

EMPEROR FREDERICK'S DIARY.

His Interesting Story of the Franco-Prussian war and its sequel.

THE FOUNDATION OF THE GERMAN EMPIRE.

The sensation of the week in military circles, has been the publication of the extracts from the diary of the late Emperor Frederick, containing his history of the events of the Franco-Prussian war, and of subsequent events which it brought about. The following condensation presents the points of chief interest to our readers :

July 15, 1870.—Bismarck says to me that he, with Roon and Moltke, is going to Brandenburg to meet the King; on the way he explained with great clearness and dignified seriousness and without his usual favorite little jokes his view of the state of our relation with France, so that now it becomes clear to me that giving in for peace's sake has become by this time impossible. The strength and constitution of the French army are considered by him and Moltke as nothing extraordinary.

July 16.—Three armies are being formed I shall have to command that of South Germany. I have, therefore, the most difficult task, with those unfriendly troops, who are by no means educated in our school to fight so able an antagonist as the French army will be, which has been so long preparing, and will certainly invade Southern Germany at once.

July 29.—Carlsruhe. Our chief thought is how, after having obtained peace by battle, to build up Germany in a liberal manner.

IN FRANCE.

Aug. 5.—March into France; prosperous villages deserted; afraid of the German cannibals. The frightful aspect of the battle-field becomes more and more horrible; everywhere traces of a hasty retreat.

Aug. 6.—Worth, Eighty thousand French. I have one hundred thousand men. McMahon's stubborn resistance and his gradual retreat, while fighting, were admirable, but he left me in possession of the ground. The co-operation of Southern Germans has been the cement of the different troops; consequences will have an extraordinary bearing, if we only cherish the earnest desire not to let such a moment pass without utilizing it.

Aug. 7.—I still maintain that it is impossible for us after having obtained peace to simply be satisfied with calling into life new efforts in a German national sense, but that we rather have the obligation to offer to the German people something whole and tangible, and that for this purpose we must strike the iron in the Germans cabinets while it is hot. Worth was the first victory over the French in open battle since 1815.

Aug. 20.—Meeting with the King at Pont-a-Mousson. He is broken down by our losses. Council of war. Moltke as of old—clear, decided. Advance upon Paris. Bismarck moderate, not at all sanguine. Our conditions are Alsace and the cost of war.

SEDAN.

Sept. 1.—Sedan. Count Bothmer brings the news that Napoleon is said to be in Sedan. The King who does not credit it says, "What should we do with Napoleon if he was made a prisoner?" The white flag is hoisted at Sedan; Napoleon is there; Bronsart has spoken to him, to whom he said he would send General Reille.

Sept. 3.—Donchery. Bismarck visits me. We keep Alsace under German administration, for federation, or empire. The idea of the empire being scarcely mentioned; I perceived that he was only conditionally in favor of it, and took good care not to press, although I am persuaded that it must come to it; the development tends in that direction, and cannot more favourably than through this victory.

September 6.—Rheims. Quarters at Werle (Cliquoit), where I exceptionally give champagne; on other occasions such liquids are not served by me on the field. Except for the desire for peace, we find everywhere rage against Paris; this all is decisive, the people actually make a distinction between Francais and Parisien; they are astonished that we walk around among them without an escort.

ALSACE-LORRAINE.

September 12-14.—Alsace-Lorraine, imperial territory without a dynasty; the question is how to detach them from the great French Empire but at the same time to let them feel that they are members of a great State and not condemned to join the small-state nuisance. Russell (*Times* correspondent) has disappeared without a trace, has gone direct to England; wrote much already in his carriage.

September 16.—Napoleon is astonished at his kind treatment at Wilhelmshone! What else could he have expected? We honor ourselves by treating him thus.

September 19.—Paris surrendered; Versailles will first capitulate, being glad to be protected against the mob; Sevres asks us to quarter troops there.

September 29.—Fifteen years ago to-day I was engaged at Balmoral.

September 30.—To Ferrieres; favourable news from Delbruck to Bismarck's surprise. I approach His Majesty with the Empire question which is coming up; he considers it as not being in prospect at all and quotes in support the remark of du Bois-Reymond that imperialism had broken down, so that in Germany in future there could only be a King of Prussia, Duke of the Germans. I prove, in contradiction to this, that the three kings urge us to seize supremacy by means of the Empire, but say that the ancient Imperial and Royal crown of a thousand years had nothing to do with modern imperialism, and finally his resistance becomes weaker.

October 6.—Bismarck faces

THE IMPERIAL QUESTION;

tells me he made a mistake not to have treated it in 1866. He did not believe then that the desire for it was so great in the German people as he now has found it to be; he only fears a display of too much court luxury, on which question I put him at ease. The Duke of Coburg advocates election by the princes that take the place of the Prince-Electors.

October 18.—This celebration of my birthday reminds me particularly of the solemnity of the task that I shall some day have to solve in German Politics, for I hope for the future to see no more wars, and that this may be my last campaign. Unmistakeably many regard with confidence the task that, if God wills, will come into my hands; and I feel not distrustful, because I know that I shall prove myself worthy of the confidence placed in me. The present negotiations are difficult. Bismarck seems to mean business. The King visits me early. He has granted my request, and wears the first class iron cross; at table he drinks to my health, "to him that has brought us all here."

GERMAN EMPIRE.

November 1.—Dalwigk had to-day a conference with all the German envoys to win over Bavaria to the idea of a German Empire with a responsible ministry and a state or Upper House, but no result, because Bray particularly claimed that these questions had already been discussed with Delbruck in Munich, but had fallen owing to Prussia's opposition! But Bismarck referred to the contrary desires of the South Germans.

November 10.—Note to Bismarck of the way our press treats England. V. D. Tann's news from Coulommiers not favourable.

November 11.—Bismarck sends Abeken, who wears a full beard, to answer my note; he is sorry for the tone of our press toward England and has so instructed Eulenburg; has also written Bernstoff to the same effect. Bismarck is not like him; his notes and what he writes are so long drawn that they cannot be read. He has lately presented an epistle of eighty pages, which nobody has the time to go through.

November 28.—Berlin is crazy on bombardment. Mrs. V. B. points me out as the guilty one. All right. I will certainly not commence until we get all our ammunition. We could long ago have started shooting, but would soon have been compelled to cease for want of ammunition.

December 3.—As we left the room Bismarck and I shook hands; from this day on Emperor and empire are irrevocably restored. The sixty-five years of interregnum, the Emperorless, the horrid time past, this proud title itself is a guarantee; we owe this largely to the Grand Duke of Baden, who has been ceaselessly exerting himself.

December 25.—In fact it is irony on the Gospel that each party calls on God to assist their cause as a just one, and at each success tries to prove that their adversary has been abandoned by Heaven.

THE NEW YEAR.

January 1, 1871.—The King greets me serenely and affectionately, wishing that it may be permitted me to live to reap the peaceful fruits of our present labours. He could hardly expect that Germany's unity would last when so few of its princes think and act as it had been desirable and so little followed the noble example of the Grand Duke. I asked Delbruck what was to be the appellation of the navy, telegraph, customs and post offices. "Imperial!" And the army? "Yes, that is a question!" Masterly toast of the Grand Duke for King Wilhelm, the victorious, mentioning the new Empire started to-day through the official proclamation of its constitution, on which His Majesty would not put the crown until all the different tribes had given their consent. Great impression.

January 20.—Called away from the family dinner; Count d'Heri-court has been sent by Trochu to ask for an armistice, or at least a truce