

that that was not in the agreement, and that if Bismarck wanted a bell he must get it fixed himself, and at his own expense.

A few days later, the whole house was turned topsy-turvy. A loud report of fire-arms was heard to proceed from the delegate's room. The landlord, frightened to death, rushed up to his lodger's apartments, and bursting, all out of breath, into Bismark's study, found him seated at his desk before a great pile of documents and calmly smoking his big pipe. There was a pistol lying on the table, still smoking at the barrel.

"For the love of heaven, what has happened?" asked the frightened landlord, more dead than alive.

"Nothing, nothing," answered Bismarck quietly. "Don't disturb yourself; I was only calling my servant. It is a very harmless signal, to which you will have to accustom yourself, for no doubt I shall want oftentimes to use it again."

The bell was fixed up next day.

### CHAPTER III.

*BISMARCK HAS ALWAYS HAD AN EXALTED IDEA  
OF HIS OWN ABILITIES.*

WHEN he quitted the University, young Bismarck occupied himself with managing his father's property. One of his favourite recreations was hunting, for which he had quite a passion. Towards the end of 1840, he was invited to join a great hunting expedition in the south of Sweden, on the estate of a lieutenant with whom he was very intimate, and who was afterwards Grand Marshal at the Swedish Court—Rodolph Tornerhjelm.

Having returned from one of these hunts, and after having partaken of an excellent dinner, the two friends passed into the smoking-room. Their conversation, at first, was gay and familiar, but suddenly

it assumed a more serious tone. From hunting stories and such like subjects congenial to young men, they passed to a topic of much graver import. The subject was Germany, and its political situation.

Bismarck dwelt upon the weak constitution of the country, and explained what grand results would be achieved if it could only be united. All at once he was carried away by a burst of enthusiasm, and with hair bristling (he had some at that time!) and eyes lit up with a strange fire, he exclaimed,—

“But I will be the saviour of my country; from all these fragments I will make a harmonious whole; and one day Germany will be a great and powerful empire.”

Now that the thing has been accomplished, one might very well doubt the truth of this story, if it were not that it comes in a direct line from the mouth of Rodolph Tornerhjelm, who is not a German.

Another little story:

Before the war of 1866 Bismarck directed the whole Prussian policy. That is not the same as saying that he was over-popular in his own country. On the contrary, not only did the press attack him ruthlessly, but public opinion was terribly incensed against him, and the result was that several attempts were made upon his life. One of these attempts was that made by young Blind, son of Karl Blind, a noted German revolutionist at that moment a refugee in London.

After the attempt, Bismarck said to the persons around him: “At the present moment nothing would better please the people than to hang me on the nearest lamp-post; but I shall have my revenge. In a few years I shall be the most popular man in Germany.”

And he was not mistaken.

In all sorts of circumstances Prince Bismarck has shown the unbounded

confidence he has in himself. He gave abundant proofs of it when he was still young, and when there was, as yet, nothing standing to his credit to justify his pretensions.

When Manteuffel was President of the Cabinet he recommended Bismarck to the King of Prussia (Frederick William IV.), saying he would make an excellent delegate to the Germanic Diet.

The King, who was then at Sans-Souci, sent for Bismarck and offered him the post in question; the latter replied without hesitation: "If your Majesty is willing to try the experiment, I am ready to accept the post."

Naturally the King was much surprised at this prompt decision, and thought that Bismarck could not be aware of its serious import, and he set about explaining to him what a responsible position it was, and all the difficulties which would have to be encountered by him who filled it, etc., etc.

Bismarck, however, who had not listened very patiently, hardly allowed the King time to finish his speech, before he said, "Your Majesty might at any rate try the experiment with me, and if it does not turn out well, then your Majesty can recall me in six months' time or less."

The King was quite dumfounded by this second bold rejoinder, but he gave Bismarck the post. The sequel is no longer anecdote, but history.

Here is one more little narrative, and the neatest of all, with which to close this chapter. It will have been gleaned, from the foregoing lines, that Bismarck always had a kind of presentiment of the important part he would play, and of the eminent services he would one day render to his country, and that he was not backward in giving expression to it. The authentic anecdotes here given are sufficient proof of this. At the time when Bismarck was Prussian Ambassador at Paris, the Hessian

Chargé-d'Affaires in France was Graf Enzenberg. It was this nobleman's hobby to collect the autographs of famous statesmen. On one of the pages of his album Guizot had written the following :—

“All through my long career I have learned to forgive much and often, but to forget nothing.”

M. Thiers had written underneath :—

“A little shortness of memory cannot detract from the sincerity of forgiveness.”

Bismarck was asked to inscribe something on the same page, and so he wrote at the bottom :—

“As for myself, existence has taught me to forget many things, and to get myself forgiven for a great many more.”

Without appearing at first sight to be so, this was a much more pretentious sentiment than that expressed by either of the two French statesmen.

## CHAPTER IV.

### *THE MARRIAGE OF PRINCE BISMARCK—BISMARCK'S HOME.*

PRINCE BISMARCK'S marriage took place under such strange circumstances that the reader will not fail to be interested in their narration.

In the course of the summer of 1846 he took a journey in the Harz country, in company of the Blanckenburg family, who were very intimately connected with his own. This family took with them Fräulein Johanna von Puttkammer, with whom Bismarck had fallen in love a long time previously, but he had never made her acquainted with his sentiments. He had seen her for the first time at the wedding of his friend Von Blanckenburg with Fräulein von Thadden-Triglaff, whose bridesmaid was Fräulein von Puttkammer.