

blue livery, having anything but an imposing appearance.

These aged quadrupeds, this old-fashioned coach, this faded livery, formed altogether a striking contrast with the brilliant and exalted position of their owner. However, he always had a kind of affection for the lumbering old thing, not only because he hates all that is showy and pompous, but also because he is in his old age a man of economy. It is a substantial old vehicle, and never requires any costly repairs.

The mode of living of the Bismarck family is in every way peculiar. The sons evidently have not inherited their father's genius; this much must be said, however, that they have as yet had no opportunity of showing what they are capable of. But it is a certain fact that their father has succeeded in infusing into them a portion of his own energy, and coached them so successfully in diplomatic affairs that they have been his most useful colleagues. That, at any rate, is the opinion

which Prince Bismarck himself expressed in a conversation which he had on this subject not long ago with Professor Gneiss.

This is only the carrying out of the well-known principle of Louis XIV. ; namely that State secrets should be confided to the smallest number of persons possible. Bismarck consequently never confided his State secrets to any but the members of his own family, in whose discretion and devotion he could put implicit trust; and it must be added that he is more severe in expecting this from the members of his own family than from anyone else.

Not only, however, has he utilized his sons' services, but he has imparted a thorough diplomatic education to the Countess von Rantzau, his daughter, who possesses an intelligence of the first order. In the matter of writing and deciphering cipher dispatches, indeed, this lady is said to have attained to a degree of cleverness surpassing any of the employés at the Foreign Office. She is, besides, of a very lively disposition,

exceedingly witty, and happy and prompt at repartee. It is stated that even in his moments of gloomiest melancholy the ex-Chancellor has never been able to keep from laughing at his daughter's flashes of wit.

The eldest son, Count Herbert, has been a model of punctuality in the public service, and an amusing tale is told in Germany in this connection.

The incident occurred some time ago at Friedrichsruh. The Prince had invited a certain number of people to dinner, according to custom. The soup had just been served, and the repast bade fair to be a pleasant one, for the host was in the best of humours, and the life and soul of the company. At the moment when the party was about to attack the soup a telegram from Berlin was brought in.

Bismarck left the table instantly, to the great astonishment of the guests, and on his return after a few moments' absence, one of the company ventured to make a remark on

the subject. The reply which he elicited was the following :—

“I daresay you think this dispatch was one of the greatest importance. It was nothing of the kind. But I lost no time in replying to it because it came from my son Herbert. If I had kept him waiting only a very short time, he would have sent off another telegram marked ‘Urgent.’ He is a great lover of punctuality and promptitude, and he is right. If, when I was young, I had only worked half as hard as my son has, I should perhaps have attained to something greater than I am.”

Prince Bismarck lives entirely in the bosom of his family, which he governs, too, as a colonel does his regiment, and to break the monotony of his rather quiet life he has had recourse to distractions of which the following will serve for an example. It is a whim of his to try the weight and measure the height of persons staying at Friedrichsruh. The weights and measurements

are immediately marked down in a conspicuous place, so that they can be compared with the results obtained on the next occasion. In pursuance of this caprice, on the evening of St. Sylvester in the year 1880, the Prince made all his family pass under the measuring-rod, himself superintending the operation to see that no one cheated, and, when each one had been measured, he himself wrote down their height on one of his bedroom door-posts. At that date the heights of the various members of the Bismarck family were the following:—

Bismarck	5 ft. 11 in
Count Herbert :	5 „ 10 „
Count William	5 „ 9½ „
Count von Rantzau	5 „ 7 „
Princess von Bismarck	5 „ 4¼ „ *
Countess von Rantzau	5 „ 4½ „

Prince Bismarck attaches great importance to the knowledge of the weight of the different members of his family, and one

* By the side of these figures the Prince placed a note saying that the Princess tiptoed a little.

reason of this, perhaps, is that his own weight has varied considerably in the course of a few years. Ever since 1874 he has gone every year to recruit his health at Kissingen, and the first thing and the last thing that he does on each occasion is to try his weight, and the weighing-machine he has been accustomed to use has been christened “Bismarck's balance.”

