THE PRUSSIAN HEADQUARTERS.

Life in the Military Court-Kalser Wilhelm, Blamarck, and Moltke-Haw the Hinstrions Trie Pass Their Time at Versailles.

A German correspondent in the Prussian headquarters at Versailles sends the following interesting account of royal and high military life there to the Gartenlaube, from which we

THE KING OF PRUSSIA.

The King lives in the Prefecture, in the Avenue de Paris, living in the same simple manner to which he has always been accustomed in Berlin, and yet showing an astonishing activity, notwithstanding he has reached his seventy-third year. He gets up at 7 o'clock every morning. His couch consists of a low camp bed with only one mattrass, which he always takes with him. bave seen military service, as shown by the decorations they wear. While the King is dressing, in which operation he is assisted by his two valets and a garderobier, he speak with no one. In the house he wears simply the usual military service whole day, and late into the night. He wears the order of the Iron Cross, the Russian order of St. George, fourth class, both of which decorations he carned in the year 1813, at Bar-sur-Aube, and the order pour le merite, though not the grand cross, which latter he only affixes when he has to receive officers to whom he would show especial attentions.

King William enters his work room early, when a servant brings in a frugal breakfast, while the writing desk is heaped up with papers, letters, despatches, requiring the royal attention. In Berlin the King always takes his coffee alone; in Versailles only Privy Councillor Schneider, a well-known military author and historian, has entrance. Schneider makes his appearance every morning punctually at seven; and in the performance of his functions of reader and librarian to the King, reads over to the breakfasting monarch the telegrams that have arrived during the night, as well as reporting the tone of the European press, besides placing before his Majesty the latest literary productions, from which, as well as from important arti-cles from the journals, he reads aloud.

After coffee the King opens the letters, reads the despatches, making notes at the sides as to their disposition, and places them properly in the various departments to which they belong: for instance, the civil cabinet, the military cabinet, the ministry of state, the ministry of war, the ministry of justice, the departments for aid and grace. The latter departments, very delicate ones by the way, are entrusted to Privy Councillor and Landwehr Major Bork, a gentleman who has served the King for many years. As in Berlin, King William can always spare a quarter of an hour from his more pressing business for this labor of love and mercy. After Privy Councillor Bork, the two court marshals, Puckler and Perponcher, are admitted in order to receive the commands for the day, in respect to driving out, riding, invitations, visits, audiences, the reception of deputations, etc. After this, the King usually receives his generals-Moltke, Roon, Boyen, Podbleiski, and Treakow.

Punctually at nine the adjutant-major on duty for the day aunounces himself. Through this gentleman all commands must pass; he must accompany the King wherever he goes during the day, and has to keep the journal of the royal labors performed during the day. The King then receives the reports from the civil and the military jeabinets, or that of Count von Bismarck, a task usually taking up in all about three hours for completion. In the meantime announcements are received, andiences granted, despatches received and the same referred to the proper officials; and the marching of the troops before the prefecture for the royal inspection constantly interrupts the usual daily routine. After the reports have been received from the various departments the monarch makes or receives princely visits, goes into the hospital, or looks at the curiosities and things of note in the town, being accompanied on these visits by a single adjutant. On excursions in the neighborhood, however, he is accompanied by the staff guard. This personal courage of the King, together with his knightly appearance, has had a remarkably good effect upon the people of Versailles, who greatly admire both.

The King lives very temperately. Between the receptions of the morning he usually partakes of cold viands, and at four goes to dinner, which is a very simple and almost citizenlike affair. Only one sort of wine is brought upon the table; champagne is never seen there except on the occasion of the birthday of a member of the royal family or a princely personage. Only once during the whole campaign was champagne brought upon the royal table, and that was upon the evening of the 1st of September, after the battle of Sedan. After about half an hour's conversation after dinner, the King withdraws to his own room, opens and reads the letters and despatches that have arrived, and receives persons demanding favors or grace. It is a noteworthy fact that the King never sleeps in the afternoon. From dinner till tea time the old monarch employs his time in finishing up the odd work of the day, the reading of the Spener Zeitung or important newspaper articles, as well as correspondence with his family, and the despatch of telegrams.

Tea time comes at 9, when in the society of invited persons a pleasant conversation-flows freely. After this meal is finished illustrated books are looked through, important newspaper information read aloud, and events and personages of the day are freely discussed. The King does not smoke, as a rule, but in large companies of gentlemen does so. About 11 he withdraws to his room and works up to about one. All the guests invited to dinner and tea are chosen by the King himself. On days of battle the King rides out early and occupies a place previously agreed upon, a number of horses being held in readiness for him.

COUNT BISMARCK is considerably younger than the King and Moltke, being fifty-five years of age. His life is simple and unpretentious. Exterior bodily enjoyments hardly exist for him at all.

