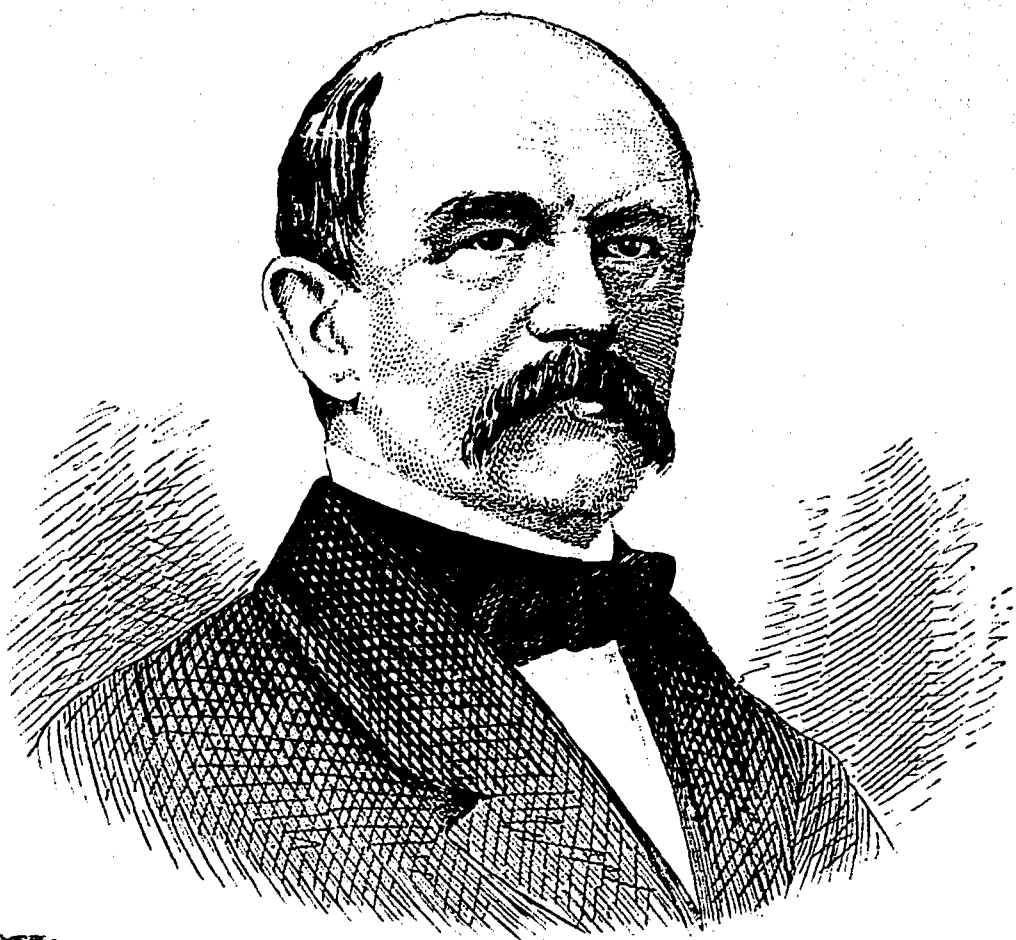




KING WILLIAM I. OF PRUSSIA.



COUNT VON BISMARCK.

KING WILLIAM I. OF PRUSSIA.

WILLIAM I. OF PRUSSIA, under whom Germany has for the first time caught a glimpse of the much-desired unification, seems admirably fitted for the duties which such a charge lay upon him. With a reputation for straightforward honesty and a certain hearty bluntness of manner, blessed with common sense, if not brilliant genius, a tenacity of purpose, and the military instincts of his race, he finds his fitting place as ruler of the great German nation, which, notwithstanding the proverbial mystification we are accustomed to attribute to the German mind, is an eminently practical one. The King is not the man to plan great changes—that is left to other and subtler minds; but as the representative monarch and the doer of deeds, not the thinker of thoughts, the movement of German nationality could have had no better leader.

