

PRINCE BISMARCK.

The Effect of His Retirement upon many and Europe.

The resignation of Prince Bismarck, who for nearly a quarter of a century has filled the responsible position of Chancellor of the German Reichstag has created a profound sensation in European political circles. To Bismarck, as every one familiar with the recent history of Europe knows, Germany owes in great degree her present proud position and powerful influence among the nations. In fact, the German Confederation had not been to-day but for Bismarck. That his retirement, therefore, should occasion deep regret is what might have been expected. He had endeared himself to the people to a degree seldom known. Bismarck with many Germans was more than William. Nor was the Emperor ignorant of the value of his distinguished subject. Replying to his letter of resignation the Kaiser testifies: "It is with deep emotion that I learn from your request of March 18 that you are determined to retire from the office filled by you for so many years with such incomparable results. I had hoped that during the lifetime of either of us I should not have to face the eventuality of our separation. If I am now, while thoroughly conscious of the far-reaching importance of your retirement, compelled to face this eventuality, I do so with a heavy heart, but with the conviction that my granting your request will contribute to the preservation and conservation of your life and strength, which are both of priceless value to our Fatherland. I have always considered it one of the most fortunate circumstances of my life that when I began to reign you were at my side as Chief Councillor. What you have accomplished and achieved for Prussia and Germany, what you have been to my house, to my predecessors, to me will be cherished as a precious memory by me and by the German people forever."

Naturally the question arises, "Why did Bismarck resign and what effect will his retirement have upon the destinies of Europe?" Many incline to the opinion that the determination of the Emperor to have a free hand in the government had much to do in leading him to resign, that his iron will, so long unshaken, could not tamely brook any interference, especially by one so young as the Emperor. It is denied, however, that the resignation was in any way connected with the differences between the Emperor and himself on labor questions; that, on the contrary, the Labor Conference was initiated upon his suggestion and the Staatsrath's assistance asked to consider the labor question. The *North German Gazette* attributes it mainly to constitutional questions, such as the limits of Ministerial responsibility, and the relations of the President of the Prussian Ministry with his colleagues. It is impossible to say whether there is any truth in the various speculations on the subject, or whether Bismarck had any other reason than that stated in his resignation—his advanced age and the need of rest. Perhaps it is as well to accept this explanation as to search farther with the expectation of finding anything more certain and satisfactory.

In reference to the effects of Bismarck's retirement upon Germany and Europe generally, expert opinion is divided; some regarding it as threatening to the peace of Europe while others apprehend no serious results. *The National Gazette* says: "The appointment of General von Caprivi to succeed Prince Bismarck has nothing of a threatening character; for German generals appreciate the blessings of peace no less than other Germans in responsible positions." Says the Spanish minister of Foreign Affairs: "As to the effect of Prince Bismarck's resignation on the triple alliance, I believe for the present there will be no change, nor do I believe that the probability of a general European war will be increased." "On the other hand Le Duc de Broglie, a former French Minister, is not quite so sure that the change will not result in a disturbance of the peaceful condition of things. His misgivings are based upon the inexperience and impulsiveness of the young Emperor, who he fears will commit some blunder in the game of European diplomacy which will cost very dear. It is to be noted that the Emperor in his letter to the Prince declares that he intends from the future as the guiding star of his policy, the wise and fruitful policy of peace which has been followed for the last twenty years. Besides this, the new Chancellor has shown his good judgment in taking counsel of his experienced and successful predecessor, who will still be available with his ripened judgment and wealth of experience to advise in times of national peril. So that taking all things into account there does not appear to be any great occasion for alarm. Though it may be granted that the retirement of a leader so distinguished at this particular juncture when such grave problems confront the nation is matter for serious regret, the circumstances may yet serve to confirm the truth that the world is not pivoted on any one pair of shoulders, and that no man however great possesses a monopoly of strength and wisdom. As the *Mail* justly remarks: "The world has long since learned, however, that no man, however great, is indispensable to it, and it may be that Germany, although she can never have another Bismarck, will find men capable of filling the position which her greatest statesman has so long and so ably occupied, and of guiding her safely through the dangers which at present beset her."

Good Fishing Spots.

