

few words, what is the opinion entertained of Mr. Gladstone by the greatest statesman in Europe? Well, then, according to what has been repeated to me by a person in close attendance upon him, Prince Bismarck has expressed the following opinion:—'If in the course of my long diplomatic career I had drawn down upon Germany only half as many snubs and insults as that gentleman has brought upon England, I should never have the courage to stand again before my fellow-countrymen.'

## APPENDIX.

---

AS an Appendix to the authorized translation of *Bismarck Intime* the annexed anecdotes have been collected from various sources, and should prove of interest to the admirers of The "Iron Chancellor."

Madame Carette, the private reader to the Empress Eugénie, in her interesting volume of souvenirs of the Court of the Tuileries, entitled *The Eve of an Empire's Fall*, tells the following story of

### BISMARCK'S LAST WALTZ.

At a grand ball given at this time (1867) at the Tuileries, and during the cotillon, which I myself led off, the roguish thought entered my mind to offer to Count Bismarck, who was in a corner watching the dancing, a bunch of roses, which was the signal for a waltz. M. de Bismarck was at that moment the object of general attention. He accepted the

bouquet, and yielding to my invitation danced a long waltz with me, making his way very cleverly through the crowd of other dancers. This little incident, so little in accordance with Count Bismarck's gravity, and with the part he was already playing in the affairs of the world, afforded much amusement to the sovereigns and the others present, for they scarcely expected to see M. de Bismarck mixing with a crowd of youthful dancers. In escorting me back to my place, he took an artificial rosebud from the lapel of his coat, and, offering it to me, said: "Be pleased, madame, to preserve this as a souvenir of the last waltz I shall ever dance, and which I shall never forget."

BISMARCK AS AN ORGAN-GRINDER.\*

Prince Bismarck was one day passing through the Royal Palace at Berlin, when he entered a room in which the young princes were merrily romping and dancing to the music of a barrel-organ. The youngsters insisted that Prince Bismarck should stay and dance with them. "I am too old," said the stiff and stately septuagenarian; "and really I cannot dance; but if the Crown Prince will dance, I will grind the organ." The bargain was at once struck. The Crown Prince joined his two brothers, and Prince Bismarck ground away merrily

\* This is another version of the story told a few pages back.



PRINCESS BISMARCK.

at the organ while the children danced in high glee. In the midst of their mirth the door opened, and the young Kaiser entered. He smiled to see the redoubtable Reichskanzler grinding the barrel-organ, and, after a word of greeting to his sons, he observed, in mock displeasure to Prince Bismarck: "You begin in good time to make the Heir Apparent dance to your piping. Why, this is the fourth generation of Hohenzollerns to whom you devote yourself!"

## A GLIMPSE AT THE PRINCESS.

If little is known in England of the private life of Prince Bismarck, still less, says Mrs. Pereira, is known of the lady who for more than forty-two years has shared his home. The Princess Bismarck is described as the very model of a practical, methodical German matron, with an eye for every detail of household arrangement and economy, and a heart for the comfort and well-being of each housemate, from the highest to the lowliest. Weddings, it has been observed, not seldom give rise to other weddings. It was at the wedding of a friend that Bismarck first met with Fräulein Johanna von Puttkammer. She was one of the bridesmaids, and the stately lady made then and there an impression on the young Baron which culminated in an offer of marriage three years later. The key to the Princess's

character is to be found, says the same biographer, in her words: "That my husband is a public character is a fact to which I often find it painful enough to resign myself. But as for me, his wife, what have I to do with publicity? I do not exist for publicity, but wholly and solely for him."

This perfect union of souls, however, Mrs. Pereira confesses, has not prevented the Princess's husband from posing occasionally as a victim to family claims. In one letter he says, referring to a projected excursion to the seaside: "I have held out against it for a long time; but, as all the mothers and aunts are unanimous in declaring that nothing but sea air and sea water can do poor Mariechen any good, I know that if I still refuse, every cold in the head which may befall her to the seventieth year of her age will be set down to my avarice and paternal barbarity." Again he writes: "Yesterday I was reduced to such a state of despair by all these plannings that I was positively determined to give up the whole journey; and I went to bed with the firm resolution at all events to travel straight through without stopping anywhere on the way. But Johanna attacked me in the night, with the youngster in her arms, and, by dint of all the arts which drove man out of Paradise, she of course gained her point, and the original scheme is to be carried out." It is only fair to the Princess, after this, to quote her husband's loving letter from Biarritz: "I have a bad cold

science, because I am seeing so much that is beautiful without you. If you could only be carried hither through the air, I would go with you this very moment back to San Sebastian."

