

followed hostile vote, but King William was faithful to his Minister, and that Minister kept his own counsel. Then came the episode of the Danish War, and the ripening of the quarrel between Prussia and Austria. While negotiations were carried on with the lesser German States, a treaty of alliance was secretly concluded with Italy, and then, all things being ready, the dilatory negotiations were brought to an abrupt conclusion by an ultimatum, and the Prussian army set in motion. Hanover and Saxony were overrun, Bohemia invaded, and at Sadowa the war was brought to a triumphant close, and King William virtually made Emperor of Germany. That success reconciled King, Minister, and Deputies; and it was acknowledged that if the army had carried itself bravely in the field, it was because Count Bismarck had previously carried himself stubbornly in the Cabinet.

There are many ardent advocates of unity who will not admit what they term a "Prussification" of Germany to be a realisation of their idea, which was the drawing together of the States into one Germany, where Baden should be the equal of Hanover, and Prussia no more than Lippe-Detmold; now, they say instead of Prussia joining Germany it is Germany which joins Prussia. We believe that this is owing to the fact that Prussia was the one State which not only knew what it wanted, but how to get it. The other idea was a grand one, but had the serious fault of not getting itself realised.

COUNT VON BISMARCK, PRIME MINISTER OF PRUSSIA.

Otto, Count Von Bismarck-Schoenhausen, Prime Minister of Prussia, and, with the sole exception of Napoleon III., the most famous man of the present age, is the descendant of a long line of petty nobility, whose origin is lost in the remotest antiquity. Frederick the Great, commencing life with almost puerile tastes, and in a condition of abject domestic subjection to the will of a crack-brained, eccentric father, built up the Prussian monarchy a century and a half ago. Bismarck, who, by his eccentricity and irregular (not vicious) habits, earned for himself the decisive appellation of Mad Bismarck, has outlived the depreciatory opinions of his youthful critics, and has, by the strength of his will and the force of his political genius, torn the prestige of German leadership from Austria, raised Prussia to rivalry with France for the premiership of Europe, and realized the dream of a great German Empire by the consolidation of all the German States under the guidance of Prussia. To Bismarck's towering abilities, and to the immense strength of his political combinations, is owing more than to any other single or personal cause the present war. The tradition of French diplomacy will not admit of a superior or even of an equal in the political equilibrium of Europe. Napoleon has found himself equalled, if not dominated, by Bismarck's political manœuvres, and neither the ambition of the Emperor, nor the genius of the French nation, can tolerate such an attain on the national honour. Bismarck's moral courage and consummate tact have made Prussia what she is in this generation, and in the accomplishment of his high objects it is more than doubtful whether he did not counterbalance Napoleon's own plans. Certain it is that his position of armed neutrality after Solferino precipitated the imperfect and unsatisfactory termination of the Italian question, and his subsequent splendid triumphs at Königgratz and Sadowa, were a humiliating counterpoise to the imperial blunders in Mexico; while at home the consolidation of Prussian supremacy has been a painful contrast to the concessions of imperialism to liberal institutions for the sake of assuring itself an extended lease of power. Bismarck's predilections, both personal and ancestral, led him to identify himself with the cause of kingly rule in Prussia. He identified the weal of his nation with the personal government by a King. He is monarchical by instinct, and each concession made to liberalism has been wrung from him as a departure from the true principles of all government, and as an attack upon the people's own happiness. The theory of his foreign policy was that Austrian preponderance was inimical to the welfare of Germany, and that the general interests of the Teutonic race would be promoted by the elevation of Prussia to the first place in German councils. His antipathy to democracy was increased by the events of 1848, and in 1851 he became a member of the Prussian Parliament, where his speeches on the new constitution and his aristocratic loyalism attracted the attention of the Court. While on his wedding tour he accidentally encountered the King at Venice, and personal intercourse so confirmed the impression he had created that very soon afterwards he was appointed Prussian representative at the Frankfurt Diet. There is, perhaps, no man in Europe of whom better stories are told than of Bismarck. Among others one is told of this particular epoch, showing his sense of his own dignity and of the respect due to him as representative of Prussia. The young minister paid a ceremonial visit to Count Thun, the Austrian Minister and President of the Diet. Count Thun did not ask him to take a seat, but continued smoking. Bismarck, nothing disconcerted, took out his cigar case, and drawing a chair forward, asked the President for a light, and fairly smoked him into civility. In 1859 he was recalled from Frankfurt; and sent Ambassador to St. Petersburg. In 1862 he was placed in charge of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. The whole course of Prussian politics was at this time a constant protest at every point by the liberals and the democratic party against the Crown and its authority. The opposition to every ministerial plan was virulent, and no success at home or abroad modified the hostility of the opposition. Even Prussian successes in the Schleswig-Holstein affair brought no peace to the councils of the nation. The general tendencies of Europe were towards an expansion of liberalism. Bismarck and the King believed that the national welfare lay in the consolidation of the royal power, in the control of the press, and in the increase of the standing army. The dispute with Austria sprang out of the increasing preponderance of Prussia in all questions touching the common interests of Germany. The German principalities were being rapidly mediatised into Prussian dependencies. The question of armaments was a new jealousy, and the alliance, offensive and defensive, between Prussia and the new Kingdom of Italy, led to the warlike movements by Austria for the purpose of defending her Venetian dependencies, which led to Napoleon's appearance on the scene, and to the expulsion of Austria from Italian soil. The sudden close of the Italian campaign at Solferino, leaving Victor Emmanuel's position only half assured, and transferring Savoy to France, was hardly satisfactory to Prussia. It is generally believed that, in interviews which Bismarck had at Biarritz with Napoleon about this time, the Prussian favoured the Napoleonic

