejudice, however, to the separate government, constitution, and code of laws of either Sweden or Norway.

The law of succession is the same in Sweden and Norway. In case of absolute vacancy of the throne, the two Diets assemble for the election of the future sovereign, and should they not be able to agree upon one person, an equal number of Swedish and Norwegian deputies have to meet at the city of Carlstad, in Sweden, for the appointment of the king, this nomination to be absolute. The common affairs are decided upon in a Council of State composed of Swedes and Norwegians. In case of minority of the king, the Council of State exercises the sovereign power until a Regent or Council of Regency is appointed by the united action of the Diets of Sweden and Norway.