#### A FAREWELL CUP.

One of Prince Bismarck's last visits before leaving Berlin was to a restaurant-keeper in the popular Grünewald, near Berlin, who had been his cook for many years, and to whom he came, attired in the uniform of the Cuirassiers, to say farewell. Having ordered a cup of coffee, the Chancellor invited his former cook to come and sit beside him at one of the little garden tables, and then confidentially told mine host of the Restaurant Paulsborn that the coffee tasted the better because it was served in so large a cup, especially as he had been forbidden to take coffee at all. After a hearty handshake with his friend the cook, the Prince left the establishment, accompanied by the cheers of the visitors in the garden.

#### PRINCE BISMARCK'S SEVENTY-FIFTH BIRTHDAY.

A grand torchlight procession, organized in honour of Prince Bismarck's seventy-fifth birthday by thirteen hundred railway officials, took place at Friedrichsruh. On arriving outside the ex-Chancellor's residence the procession halted, and after the Prince had walked

along the line, Herr Krahn, the president of the organizing committee, delivered a congratulatory address, concluding by calling for three cheers for the Prince and his family. This was responded to with unbounded enthusiasm, the whole vast assemblage afterwards with one accord singing the well-known patriotic song, "Deutschland, Deutschland, über Alles."

Prince Bismarck then delivered a short speech, which was listened to with breathless interest. He gave a retrospective sketch of the establishment of railways, and referred to the opposition which it had at first encountered, adding that he himself had always been an advocate of rapid means of communication. At the present time, he continued, coal and iron were inseparable from each other. The railway was now the vehicle of civilization. It had been a difficult task for him in the reign of the late Emperor William, to carry out the centralization of the railways or their conversion into State property; and only when his colleague, Herr von Maybach, became Minister of Public Works did matters go more smoothly, and he would never forget the services rendered by this man. After he had once put him in the saddle Herr Maybach really did everything himself. He (Prince Bismarck) recommended a continuance of the work of piercing tunnels and bridging rivers, but at the same time recommended his hearers

to proceed with care, as there were also hard rocks which could not be penetrated. In conclusion, the Prince expressed the hope that even as a private individual he might continue to maintain neighbourly relations with the railway administration; and after cordially shaking hands with Herr Krahn and thanking him for the great ovation in his honour, the Prince once more walked along the entire length of the procession, being greeted on all sides with deafening cheers.

The visitors' books were signed by four thousand persons, who came to Friedrichsruh from various parts of the country to present their congratulations. Telegrams arrived by thousands, including many from the German reigning Princes. Great quantities of flowers and an immense number of presents were also sent.

The Emperor presented to the Prince a life-size portrait of himself, as well as a handsome pipe, accompanied by an autograph letter, which was brought by one of his Majesty's adjutants. During the whole of the day, from the early morning until late at night, Prince Bismarck was engaged in receiving deputations and musical societies, but although deeply moved by these many demonstrations of sympathy and devotion, he showed no signs of fatigue, his upright and soldierly bearing being generally remarked.

This letter from Prince Bismarck was published in the *Norddeutsche Allgemeine Zeitung*:—"On the occasion of my resignation and the celebration of my birthday I received a great number of sympathetic messages of every description, from the Empire and abroad. To my deep regret it is impossible for me, in accordance with the desire of my heart, to answer each of these friendly messages separately. I therefore request all those who have given such kind expression to their friendly feelings for me, to accept my most sincere thanks through this medium."

#### PROPOSED NATIONAL MONUMENT.

The proposal having been made in various quarters that a national monument should be erected to Prince Bismarck in Berlin, a number of influential men of all shades of political opinion met to take preliminary steps for issuing an appeal to the public for contributions to a fund to be raised for defraying the cost of the proposed monument. The memorial committee invited the Emperor to give his patronage to the scheme. Herr von Levetzow consented to act as chairman of the committee.

It is noteworthy that the committee formed for the erection of a monument to Bismarck received a letter from the Emperor, in which he stated that he had learned with deep pleasure of the forma-

tion of a Provisional Committee, with the object of erecting a monument to the Prince, and expressed his conviction that all classes of the population would cordially welcome the prospect of such a memorial, and give their hearty co-operation. The Emperor declared that he desired also on his part to support and forward the erection of this important monument, and announced that he accepted with pleasure the request of the committee that he should act as patron.

#### TALKS WITH PRINCE BISMARCK.

M. des Houx, the Comte de Chambord's friend and a clerical journalist, paid a visit to Prince Bismarck in May 1890. M. des Houx went to Friedrichsruh on purpose to try and see the Prince. When he sent up his card and a letter he was led to expect that his request could hardly be complied with; but in the afternoon he received an invitation to dinner in which he was asked to come at six and not in a dress-coat. At one end of the dining-room is hung the parting gift of the Emperor, namely, his full-length portrait. A large bunch of Marshal Niel roses was placed on the table before the Frenchman, and the compliment emphasized by his being asked how he pronounced the word "Niel."

