

‘ States. These treaties did not actually create the
‘ new federation; they only bound the separate
‘ States to enter into negotiations, and, as they
‘ expired on August 30, 1867, it was necessary
‘ that the new Constitution should be completed
‘ and ratified by that date. The time was short,
‘ for in it had to be compressed both the negotia-
‘ tions between the States and the debates in the
‘ assembly; but all past experience had shewn that
‘ the shorter the time allowed for making a Con-
‘ stitution the more probable was it that the work
‘ would be completed. Bismarck did not intend
‘ to allow the precious months, when enthusiasm
‘ was still high and new party factions had not
‘ seized hold of men’s minds, to be lost.

‘ He had spent the autumn in Pomerania and
‘ did not return to Berlin till the 21st of December;
‘ not a week remained before the representatives of
‘ the North German States would assemble in the
‘ capital of Prussia. To the astonishment and
‘ almost dismay of his friends, he had taken no
‘ steps for preparing a draft. As soon as he arrived
‘ two drafts were laid before him; he put them
‘ aside, and the next day dictated the outlines of
‘ the new Constitution.

‘ This document has not been published, but it
‘ was the basis of the discussion with the envoys;
‘ Bismarck allowed no prolonged debates; they
‘ were kept for some weeks in Berlin, but only
‘ three formal meetings took place. They made
‘ suggestions and criticisms, some of which were
‘ accepted, but they were of course obliged to assent
‘ to everything on which Bismarck insisted. The
‘ scheme as finally agreed upon by the conference