

of official correspondence between Great Britain and the United States in connection with the Philippine Islands is quite within the range of possibility. British possessions and British "influence" are somewhat extensive in that part of the globe at present. The Malay peninsula is separated from Sumatra by the Straits of Malacca, through which passes the bulk of Europe's commerce with the Far East. Great Britain first gained a foothold here in 1824 by purchasing the island of Singapore, which is situated at the extremity of the peninsula from the Sultan of Johor. Later, she acquired adjacent islands, and then she obtained some territory on the mainland. All these possessions now constitute the colony called the Straits Settlements; and the British "sphere of influence" embraces the whole peninsula. The value of these possessions is evident from the fact that in 1896 the exports from Singapore were valued at \$133,485,209, and the imports at \$156,946,621. The articles exported were principally tin, sugar, spices, India rubber, gambier, tobacco, copra and dye stuffs; and the imports consisted mainly of cotton fabrics, iron and machinery from Great Britain. Across the China Sea from Singapore are the British possessions in Borneo, called North Borneo, Bruner and Sarawak, the combined area of which is 85,000 square miles. At the northern end of the China Sea is Hong Kong.

With its power established in the Malayan Peninsula and along the coast of Borneo, and with its strong naval station at Singapore, Great Britain has bases from which it can control the lower part of the China Sea and the route by which nearly all the commerce of Eastern Asia reaches Europe. If a friendly power like the United States occupied the Philippine Islands, the line of British influence would be complete from Singapore to Hong Kong; and thus Russia, notwithstanding her possession of Port Arthur and France, in spite of her occupation of Tonkin—possessions which each of these powers thought to be of considerable strategic value—would cease to have easy access to the open sea. This difficulty would be removed if Germany obtained possession of Luzon, the largest and most important of the Philippine Islands. The latest news from Europe this week contains apparently authentic rumours that the Kaiser is determined to make a bold bid for the possession of Luzon; and it is obvious that Russia and France would be only too glad to support him in that enterprise. It is none the less obvious that it would be to the mutual interest of Great Britain, the United States, Japan and China to checkmate Germany's design.

BISMARCK.

There is nothing in history which is so improving to the reader as those accounts which we meet with of the deaths of eminent persons, and of their behaviour in that dreadful season. I may also add that there are no parts in history which affect and please the reader in so sensible a manner. The reason I take to be this: there is no other single circumstance

in the story of any person which can possibly be the case of any one who reads it. The general, the statesman, or the philosopher, are perhaps characters which we may never act in; but the dying man is one whom, sooner or later, we shall certainly resemble.—Addison.

Just in the same way that the people of Great Britain, although reconciled to the retirement of Mr. Gladstone from private life, still received with respect and interest his every utterance upon public affairs, so the Germans have never wavered in admiration and regard for their great Chancellor, Prince Bismarck. The present ruler of the united Fatherland was unable to destroy his subjects' recollections of the glorious past, and their hearts are yet filled with the memories of "Germany's great son." That the newspapers of all nations should contain long leading articles and interesting sketches of Prince Bismarck's life and death is not surprising to those who recall the achievements of one whose final written instructions are said to have simply expressed his desire to be buried in a quiet corner of a certain country church-yard, and with this epitaph over his remains: "*A faithful servant of Emperor William I.*"

The German court may, by order of the Emperor, go into mourning, the flags on Imperial and other buildings be half-masted, and a forest of floral tributes be forwarded to the home of the dead warrior statesman, at Friedrichsruhe; but the most lasting tributes to the unifier of his dear Fatherland are found in the genuine sorrow of his countrymen and the praise of the German press. Even the expressed intention of the grandson of "*a faithful servant of William the First*," to prepare a "*last abode for his remains in the Berlin Cathedral by the side of my ancestors*," does not impress one so much as the following quotation from the black-bordered edition of the *Reichsanzeiger*:—

If it is true that states are maintained by the spirit and power in which they are created, then the name of Bismarck will remain for us a device and a revelation at all times. As Bismarck once declared at Frankfort, "a Prussia which could renounce the inheritance of the great Frederick does not exist in Europe." In the same way the German Empire could not exist at any future time unless it holds fast to the legacy of its founders, the first Hohenzollern Kaiser and his great chancellor.

TO WHOM IS DUE THE TITLE, "ROWLAND HILL THE SECOND."

The payment of "Honour to whom honour is due" is so clearly an act of justice as to have had its obligation enjoined by a heathen moralist before it found expression in Scripture as a Christian duty. If he who does the community a service is not recognized in gratitude, one of the most powerful inspirations is withdrawn which moves men to devote their talents and their labours to the promotion of objects of public utility. An inventor may prefer to remain in obscurity and allow some other person to reap the honour due to him for his ingenuity who has paid the inventor to stand aside, in order to have his name associated with