The Prince spoke in French, and was careful in the choice of words. When he was at a loss for a

word, he would not use the one suggested by M. des Houx, but chose another and a more appropriate one. He was dressed in a frock coat, buttoned up to the neck, and wore a white cravat. He had not, he said, had an evening coat made for twenty years. His wife had ordered a swallow-tailed coat for the silver wedding, but he never wore it. After dinner the ex-Chancellor was the first to rise. He and the guests went in procession to the drawing-room, where his meerschaum pipe awaited him. He spoke of suffering from neuralgia, which the pipe calmed. His remedy for rheumatism was a long daily ride on a good horse whatever the weather. He is still a hard drinker. Before dinner, *caviare*, plovers' eggs, and other whets to the appetite, were served. He said he prided himself on his cellars, and could tell his butler where to lay his hand on any particular vintage.

Prince Bismarck was reserved in speaking of the Emperor, who, he said, was well-meaning but young. He talked a good deal about French history in its bearings on Germany, and spoke of French kings and emperors as having the lust of conquest. Napoleon III. was ignorant of history and statistics. He proposed to Bismarck to join with him and United Italy in driving England out of the Mediterranean, for which Prussia would be allowed a free hand to crush Austria. The ex-Chancellor said that he was urged by the military party to attack

France in 1867, when she was given up to her exhibition, but refused. He thought it immoral to attack her because her chassepot guns were not ready, and in 1870 he honestly tried to prevent war, though Alsace-Lorraine was absolutely necessary to the safety of a united Germany. Speaking of the danger ahead, he said it lay in the sentimental anger of France for the loss of these provinces. Supposing she and Russia crushed Germany, who would be the sole gainer? Russia to a certainty would next devour France. Germany was the bulwark of Western Europe against a Russian invasion. Prince Bismarck also said that had it not been for the help he gave M. Thiers and the Versailles Assembly against the Commune, Paris would have been a mass of ruins.

The *Novoie Vremia* publishes some further very interesting details of the interview of its correspondent with Prince Bismarck. "Austria," said the Prince, "is not so near her decay as is imagined. The evil there lies in the weakness of monarchical principles, and in a four-hundred years' bad government. You ask why we need Austria? For the same reason that you need France. You think that only Russia and Germany have a future, and there is some truth in the belief. Before the Berlin Congress I had quite the same opinion; but I became aware that it would be difficult for us to go hand-in-hand, and I

was obliged to regard the Russians with other eyes. Your Prince Gortschakoff always regarded me as his pupil; as long as I was less than he, he was my friend, but when I rose he could not forgive me. He did all he could to be in my way, even when I acted in Russia's interest. I once said that for my share in the Berlin Congress I had expected the diamonds of the Andreas Order. In Russia my words were regarded as a joke. I was quite in earnest, however, for I had the greatest desire to meet Russia half way, and I defended her interests at the Congress as if I myself had been Russian. For instance, I learned from Count Schuvaloff that Russia desired Batoum. I immediately went in the night to Lord Beaconsfield. He made some opposition, but I told him that if he opposed me I would close the Congress. He subsequently acceded to my demands, and Batoum became Russian. Notwithstanding, Russia soon afterwards became hostile towards me."

The correspondent here remarked that Russia accounted Prince Bismarck answerable for the discrediting of Russian Stocks, and believed he had tried to injure Russia economically. "Oh, that is a mistake!" said the Prince, with emphasis. "I give you my word of honour, not as the diplomatist who bamboozled Napoleon, but as Prince Bismarck, that I wished only to be free from Russian Stocks, and to make Germany buy none but German paper. My intentions went no farther, and if the German press

declared war against you, and injured Russia, and even my own organs joined in the campaign, it took place against my will. I have always been against war with Russia. If anyone thinks that fighting with Russia would not be terrible, he is very much mistaken. If Russia were to invade Germany it would be different. The severe winter, and the great distances in Russia, would be terrible weapons against an attacking force.

"Finally, what do we want from Russia, or she from us? We should receive no milliards from you, nor you from us. It would be a crime to Germany to endeavour to extend her frontiers beyond Memel, for the Baltic provinces without Poland would be of no value, and the annexation of Poland, with its nine millions of Catholic Poles, would raise the number of Catholics in Germany to one-half the population, and would be a misfortune for Germany, just as the acquisition of East Prussia would be unprofitable to Russia. A war with Russia is therefore almost impossible."