claims to a Rhine frontier as a set-off to Prussia's longings for Schleswig-Holstein and Baltic ports. Austria now expressed her disapproval of Prussia's aggrandizing views on the Duchies; but to these protests Bismarck paid no attention, and the battles of Sadowa and Königgratz affirmed Prussian rights and silenced Austrian remonstrance. After the Austrian defeats Prussia consolidated the North German States, and brought them all under her control, subsidizing their princes and granting them pensions and allowances in place of their independent revenues. Arrangements were also made with Southern German States by which they attained their nominal independence, but Prussia was made commander-in-chief of the joint army and head of the Customs Union, and the line of the territorial demarcation completely excluded Austria from all participation in the new Bund. The Luxembourg affair, it will be remembered, originated from an attempt by Prussia to get possession from Holland of that fortress by purchase. This was objectionable to France, and the fortress was eventually dismantled and the territory neutralized. At this moment, owing to the consolidation of Germanic powers, to the supremacy of Prussia and to the powers granted Von Bismarck as Chancellor of the Federated States, he is the most powerful minister in Europe, having personal influence and weight more analogous to that of Richelieu or Kanknitz than to that of any modern minister.

In person, Von Bismarck is tall, well formed, fair haired, blue eyed, and of great vigour. He is as hearty and joyous as he is energetic and determined. His tastes are simple and popular, as a proof of which the national beer, both white, black, and lager, in great silver tankards and foaming goblets, is a feature in his entertainments. He has been once shot at, but though slightly wounded, arrested the assassin with his own strong hand, and the offender subsequently killed himself in prison.

Of his personal views, M. de Vilbort, a Parisian journalist, reports an interview in which these words were uttered by Bismarck:

"Sixteen years ago I was living as a country gentleman, when the King appointed me Envoy of Prussia at the Frankfurt Diet. I have been brought up in the admiration, I might almost say the worship of the Austrian policy. Much time, however, was not needed to dispel my youthful illusions. The humiliation of my country, Germany, sacrificed to the interests of a foreign nation, a crafty and perfidious line of policy, these were not things calculated to give me satisfaction. . . . I conceived the idea of snatching Germany from Austrian oppression—at least that part of Germany whose tone of thought, religion, manners, and interests, identify her destinies with Prussia—Northern Germany."