He has diminished considerably in weight since 1879; but his policy did not follow the same course—that lost nothing of its weight.

PRINCE BISMARCK'S RESIDENCES.

While still Imperial Chancellor, Prince Bismarck occupied a mansion at Berlin, situated No. 76, Wilhelmstrasse. Behind the mansion a park extends for a considerable distance, in which are magnificent trees, but which is overlooked by some of the houses in the Königgrätzstrasse. These houses look down directly upon the park, and at a very short distance, so that the movements

of those walking in the park were visible from the windows.

The occupants of these houses, as was quite natural, were not slow to avail themselves of the opportunity thus placed in their way for making money easily; and they used to let out their windows overlooking the park, at so much per day, to people who were eager to get a near view of the great Chancellor—principally English people.

Very soon it appeared to Prince Bismarck that he enjoyed less privacy in his own home than anywhere else, for these people, not content to watch him through spectacles and opera glasses, did not even shrink from addressing questions to him. This at last moved him to cast about for some radical means of ridding himself of these importunate and disagreeable neighbours. The plan he adopted was simply to stretch immense canvas screens, fastened to poles, across the side of the park which was overlooked, and after that he was not annoyed by his neighbours.

The castle at Friedrichsruh has been described by so many writers that it is hardly necessary to repeat the process here. Formerly the park attached to it was open to the public, but it was closed some years ago, because the numerous visitors who walked through it could not refrain from tearing up the plants and plucking the flowers under the pretext of carrying away a souvenir.

On one occasion, when the Prince caught some ladies breaking off branches from the trees, he said to them: "Supposing now, mesdames, that every visitor did what you are doing, my trees would soon be as bare of leaves as my head is of hair."

THE CHANCELLOR'S DOG.

The ex-Chancellor has always had a great liking for dogs, especially for big dogs. Already when he was a student he had a large one who followed him wherever he went; and for some years now his dog

Tyras has been his close and constant companion, always watching over his master while he slept. The Germans nicknamed him the "Reichshund" ("Dog of the Empire").

It would appear, however, that this canine favourite is not gifted with the sweetest of tempers; witness the reception he once accorded to Prince Gortschakoff. On the other hand, it was remarked that he showed the utmost cordiality to the papal nuncio, Masella.

Although not very tender towards his fellow-men, Prince Bismarck forgives his dog everything. When the latter has committed any offence his master gives him a good scolding (which the animal perhaps takes but little notice of), and sometimes apologizes to the victim of the dog's ill-temper.

One day a friend, who came to congratulate Prince Bismarck on the marriage of his daughter with Count von Rantzau, had his hat torn into fragments by Tyras,

and the only remark the dog's master made on this occasion was,—

"The rascal will end by making all my friends fall out with me."

Tyras is getting old now, like his master. The animal, however, intended to replace him has already been looked out; but the new one will hardly receive an official cognomen like his predecessor.

It is scarcely possible to talk about Bismarck without at the same time saying something with reference to his banker, the renowned Bleichröder.

He is small of stature and has Israelitish features of the most pronounced type; his complexion is sallow, his face full of deep wrinkles, and his beard and hair are quite grey. His face is half hidden by a pair of big blue spectacles; but this is only a bit of affectation, for the Berlin Cræsus has been almost totally blind for a number of years.

The history of this man is closely

connected with that of his country, for it was the war of 1866 that made his fortune. Let us, in a few words, recall what occurred.

Bismarck, the Prussian Minister, was at that moment in complete disagreement with the Diet, the members of which would on no account hear of a war with Austria; and they backed up their opinions by refusing to vote the credits required of them. It was then that Bleichröder stepped in, and he advanced forty millions of thalers to the Government, who were just then in sore straits.

Prussia came out of the war victorious, and Bleichröder had no reason to repent of having placed confidence in the success of Bismarck's policy. The banking-house, which up to that time had only very modest pretensions, blossomed forth as a bank of the first order.

After the war of 1870, the settlement of the question of the war indemnity was entrusted to Bleichröder, and he naturally

did not overlook his own little profits in the transaction. It was he, besides, who advised Bismarck to demand five milliards from France.