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Prince Bernhard of Weimar in Canada

Grand Duke Karl August of Weimar, Goethe's life-long friend, had two sons, the second of whom was named Bernhard. This prince had a brilliant career as a soldier. He was in the thick of the fight at Jena, in 1806, though at the time only a lad of fourteen. Three years later, the Duchy of Weimar, having in the meantime joined the Rhine Federation, he took part in Napoleon's campaign against Austria, though feeling the ignominy of fighting under French command against those of his own race. After compulsion had been removed from the Saxon states by Napoleon's defeat at Leipzig, he joined in the campaign again and distinguished himself as a colonel on the side of the allies at Quatre Bras and Waterloo. Until his death in 1862 he remained most of the time in the service of Holland.

Finding no field for his ambition as a soldier, he decided at one time to emigrate with his wife and family to the United States. Karl August, as father and reigning Grand Duke, refused to allow him to do so, but afterwards consented that he at least pay a visit there. This Prince Bernhard did in the years 1825 and 1826. On the journey he kept a detailed diary which was later edited and published in two volumes by Professor Luden of Jena. Readers of *The Varsity* may not be uninterested in taking a glance at the part of it relating to New England States and Canada.

His joy on finally setting foot on American soil at Boston is expressed in the following terms: "It is impossible to describe the feeling that thrilled me at this moment. Hitherto two moments in my life had remained as peculiarly beautiful memories—the first when, at the age of seventeen, I received the Cross of the Legion of Honor after the battle of Wagram; the other, when my son William was born to me. My arrival in North America, that land which it had been from my youth up my eager wish to see, will remain a third beautiful memory for my whole life." Officialdom and society received him everywhere with open arms, both as a distinguished soldier and as the son of that Grand Duke who had been the first among German rulers to grant his people constitutional government. The evidences of welfare and the general alertness of the people of New England impressed him. "One receives," he says, "quite new ideas of the human creation and enterprising spirit." American hotels he found very good: "When you have dressed, you go down to the ground floor, to the bar-room, where you find all sorts of refreshing drinks. . . . The landlord is generally a gentleman, who eats along with the guests and leads the conversation.

. . . Breakfast passes very silently, as indeed the Americans in general are a very quiet people. . . . No one is obliged to drink wine. On the table stand brandy and water, which in combination are looked upon as the most healthful summer beverage. . . . Table napkins are not served, instead, you have to make use of the tablecloth. . . . It is a good arrangement, that on leaving you don't need to give tips."

From Boston he journeyed by way of Albany, Rochester and Buffalo to the Niagara Falls, following the route of the Erie Canal, which was an object of much admiration to him. At Buffalo he witnessed a review of the militia, which he describes thus: "It consisted of 30 men, including 7 officers and 2 ensigns. They were formed as a battalion in six divisions, and executed several manoeuvres. The privates were not all provided with muskets, but part of them with ram-rods. Only the officers and the company of chasseurs, four men strong, were in uniform. The band consisted of 16 men and was commanded by an officer in colonel's uniform, with drawn sword."—an inspiring spectacle for the veteran of Jena, Wagram and Waterloo!

His description of the Niagara Falls, and in fact many passages here and there in his diary, show him as a skilful writer and a not unworthy son of literary Weimar. On the Canadian side he was entertained by the Governor, Sir Peregrine Maitland, who showed him every courtesy. The country here appeared to him to be better cultivated than on the American side. He passed over the battlefields of Lundy's Lane and Queenston Heights, and gives a detailed account of the actions there. Brock's monument was being built, but was not yet finished. From Newark he started by steamer for Kingston, escorted by Sir Peregrine Maitland's son, and saluted by twenty-one guns at Fort George. The first evening on Lake Ontario was enlivened by French and Spanish songs, sung by a fellow passenger, Mrs. Grymes, to guitar accompaniment. At Kingston he was received by a guard of honor and military music, and shown through the dockyards and barracks. He paid \$2 to be taken down the St. Lawrence rapids in a Durham boat called "The Flying Dutchman." Cornwall, where he stopped one night, is mentioned as a favorite place for horse racing. Before reaching Montreal his boat narrowly escaped being wrecked in a storm. At Montreal and Quebec military parades were held in his honor. The prospects of Canada do not seem to him as bright as those of the United States, "for the settlers in Canada are for the most part poor Scotch and Irish, who come out