

anecdotes, conversations and descriptions, the most interesting part to the general reader being the experience of Bismarck and the author during the great war. The Prussian royal, afterwards the German imperial line, does not appear to great advantage in its pages, being represented largely as puppets in the statesman's hands, when not in opposition to him through English influences. Bismarck did not love the English royal family, among whom his chief thwarters were found, and he was largely responsible for Britain's isolation, for the annexation of Schleswig-Holstein, and the subjugation of Hanover. He was far from being a cruel man, though his humanity was tried to the utmost by the French franc-tireurs and unauthorized combatants, yet his iron will refused to allow sentiment to stand in the way of what he deemed best for kingdom and empire. In reading Dr. Busch's work one gets a curious insight into the relations of the petty rulers of German states with Prussia and with each other. The Saxons come in for special commendation as soldiers. Prince Bismarck's religion crops up here and there. He professed to be in favor of toleration, yet was regular in his devotions, and charged infidels with the worst intolerance. He was no Puritan, and held English sabbatarianism in abhorrence. He had a great contempt for little high-mightinesses, cared nothing for orders of knighthood and tinsel decorations in general, and, in the midst of the most stirring and brilliant scenes, longed for the privacy of domestic and rural life. Had he been less a great man than he was, his career would have been an unhappy one. Now and then Dr. Busch chronicles his annoyances, fits of temper and of the blues, but, on the whole, this modern Stoic dominated fate, grappled with his evil star, breasted the force of circumstance, and took his sardonic revenge through the newspapers and his biographer. The Empress Frederick told him that he had made her shed more tears than there were drops of water in the glass he handed to her on one occasion, but Bismarck did not indulge himself in any such luxury, even when things were at their worst with him. He found a little harmless German profanity a