

of being on a par with the rest of mankind; for you may be absolutely certain that all the states of the world run the same career and that it is the hidden goal at which the high and the lowly of the world aim.

This principle having been stated, never blush for making alliances with a view to your being the only one to draw advantage from them. Do not commit the stupid mistake of not abandoning them whenever you believe that your interests are at stake, and especially maintain vigorously this maxim, that to despoil your neighbors is to take away from them the means of doing you injury.

Properly speaking, it is politics which founds and preserves kingdoms. Therefore, my dear nephew, you must understand politics thoroughly and conceive of it in the clearest light. To this end I shall divide it into Politics of the State and into Private Politics. The former concerns only the great interests of the kingdom; the latter concerns the particular interests of the Prince.¹

Politics of the State reduces itself to three principles: the first, to preserve, and, according to circumstances, to aggrandize one's self; the second, not to make any alliance except for one's own advantage;

¹ *Les Matinées Royales, ou l'Art de Régner. Opuscule inédit de Frédéric II, dit le Grand, roi de Prusse.* London, Williams and Norgate, 1863, pp. 18-19.

General Savary, Duke of Rovigo, who accompanied Napoleon in his visit to Sans Souci in 1806, purloined from Frederick's desk a copy of the *Matinées Royales*, said to be in Frederick's own handwriting. A copy of this was made in 1816 by one C. Whittall, with the Duke's permission and was published in 1901 by the copyist's grandson, Sir James William Whittall, in a book entitled *Frederick the Great on Kingcraft*. From the original MS. (London: Longmans, Green & Co., 1901), pp. 15-16.

The French text of *Les Matinées Royales, ou l'Art de Régner*, to which references are made, was edited in 1863 by the late Lord Acton from a copy made at Sans Souci in 1806 by Baron de Méneval, Private Secretary to Napoleon. It contains five of the seven *Matinées* and fills the thirty-five pages of this little volume.

In 1870 an English translation of Lord Acton's edition was issued in Boston in a pamphlet of fifty-two pages, under the highly significant and accurate title of "Origin of the Bismarck policy; or, *The Hohenzollern doctrine and maxims described and defined by . . . Frederick the Great; his opinions on religion, justice, morals, politics, diplomacy, statesmanship, the German people, etc., etc.* Written by himself expressly for the use of his successor to the throne." Carefully translated from an authentic copy of the original manuscript by M. C. L. Boston; Crosby & Damrell, 1870.

For the origin, nature, and authenticity of the *Matinées Royales*, see an article entitled *The Confessions of Frederick the Great*, and a review of Buffon; *sa famille, ses collaborateurs et ses familiers. Mémoires par M. Humbert-Bazile, son Secrétaire; mis en ordre, annotés et augmentés de documents inédits par M. Henri Nadault de Buffon.* Paris: Renouard (1863), in *Home and Foreign Review* for 1863, vol. 2, pp. 152-171; vol. 3, pp. 704-711, both written by Lord Acton, the most critical and painstaking of historians, commonly called "the most erudite man of his generation." (See *A Bibliography of the Historical Works of Dr. Creighton, Dr. Stubbs, Dr. S. K. Gardiner, and the Late Lord Acton.* Edited for the Royal Historical Society by U. A. Shaw, London, 1903, pp. 45, 47, 53.)