Anglers of leisure and means who are looking about for unexplored waters in which to cast their flies, cannot do better than visit the territory on either side of the upper part of the Gatineau River, in the Province of Quebec. For 100 miles right and left of that stream are innumerable obscure lakes and streams, in some of which it is probable that no white man has ever fished, and where trout and other fish may be taken until the angler is weary. At Hull, opposite Ottawa, arrangements may be made for an outfit for an expedition up the Gatineau. The country about the upper part of that river is a rough one, and calculated to test the patience and endurance of the angler, whose reward, however, in the way of sport will surely be a full compensation. Another great stream is the Nepigon, which Mr. G. Marks, President of the Board of Trade of Port Arthur, calls the king of trout streams. It will not be wise, however, for the angler to defer a visit there later than the present season. Mr. Marks predicts that within two years, unless some check is placed upon the wanton slaughter of fish which is going on there, the fate of the Nepigon is one not difficult to foresee.

Social Reform in New York.

An experiment which may yet prove to be the precursor of a mighty movement in the way of social reform is at present being tried in the city of New York. Moved by a spirit of genuine philanthropy, a number of college-bred women whose interest in the work had been stimulated by a study of sanitary, social and political science, have undertaken to practically apply the knowledge which their more favorable opportunities have secured. The account of their doings is made public by the *Charitaugan* which thus describes the new reform. "Believing that only the daily contact of one human life upon another can permanent and satisfactory influences be exerted, the alumnae have rented a house in the most densely populated quarter of the city, and seven of their number have gone there to make such a home as seven refined and active women, instinct with sympathy and kindness, can create. In the circle of their family life are invited their neighbors as friends, bidden to enjoy what years of opportunities for study and culture have made these women capable of giving to starved and stunted minds. Here they are expected to live their life as elsewhere, carry on their professional or domestic work and show by their activity how high a value they place on social industry. Thus far, the most practicable means of securing a hold on their neighbors has been by organizing clubs for the girls and children. Four of these clubs are now holding frequent meetings, the instruction and recreation being graded to suit the ages of the members. Thus, little children from six to ten years are taught to sew, to sing, and to march; the girls from ten to fourteen have in addition their industrial classes; while for poor tired cash girls of fifteen and thereabouts one evening a week is made pleasurable one evening a week of games and healthful nonsense. And so on for other grades. Through these ladies freely give of their intellectual life, yet all appearance of instruction or even philanthropic motives is carefully withheld, and friendship, companionship with its yet untried possibilities of uplifting and enlarging the lives of their neighbors, is the recognized source of inspiration." This last sentence hints at a most important truth, a truth which has been too frequently overlooked by those whose hearts have prompted them to engage in philanthropic and benevolent work, viz., that the majority of poor people have still sufficient sense of independence to resent any sign of patronizing. Indeed it is only the comparatively few, who are in a sense the least worth saving, that can tolerate any display of the philanthropic motive on the part of their benefactors. The kind-hearted ladies who conduct this unique enterprise have correctly interpreted the actions of the human spirit and in so far forth are they the more likely to succeed. It is too early to attempt to tabulate results, for the experiment is still in its beginnings. It is, moreover, one of those undertakings whose effects cannot be expressed in the cold and formal language of arithmetic. It is also impossible to say whereunto this thing will grow. No doubt it will involve sacrifice and will call for much patience and courage. It may be presumed, however, that the promoters have counted the cost, and have undertaken the work with a clear understanding of what was to be expected. The eyes of all interested in the solution of the social problem will be upon this "College Settlement," while many fervent "God speeds" will be spoken by those who long for the ultimate deliverance of the race from poverty, wretchedness and woe.

Stanley's New Book.

Taking advantage of the wonderful interest which is everywhere felt in H. M. Stanley and his recent expedition across the Dark Continent, several enterprising publishers have put upon the market works purporting to be an account of the great discoverer's adventurous trip. To all these narratives there is this fatal objection, that up to the present, Stanley has given the world only the merest outline of what he saw, and did, and suffered. The real and complete story is yet to be told, and will be told by no one but Stanley himself, who has contracted with a New York publishing house for the sole publication of his book. The enterprise, therefore, of the publishers in question, is much more conspicuous than their honesty, for, though in some instances Stanley's endorsement the fact of their not having it is not denied, while in every case the representation is such as to leave the impression that what is not told of his adventures and experiences in these books is no worth knowing. The *New York Sun* vigorously protests against this attempt to delude an unsuspecting public, and seeing that the warning is so timely and what expressed in a manner so unmistakable and forcible, we give our readers the benefit of the caution.