Prince Bismarck admitted, what is already known, that he prevented the marriage between Prince Alexander of Battenberg and Princess Victoria. The recent International Labour Conference he characterized as a blow in the air. The discontent of the capitalists, he said, was much more dangerous than that of the workmen. In speaking of his resignation, the Prince remarked that the Emperor



had once said to him : "Prince, I have every confidence in you, but do you think yourself that you are likely to remain in office?" Prince Bismarck assured his Majesty that he wished to retain his position until his death. "And then a few months later," said the Prince, "I found myself painfully deceived."

#### NARROW ESCAPE FROM DROWNING.

When quite a child at Kniephof, Bismarck took great pleasure in wandering about the garden and park, and manifested a more than childlike interest in bird and animal and plant life; he soon knew every bird in bush and tree, not only by its plumage, but by its flight and its song, as he would know every animal by its track. The carp in one of the ponds were special favourites of his, and he would often stand and feed them. One day while thus occupied, he ventured too close, and fell into the water, which was rather deep. He never knew exactly how he managed to get out; but, covered with weeds and slime, he struggled back to *terra firma*, and walked back to the house as if nothing unusual had occurred. The only remark he made was that he felt rather cold.

#### A WOUNDED HERO.

Young Bismarck soon became a great admirer of heroic feats, and loved to hear and read tales of

daring deeds. Among the frequent guests of his parents at Kniephof, were several officers from the neighbouring garrison town, whose brilliant uniforms were greatly admired by young Otto. One day, Major von Schmerling, an old friend of the family, who had just returned from active service, came on a visit to Kniephof. He was a Knight of the Iron Cross, and had been wounded in action, and still wore his left arm in a sling. Otto, who was sitting with his brother Bernhard at a side-table, listened with eager attention to the major's narratives of his experience in "flood and field," and could scarcely take his eyes from him; but it was the shattered arm that attracted the child's attention, more than either the uniform or the iron cross. Suddenly he sprang up from his chair and ran up to the maimed warrior, and, standing before him with his legs outstretched, his hands on his hips, and his eyes sparkling with excitement, exclaimed: "Were you shot by a cannon-ball?"

#### FORGOT HIS SUPPER.

On coming to bid his mother "good-night" one evening, the good lady asked young Bismarck: "Have you had your supper, Otto?" Otto kept silent, and stood considering for a while; then he suddenly turned and rushed from the room. In a few moments he came back and said, "Yes, mamma." He had been so busy all the evening with several (for

his youthful mind) important matters, that he had entirely forgotten whether he had had his supper or not. It was to clear up his doubts upon this point that he had scampered off to the kitchen to Miss Schmeling, who certainly would know all about it. He was unwilling to answer his mother's question on the strength of a mere supposition.

#### CHILDISH IMPATIENCE.

In their own immediate circle, young Bismarck's father was called the *heart* and his mother the *brain* of the family. The saying did not merely portray the relations which the couple held towards each other, but it further marked the influence which they brought to bear upon the bringing up of their children. The good-natured Herr Rittmeister von Bismarck was tender and indulgent in the extreme towards his offspring; and was especially fond of Otto, the youngest, although the latter was sometimes rather unruly and self-willed. Once when Otto was sitting in his usual place at the children's table waiting for his dinner, the time seemed long, and his impatience got the better of him, and he took up a posture scarcely befitting a well-brought-up lad. With his back half turned towards the table where his parents sat, and his knees pressed against the leaf of his own table, he sat swinging his legs to and fro, keeping time with them like

pendulums. The Mater, observing this, was about to call the future statesman to order for his unparliamentary attitude, but the good Pater intervened to arrest the rebuke, and before the mother could get out her words, the father said in his softest tone: "See, Minchen, how the boy is sitting there dangling his little legs." It was this indulgence of the father, indeed, which determined Frau von Bismarck, although extremely fond of her son, to get young Otto away from home as soon as possible, so that, when only seven years old, he was packed off to "Plamann's Educational Institute" in Berlin.

#### HAUGHTY AS A BOY.

A person who was at Plamann's Institute when young Otto first made his appearance there, and who was one of the first to greet the new pupil, thus describes the circumstance:—"We were all assembled on the middle floor, when the street-door opened and Herr von Bismarck's coachman, wearing the voluminous cloak with its immense collar in vogue at that time, walked in with Otto in his arms, the boy also being enveloped in a cloak of the same cut. He was a tall boy, even then, and, sitting in the coachman's arms, his head towered considerably above the servant's. We all pressed towards him to welcome him, but he did not change a feature, and looked down upon us in a most imposing