Of French pretensions to territorial aggrandizement, the same gentleman reports Bismarck as saying:

"Ere a fortnight is past we shall have war on the Rhine if France insists on her territorial demands. She asks of us what we neither can nor will give. Prussia will not cede an inch of German soil—we can not do so without raising the whole of Germany against us, and if it be necessary let it rise against France rather than ourselves."

Herr Von Bismarck is married and has three children. His private life is of the happiest, and his wife is said to be a most efficient helpmeet, and his very best secretary and amanuensis. To his sister he is most tenderly and devotedly attached, and their mutual affection is a bright spot on the history of a great life. He is 56 years of age.

PRINCE LEOPOLD OF HOHENZOLLERN.

It is a singular fact that of all the princes of Europe outside of France, the only ones with whom the Emperor of the French is connected by ties of blood are Germans, and that those to whom he is nearest related are members of the house of Hohenzollern. And furthermore it is a fact that such family connection is confined to the Beauharnais family, the Bonaparte house being limited to France.

The young prince whose candidature for the Spanish crown has created so much excitement in Europe, rendering the relations of France and Prussia exceedingly grave, is in fact an own cousin of Napoleon by his mother's side. Hortense and Eugene de Beauharnais were, it will be borne in mind, the children of Josephine, afterwards Empress of France, by her first husband, Viscount de Beauharnais. An uncle of the Viscount, Count de Beauharnais, married the celebrated Countess Fanny, by whom he had Claude de Beauharnais. This nobleman filled the position of Chevalier of Honour to the Empress Marie Louise, wife of Napoleon I. One of his daughters, Stephanie Louise Adrienne, was the adopted child of the Emperor. On the 8th of April, 1806, she married Charles Louis Frédéric, Grand Duke of Baden, by whom she had two daughters, one of whom, the Princess Josephine Frédérique Louise, was married on the 21st of Oct., 1834, to Prince Antoine Joachim Zephyrin Frédéric Mainrad, head of the house of Hohenzollern Sigmaringen. It is noteworthy that this prince is in a measure connected with the Napoleon family by reason of his mother, the Princess Antoinette Marie Murat, being a sister of Joachim Murat, the great cavalry leader, who married Caroline Bonaparte, and whose children are now recognized as hereditary princes of the French empire. The mother of the present Emperor of the French, Hortense de Beauharnais, having been a blood cousin to Stephanie de Beauharnais, the grandmother of the new candidate for the Spanish crown, it follows that Napoleon and Leopold are cousins also.

Scandal, which did not spare the name of Hortense, was not over careful of the fame of Stephanie, of whom some not very favourable stories are told. She was, however, so comparatively obscure that but few persons at the present time are not even aware of her having been the adopted child of the great Corsican. She lived to a ripe old age—seventy-one—and died on the 29th of January, 1860. Apropos of Stephanie, her grandmother, the Countess Fanny, was one of the most talented and dissolute women of the day. She was a poetess and romanticist, of remarkable personal beauty, and was notorious in Paris for her numerous lovers, and to the amorous poems of some of whom she is said to have signed her name. Altogether, and truth to tell, the females of the Beauharnais family have never borne an unsullied reputation for morality, although it must be admitted that several of them have been distinguished for the possession of a high order of intellect.

It is curious to notice that of all the princes created by the first Napoleon, this family have alone made a stir in the world since the fatal day of Waterloo. Already a grandson of Stephanie has ascended a throne—the brother of Prince Leopold, Prince Charles Eitel Frédéric Zephyrin Louis, being the present ruler of Roumania.

Having thus briefly sketched the ancestry of the Prince whose name heads this article, we arrive at a consideration of himself. But little can be said about him, for the reason that he never before appeared prominently in European politics. He is the oldest son of Prince Charles, and was born on the 22nd of September, 1835. At present he holds the rank of Lieutenant-Colonel of the First Regiment of Prussian Foot Guards. On the 12th of September, 1861, he married the Princess Antoine Marie Ferdinand Michaele Gabrielle Raphaele d'Assise Ann Gonzague Silvine Julie Auguste de Bragance, Bourbon, Duchess of Saxe, sister of the reigning King of Portugal. The multiplicity of names belonging to this lady has not prevented her from becoming the mother of three children—all boys—to Prince Leopold, the oldest of whom was born in 1864. This is about all that can be said of Prince Leopold.

