

# PRINCE BISMARCK.

### THE GREAT GERMAN CHANCELLOR AT WORK AND AT HOME.

*Feeble in Body, but Still Strong in Mind—Living Now a Quiet Life in His House at Friedrichsruhe—His Surroundings.*

Prince Bismarck, the great German chancellor, is quite feeble now, says a correspondent of the *Washington Star*, but, like the sturdy oak, he may break, but seldom bends. Much has been written about him, yet even in Germany his personality, his method of life, his method of work and his peculiarities are known only to those who surround him.

Bismarck is an early riser. All great men seem to have that unfortunate peculiarity. Some of us who are not great like to lie abed late in the morning. Neither Bismarck nor Gladstone is of these. At daylight the chancellor is awake. He seems to consider himself a sentinel on duty. He begins his work early, but only such matters as are of the utmost importance are brought to him. The details of unimportant work he leaves to others. His son, Count Herbert Bismarck, who bids fair to become a great diplomat some day, shoulders most of it. But the old chancellor's usefulness is not over, and when he wants to be is capable of doing as hard a day's work as any one in the Empire. His body is feeble, but his mind is still as vigorous as it was when he kept all the great statesmen of Europe awake, thinking what new plot he would spring on them. He sleeps in an unpretentious and plainly furnished room. Like the old Emperor, who has been laid away forever, he likes a military cot or iron bedstead. Those who have seen his room say that it is so unpretending as to be almost uncomfortable in these days of luxury. There are none of the modern conveniences which are considered necessary even by those who are not quite well to do. His morning meal is a plain one, and is usually taken in his room. After this such business of the nation as it is important for him to see and decide upon is brought to him. If there be important documents that need his signature, or a conference of ministers or heads of departments, or if there be any episode of a national or international character, he informs himself thoroughly about it and discusses it frankly with his son and then with his chosen advisers. After this he spends an hour or more with the Emperor.

After his conference with the Emperor, he takes a walk in the magnificent gardens of the palace and then a frugal lunch. The afternoon is spent in seeing a few callers, or with his family or attending to some state business that demands his attention. But he knows, if he knows anything, that increasing age and physical infirmity demand that he shall have rest, and he takes it. His dinner, at 6 o'clock, is the heartiest meal of the day. His usual dinner consisted of soup, a roast, vegetables, black bread and a light wine or beer. He dines out occasionally, but not often. Two or three times a week a few of his chosen friends are invited to sup with him. After this they smoke and chat and tell stories. Sometimes there is music, a song, and if not, an occasional game of whist is indulged in, and at 11 o'clock the great statesman retires. One day differs little from another. The bow of peace seems to be set in the sky, and there is nothing to trouble the old man at present. The details of government work he leaves to others; but he insists that he is as well as ever, and occasionally he surprises some of his subordinates by appearing unexpectedly on the scene and by showing that he possesses a great deal of information upon the minor details of government.

There is scarcely anything remarkable in his house at Friedrichsruhe. It is absolutely plain. The furniture is of the simplest character. There are evidences here and there of the handiwork of woman, but no great paintings decorate the walls, and his library is filled with a choice but inexpensive assortment of books. Portraits of his wife, his daughter and his sons, of Von Moltke, of Cardinal Hohenlohe, of Thiers, of Beaconsfield, of Gladstone and of the three Emperors under whom he has served decorate his walls. A recent visitor to Bismarck's home, in describing the place, says that although some of the rooms contain much that is plain, others show evidences of luxury and of decidedly historic importance. In the drawing room the floor is covered with a rich carpet, there are three fireplaces here, where, as soon as the cold weather sets in, blazing logs light up the room and make it warm and cheerful. There is an abundance of couches, sometimes two or three in one room. The dining room is severely plain. Its chief adornment is the bronze statue of the Emperor given by himself to Bismarck. There is a bronze imitation of Neiderwald, which stands in a fine oak cupboard in the smoking room. A leaflet is attached to it, with the following words written in the Emperor's own hand: "Christmas, 1883. The crowning stone

of your policy. A festival destined chiefly for you and which you unhappily was not able to attend. W."

In Bismarck's study there is a small card table bearing a brass plate, on which is an English inscription to the effect that on the table the preliminary peace between Germany and France was signed at Versailles in 1871. When opened there appears the central round of green cloth with the very candle spots that were there when Bismarck and Favre put their names under the treaty. Bismarck often laughingly explains how he became possessed of this curiosity. It required some diplomacy even on the part of the great diplomat. The landlady of the house who owned the table obstinately refused to part with it for any consideration of money, so as a last resort Bismarck called in a cabinet-maker and ordered him to make another table exactly similar. When the twins were put side by side the landlady, womanlike, decided in favor of the new and shiny table, and Bismarck triumphantly carried off the old one. If the chancellor's study and bedroom is plain to severity the guest rooms, situated on the first floor, are distinguished by comfort, ease and luxury. It is a happy home, as those who have been entertained there will testify. In it its owner forgets, so far as he can, all strife. The torch of hate is put out. There is no thought of war, but instead there is feasting and music, the prattle of children's voices and an air of quiet and peace that bodes well for Germany.