Thinking and working fill up nearly his
whole life. In the field he lives almost more retired than in Berlin; the "hermit" of Barzin has changed into a "hermit" of Versailles. Count Bismarck lives in Versailles in an isolated villa in the Rue de Provence, pretty far distant from the other members of the royal headquarters. He generally gets up at about 9 o'clock in the morning, being accustomed to live in the French manner ever since he was ambassador in early life. For his breakfast he takes tea and two eggs. and on this he works uninterruptedly until 3 in the afternoon. When occasion demands it he rides at noon to the King, spending about half an hour with him. About 4 he

takes a horseback ride in the suburbs of Ver-

sailles, usually accompanied by his cousin, Count Bismarck-Bohler, who is councillor of legation, and at the same time chief of his cabinet. At home Bismarck generally wears, when working, a simple brown sleepinggown; for the reception of visitors, and outside the house, he dons the well-known yellow chirassier uniform of his regiment. At half past 5 he takes dinner with his officials, including even his secretaries. The meal is very simply prepared by the minister's own cook. After the table is cleared the premier talks with his officials seated about the fire grate-the pleasant appearance of which seems to give him much satisfaction. He then returns to his room, and works uninter-

ruptedly until one. During the entire day the Count receives the reports of his officials, holds conferences with diplomatists, and receives visits from high civil and military personages. Despatches He shaves himself and is waited upon and letters are received at all hours of the only by his two valets de chamore, day and night. Messengers, private, mili-Engel and Krause, both old soldiers, who tary, postal, and telegraphic, make their appearance at all hours. Bismarck smokes but little, but loves a warm room, since he is often troubled with rheumatism. His bed and bedroom furniture are very plain. In Versailles he works in a small back room he wears simply the usual military services which many a country pastor would spurn. suit; knowing no rest, and keeping on his soldierly dress, from head to foot, during the reception saloon was arranged in the villa; previously he had to receive foreign diplomatists in his bedroom. Lacking an outer room the usher has to sit in the corridor. Thus small and simple is the apparatus in which history is coined in Versailles.

The officials surrounding the Count, and who occupy for the most part the same villa, live just as plainly as their chief. These are Privy Councillor of Legation Abeken, Privy Councillor of Legation Baron von Kendell, Councillors of Legation Counts Hatzfeld and Bucher, Councillor of Legation Bismarck-Bohlen, the chiffreurists St. Blancard and Wiehr, the secretaries Bolsing, Willisch, and Dr. Busch. The King's despatch writer, Taglioni, and Dr. Stieber, the director of the army police, belong, in their official capacity, to the household of Count Bismarck.

COUNT HELMUTH VON MOLTKE, general of infantry and chief of the general staff of the army, lives in No. 99 Rue Neuve, Versailles, in the house where the bureaus of the general staff are found. Moltke, too, lives in a very plain manner, and is active and busy from early morning until late at night. He rises between five and six every morning, and after coffee works from six to eight. Then comes the quartermaster-general of the army, Podbielski, with whom he continues until ten, when both are driven to the King's quarters. At eleven Moltke returns, takes his lunch, and then drives out to inspect the military operations in the neighborhood, accompanied by his two adjutants. After returning he disposes of the despatches and letters that have arrived, and at five dines with his entire staff of twenty officers. After table Moltke goes to work, except when he is commanded to tea with the King, and retires at eleven or, at latest, twelve.

Moltke is very plain and unpretentious, and bears unmurmuringly all the privations necessitated by the war. He has only one servant, named August Friebe. He is always to be found during his morning inspections of the outposts, or viewing the points chosen for the planting of the guns. During the campaign he has often been exposed to the enemy's bullets. He was in the palace of St. Cloud just before the fire broke out, and while the French were sending shells upon the building. He looked into the imperial sleeping apartment, and while the bombs crashed through roof and wall he stood musing for some time before the bed of Napoleon III., which was half crushed, and then said, calmly:-"He will not sleep here at least any more !

During the fights Moltke can always be found in the front. He is very sparing in his words; he listens, but seldom speaks. But towards the soldiers and young officers, all of whom fairly venerate him, he is very friendly, and always addresses them when he sees them in the bivouse or meets them upon the march. "What sort of a night have you passed?" "Did you get wet in the night?" "How have you passed the night?" and similar questions are always ready at his tongue's end, and he frequently enters into conversation with the men. On the 2d of September, after the surrender of Napoleon, Moltke rode into Donchery past a troop of grenadiers, and hailed them with the words, "We've captured the Emperor; now we'll soon be going home again." A vast number of such anecdotes are circulating in Versailles of these three personages, proving that they are all favorites with the soldiers. as once Frederick the Great, Blucher, and Stein.

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