King William, who was brother to the late King, was the son of Frederick William III., and was born March 22, 1797. He entered the army, and took part in the campaigns of 1813 and 1815, which closed the period of war, and until the year of Revolutions he had no opportunity of distinguishing himself in active service. 1848 found him acting as Governor of Pomerania, and in conse-



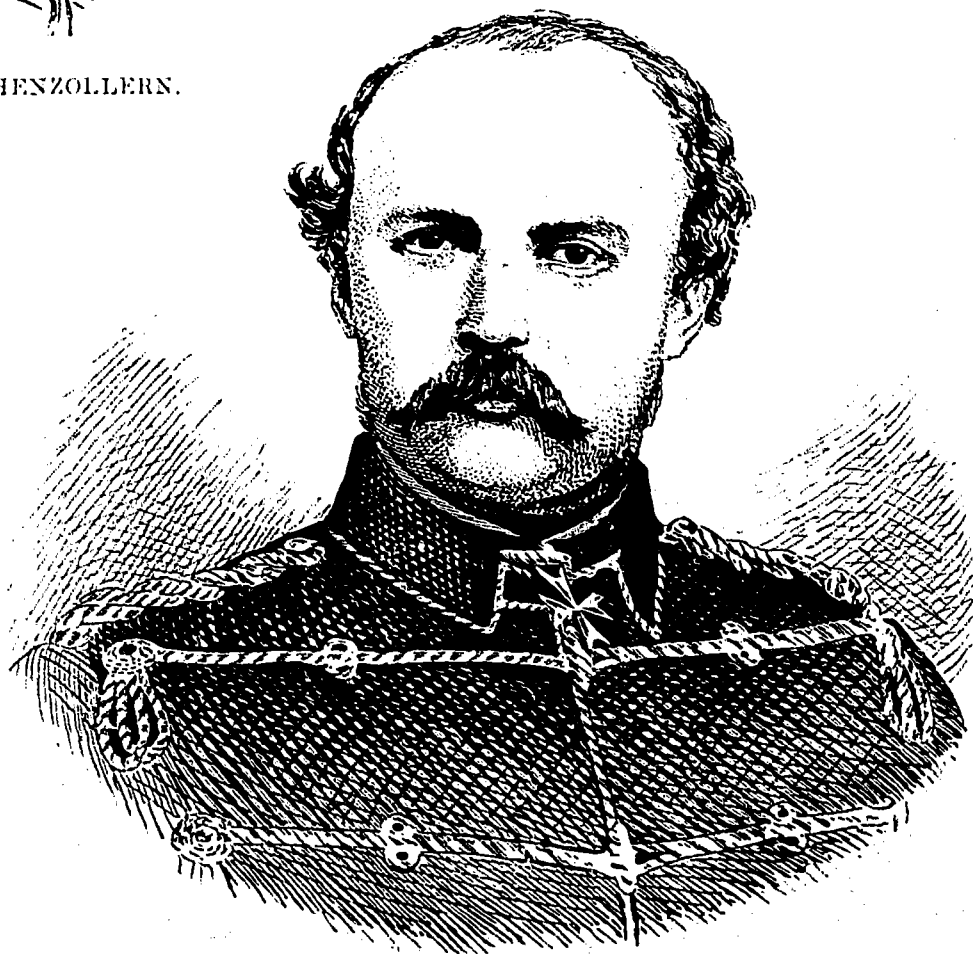
PRINCE LEOPOLD OF HOHENZOLLERN.

quence of the Revolution he was obliged to take refuge in England, although not for long, for being elected as a member of the Constituent Assembly in the May of that year, he returned to Berlin and took his seat in the Chamber, June 8, 1848. The story of the Prussian Revolution is an oft-told tale, and need not be repeated here—the house of Hohenzollern was not overthrown, and Prince William was in 1849 nominated Commander-in-Chief of the Prussian army acting against the Revolutionary forces in Baden.

In 1858 the Prince was appointed Regent in consequence of his brother's mind giving way, and in 1861 he succeeded to the throne, under the title of William I. It was on the occasion of his coronation that he asserted so strongly the doctrine of the Divine Right of Kings, his adherence to which, it is said, stood seriously in the way of His Ministers' schemes as regarded Hanover. As a prince the subject of our memoir had been known for his liberal principles, but as a king he apparently favoured a policy of another tendency. A contest, of which the army organisation was the subject, arose between the throne, as represented by M. von Bismarck, and the Chamber of Deputies; for the time constitutional government was utterly disregarded by the high-handed Minister; there was much bitterness of feeling, hostile vote



THE CROWN PRINCE FREDERICK WILLIAM.



PRINCE FREDERICK CHARLES OF PRUSSIA.