### Rocked Him to Sleep.

A few years ago a Swedish family named Olson left the fatherland and sought a home and fortune in America, the promised land, says the *Minneapolis Journal*. They were poor, but their hearts were stout, and they feared not for the future so long as they had health and strength. From the confusion and strangeness of Castle Garden they set their faces to the West—the golden Northwest. Others might stay and starve in the crowded cities, they said, but they would go where they could claim a bit of land as their own and find health and happiness. The broad prairies of Dakota beckoned them onward, and at last they rested on unbroken soil near Long Lake. The Olsons were amazed at the wealth of the land that spread out before them, with the virgin soil waiting for the touch of the husbandman, and they set to work with a will. A year or two passed away. The Olsons had not become rich, but they had a home that, however humble, was theirs, and they were happy.

Harvest time came. The golden grain stood ripe and heavy in the fields. The mother and the eldest children went to help the father with the harvest lest the rain might come and catch them napping. So it happened that one morning little Ween, aged seven, was left all alone to care for his little brother, who was just able to toddle about the house. For an hour or two they amused themselves with their toys and then the little one, in childish glee, ran about the room "playing horse." The floor is built of rough, undried boards and in some places had become "sprung." Careless of danger little Ole ran about until he stepped into a crack and fell. The merciless boards closed fast about his foot and held him prisoner. Shrieking with pain he called to his brother for help. Ween tugged away at the boards, but they refused to release their prey. Little Ole's appeals became more and more frantic. Ween went to the door and shouted for help, but no one heard him. At last, frantic with fear, he seized a dull ax that stood in the shed and rushed to the little sufferer. Still he could not pry up the boards. There was but one way now; he must cut off the little one's foot! So he raised the dull ax and brought it down. A ragged gash was made and the shrieks grew louder. "Don't cry, Ole, I will soon have you free;" and down came the cruel ax again. Again and again it fell, until at last the prisoner was free. The blood frightened Ween, and he took the little one in his arms and sought to soothe it with a song he had heard his mother sing:

"Rock-a-by, rock-a-by, baby, to sleep."  
Little Ole's cries became fainter and fainter. His head fell lower on his brother's arm and his eyes closed. Ween thought the baby was very white, but still he sat there crooning the cradle song and waiting for the return of his father and mother. High noon came and the mother returned to prepare the frugal noonday meal. No little voices came to greet her with shouts of joy, and her mother's heart stood still with a nameless terror. Into the house she rushed. "Sh! sh!" whispered Ween. "Ole got hurt, but I rocked him to sleep."  
Yes, Ole was asleep. His eyes would never open again upon earthly scenes. And little Ween rocked to and fro, singing softly.  
"Rock-a-by, rock-a-by, baby, to sleep."  
The waistcoat of a jacket is usually of contrasting shade of cloth, braided

### A Wonderful Dinner.

One of the most marvelous dinners of modern times was served in Antwerp a few days ago to a company of men who go about the world buying up animals for menageries. There had been a sale of the surplus stock of the famous Antwerp zoological gardens during the day, and buyers from all parts of the world were there. In the evening the Antwerp Zoological Association gave a banquet to the most prominent persons present. The menu was indeed a curious one. Dainty omelets were made from ostrich eggs. Rare fish from waters in the tropics were brought thousands of miles for this special occasion. The guests were served with Indian antelope fillet; with ham cut from the Russian bear; with Lady Amber pheasants; with a delicious young turkey, roasted to a crisp; with tongue of the South American bison, served with spinach; with lima cutlets and broad beans. The King of Holland sent a fine boar from his forest, which was served in the fashion of an ox at a good old American barbecue. This altogether remarkable repast covered twenty courses, and it took six hours to serve it.

### Up in a Balloon.

The sensation a man experiences when making an ascent in a balloon is very peculiar, says an aeronaut in the *St. Louis Globe-Democrat*. The earth appears to be falling away, especially from just where the ascent was made. A few days ago I made an ascent from St. Charles and was soon able to see St. Louis and a score of other smaller cities. The smoke from the manufacturing looked very odd, but the principal buildings in St. Louis were remarkably distinct even when I had gone up 4000 feet and over. Of course at that altitude it is impossible to detect movements on the earth's surface with the naked eye, but with the aid of a telescope this can be done. The fastest train seems to be going at a snail's pace, and a running horse seems to make very poor progress. Rivers look like little streaks of silver when the balloon is very high up. The steady fall in the temperature is not unpleasant, and there is no feeling of giddiness after a little practice.

### Card of Thanks.

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Take courage, O weak ones dependent,  
And drive back the foe that you fear  
With the weapon that never will fail you.  
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For when you suffer from any of the weaknesses "irregularities" and "functional derangements," peculiar to your sex, by the use of Dr. Pierce's Favorite Prescription you can put the enemy of ill-health and happiness to rout. It is the only medicine for women, sold by druggists, under a positive guarantee of satisfaction in every case, or money refunded. See bottle's wrapper.

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### Pretty Tall.

The highest structure of masonry in the world is said to be the National Museum recently completed at Turin, in Italy. It was originally designed for a synagogue, but it proved ill adapted to that purpose, and was sold to the city. It was then converted into a museum as a monument to the memory of Victor Emanuel. On top of the whole rises a spire nearly as high as the whole of the rest of the building. The gilt statue on the top of this spire stands 538 feet from the ground.

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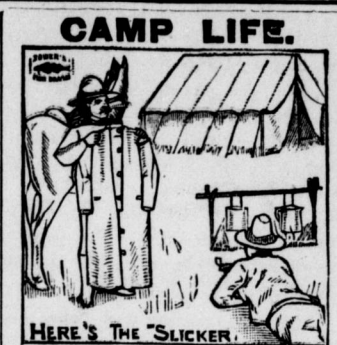
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