"Several cheap books," says the *Sun*, "have just been slung together with scissors and paste and put on the market as authorized and authentic histories of Stanley's expedition to relieve Emin Pasha. The fact that the compilers of these books have not a particle of information that the public has not seen in the newspapers does not deter them from making the most fraudulent pretensions. One book, which purports to be not only the story of Stanley's expedition, but also a history of African exploration, is a particularly barefaced attempt to swindle the public. In a circular describing its contents the compiler crowds in lies to the square inch that are often seen in print. He says, for instance, that he has bought from the London *Times* a great deal of exclusive material which that paper secured from Stanley; that he has also purchased a large amount of unpublished material from Mr. Herbert Ward; that other members of the expedition are contributors to his pages; that Stanley's own book will be beyond the reach of the masses, as it will cost \$10 that it will not be of a popular nature, being chiefly devoted to a scientific account of his geographical discoveries, and that the compiler's book will be the only complete and entertaining account of the expedition. There are only a few simple lies in the remarkable collection. The book itself is a hodge-podge of stolen from plorers, from Speke down. Pictures showing duty as illustrating other facts in the experience of other travellers. The pictures of some explorers are introduced as those of other men, and wholly supposititious work is being sent by the carload to the far interior of this country and Canada. This is a peculiarly aggravated attempt to palm off a wholly worthless book upon unsuspecting readers."

Europe's Post Offices.

Germany has 19,476 postoffices, England 17,587, France only 7,346. Last year 65,000,000 postoffice orders, with a value of 4,800,000 francs, were forwarded in Germany, and 21,000,000 orders, the value of 658,000 francs, forwarded in France. The bad showing in France in postal statistics is in no small degree due to the fact that the postal authorities may be found yearly only twenty-five new postoffices, although almost two thousand applications for new postoffices are made annually. In Paris a pneumatic postal card reached its destination between an hour and an hour and a half after mailing. A similar card in Berlin is delivered within thirty-five or forty minutes after mailing. Since the inauguration of a new system of postal wagons for emptying the mail boxes in Berlin, an ordinary city letter reaches its destination in an hour after leaving the hands of the sender.

"News."

The word "news" is derived from the initial letters of the four points of the compass—North, East, West and South. To all points of the compass let the good news go that for a changed liver, nervous headache, costive bowels, impure blood, nausea, and many other disturbances of the system that make men mourn, there is a remedy. Thousands testify that Dr. Pierce's Pleasant Purgative Pellets cure these troubles. Small but potent; one a dose.

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Eve was the first girl to get a fall "sack" if you remember rightly.

Invested a Dollar and Realized a Million.

Brown and his friend Perkins were talking about investments. "Once I invested \$1,000 in real estate," said Perkins, "and doubled it in less than six months. That was the best investment I ever made. Pretty good, wasn't it?" "I've done better than that," said Brown. "Two years ago I was 'told by all my friends that I was going into consumption, and I thought they were right about it. I had a dry, hacking cough, no appetite, my sleep came in fits and starts, and seemed to do me no good, and often there was a dull, heavy pain in my chest. I kept growing weaker and weaker, and at last night sweats set in. I thought it was all up with me then. I had consulted two doctors and taken quarts of their medicine, and received no benefit from it. One day I happened to read something about Dr. Pierce's Golden Medical Discovery, and I made up my mind to give it a trial, but I didn't expect it would help me. I invested a dollar in a bottle of it, and it helped me from the first dose. It helped me and it cured me, and when I compare my present good health with the miserable health of two years ago I think I am safe in saying that my investment was a much better one than yours. You can't reckon health by any measure of dollars and cents; if you could should say that I had realized at least a million from my \$1.00 investment." "The 'Golden Medical Discovery' is guaranteed to benefit or cure in all diseases for which it is recommended or money paid for it will be refunded.

Bridget:—"Enjoy slape, is it! How could I! The minut I lay down, I'm aslape, an' the minut I'm awake, I have to get up. Where's the time for enjoyin' it?"

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Emperor William has not prohibited duelling in the German army, but no duel is in future to take place until there has been a thorough inquiry into all the circumstances by two Colonels, who are to allow an encounter only if the provocation was a public assault, to which an apology has been refused, or when an insult has been offered to a lady who is a relation or the betrothed of the challenger. Under no circumstances, however, is a duel to be permitted when the quarrel has arisen out of a brawl in a club room, coffee house, or any similar place, when one of the parties has already been "out" three times, or where one of the parties is a married man with children.

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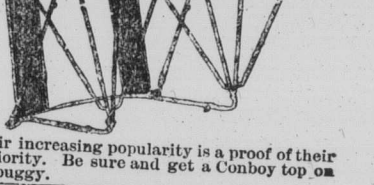
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