The political significance of his candidature for the Crown of Spain lies in the fact that he is a prince of the Royal House of Prussia. In 1849 his father ceded his territories to Prussia, abdicating in favour of King William. In 1850, by a royal decree, the family were invested with the title of Highness, which, being hereditary, descends to his eldest son, the Prince Leopold. Remote as is the probability of such a thing, it is nevertheless not impossible for the Sigmaringen branch of the Hohenzollern family, of which the King of Prussia is the head of all, to ascend the throne of Prussia.

For the purpose of enabling the reader to perceive at a glance the relationship existing between the Emperor Napoleon and Prince Leopold, we subjoin the following genealogical table:

HEAD OF THE FAMILY.

MARQUIS AND MARCHIONESS DE BEAUHARNAIS.		
THEIR SONS.		
Marq. de Beauharnais.		Count de Beauharnais.
Father of		Father of
Alexander.	First cousins.	Claude.
Father of		Father of
Hortense.	Second cousins.	Stephanie.
Mother of		Mother of
Napoleon III.	Third cousins.	Josephine
		Mother of
Napoleon III.	Fourth cousins.	Prince Leopold.

The Princess, as already stated, married the Prince of Hohenzollern-Sigmaringen, and is the mother of Prince Leopold. She being a third cousin of Napoleon III. her son is consequently a fourth cousin of the Emperor, as shown above. Curiously enough the succession from the male Beauharnais ceased with both branches together, and was continued from the females, Hortense and Stephanie. And here it is also interesting to notice that while Hortense had none but male children, Stephanie had none but females. That the French Emperor should object to seeing his cousin-german on the Spanish throne is undoubtedly because the Prince happens to be a German also, and a Prussian one at that.

THE CROWN PRINCE FREDERICK WILLIAM.

The Crown Prince Frederick William of Prussia, who is now in command of the South German troops on the Rhine frontier, was born on the 18th of October, 1831. In 1858 he married the Princess Royal of England. He served in the second Schleswig-Holstein campaign of 1864, under his cousin, Prince Frederick Charles; and in 1866 was in command of the second corps d'armée. He was present at Sadowa, where he distinguished himself by his courage and coolness. It was under his command that the Prussian troops recently won the brilliant victory at Hagenau.

PRINCE FREDERICK CHARLES OF PRUSSIA.

One of the most prominent general officers of the Prussian army, and the one, perhaps, in whom the Prussian troops have the greatest confidence, is Prince Frederick Charles, the nephew of the King. Prince Frederick Charles Nicolaus is the son of Prince Frederick Charles Alexander, brother of King William, and Princess Marie-Louise-Alexandrine, daughter of the late Archduke Charles Frederick of Saxe-Weimar. The Prince was born in March, 1828, and in 1854 married Princess Marie-Anna, daughter of the Duke of Anhalt-Dessau. At the time of the Badisch revolution of 1849, he took part in the campaign against Gen. Sigel. In one of the engagements with the revolutionary troops, the Prince entirely neglected the commands of his superiors and so mismanaged his manœuvres as to bring the squadron under his command directly under the fire of the Prussian troops. For his insubordination he was afterwards courtmartialled and sentenced to be shot; but was subsequently reprieved. In the campaign of 1864 he held a command; and with the aid of Gen. Von Moltke defeated the Danes at Duppel and Alsen. In the Bohemian campaign of 1866 he commanded the first corps d'armée, and during the whole of this campaign displayed such courage and such military skill as to win the entire confidence of his troops. It was mainly in this campaign and in the second Schleswig-Holstein war that he established for himself the brilliant reputation as a soldier which he now bears. Prince Frederick Charles is the author of several works on military matters. He is now forty years of age. He commands the centre of the Prussian army.

A fresh discovery of diamonds has taken place in Victoria, Australia. Several have been brought to Melbourne for examination, and one is described by a jeweller as of the finest water and of nearly a carat weight. It appears that miners, ignorant of their value, have been throwing these stones away.