

GREATEST IN GERMANY.

PRINCE OTTO VON BISMARCK AT EIGHTY-ONE.

His Birthday Next Wednesday—A Madcap Who Turned Statesman—One Who Interviewed the Wonderful Old Chancellor When he Was at the Height of His Power Reviews his Career.

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On Wednesday next, the 1st day of April, the family, friends, tenants, neighbors and, indeed, the whole of Germany, will celebrate the 81st birthday of Prince Otto von Bismarck, the founder of the Federal Empire.

This grizzled veteran of statesmanship, diplomacy and war, though forced into retirement six years ago by a headstrong sovereign, whose very throne was in a great measure Bismarck's making, continues to be, and will continue to be, as long as he lives, the most interesting figure in Germany. For that matter, he

is the most powerful and interesting figure in German history, notwithstanding the intervening kings and emperors since Frederick the Great. So large have been the achievements of this man that the interest in him is not confined to Germany alone, even in this time of his old age and retirement.

Germany's old chancellor was a wild and reckless that he became known in the army where he served as the "Mad Bismarck," and he was at his position when he had returned to his ancestral home at Schoenhausen to become a country squire and cultivate the estate he had inherited from his father, the retired captain of dragoons.

His mad pranks were not in such esteem by his neighbors that he was not thought to be a safe match for Fraulein von Puttkamer when in 1847 he sought her to be his wife.

The country squire, by methods similar to those of a century ago, met with opposition and married the lady, of whom in 1878 he said to the Italian Premier, Signor Cavour, "You little know what this woman has done for me."

One of the things she did was to awaken in him a sense of duty and of his feelings, and we find him writing to her in 1851, that if it were not for his faith in God, his love for her and his thoughts of the children at home he would give up all ideas of public duty and return to his home and his family.

It was in 1851, by the way, that Bismarck's public career in any large sense began, though previous to that he had been a member of the Prussian Diet and had championed the rights of the throne against the king.

He was then 36 years old, and there was much wonder that so important a post should have been given to so untried a man, and that he should have been given the post of minister of the interior at this time advocated at the instance of Austria he did not consider to the interest of Prussia, and he opposed it with all his might.

It even seemed at this time that he was opposed to any kind of unity, but that was not so. His own views were not so narrow as those of the Prussian statesmen and his foresight enabled him to see, even then, how that could be brought about.

In one of Motley's letters there is a little picture of home life at the Bismarcks as kind as ever. In a row of those homelike every one does what he likes. The show apartments, where they receive formal company, are on the back.

The dining rooms, however, are a salon and dining room at the house. The young are young at heart, and the old are young at heart, and all going on at the same time. It is one of those establishments where every earthly thing that can be eaten or drunk is offered you—porter, soda water, small beer, champagne, burgundy or claret—are about all the time.

and everybody is smoking the best Havana cigars every minute. This is the kind of life Bismarck has lived since his marriage, and even in his old age he has continued to be as much of a trencherman as his physical condition would permit.

He used to say: "If I am to work well, I must be well fed, and most healthy and sensible people are not so much given to such a doctrine." Bismarck stayed in Frankfurt till 1850 when he was sent to St. Petersburg as ambassador to the Russian court.

After his dismissal in 1890 Bismarck retired to Friedrichsruh, an estate given to him by the king in 1872. He had a large park and a lake, and he had a fine view of the sea.

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At Versailles. We all know that it was Bismarck's work. But less than twenty years ago he was the first Emperor and the Emperor and the Emperor.

Bismarck had bestowed, cast that velvet of the Emperor's crown, which was made of black velvet and gold fringe.

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SAILOR SHAPES IN VOGUE.

HATS THAT WILL BE WORN BY LADIES THIS DAY.

Spring Chapeaux inclined to be grotesque and Only Redeemed From Positive Ugliness by Their Smart Up-to-date Trimmings—Sailors' New Trimmings With Lace Bands and Big Birds.

New York, March 27.—Usually Easter is chosen as the sacred moment for the spring headgear to put in its first appearance, but already spring chapeaux have been worn and some of the best and latest secrets of the glass of fashion will be reflected on palm Sunday.

The fact that many black feathers are being used and that spring hats this year are in color is a new thing. This year is in color, and it is a new thing. This year is in color, and it is a new thing.

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Tradition says that during the reign of the Emperor Trajan the greater portion of the body of Anne, the mother of the Virgin Mary, was brought to Apt, in the diocese of Avignon, France. A halo of the supernatural surrounds the removal of her remains, for the body is said to have reached France in a mysterious bark, with neither sail nor rudder, and having on board Lazarus, accompanied by his sisters, Mary and Martha, and several other pious women, who were fleeing from pagan persecution. They had with them a relic of the cross, which was buried at Apt. In the eighth century her tomb was miraculously discovered.

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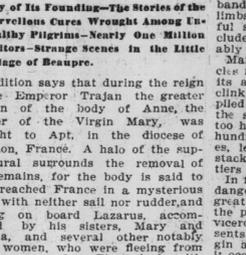
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OTTO VON BISMARCK, IN 1857.

By permission of the Berlin Photo Co.



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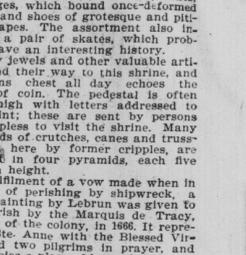
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DEcoration for Head and Throat

braided in a single piece and with extreme looseness.



The round brim is in a pale brown, and the sole trimmings are a narrow band of black velvet about the crown and a tall panache of black Prince of Wales feathers at the left front.

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Extremely Modish

many of the milliners have compromised on a coquettish beef-eater crown and under brim trimming that, with strings tying under the chin, may pass for pokes.



This with some soft white feathers and wide black velvet strings was very nice in the hand; but on the head, dear, dear, dear! It made the tye-rod as if her own grama had just stepped out of the past, leaving all the youth behind that had made her own old poke so becoming.

For children, however, the old-fashioned scoops and coal scuttle pokes are charming, and shirred satin and rough straw, until hot weather, they will be much worn.

White feathers, satin ribbon and small pink roses without foliage trim the children's pokes elegantly.

One delightful shape for little maids is a round, inverted, bell-shaped crown composed of a rough straw crown and a flouncing brim of knitted mousseline.

Becoming neck fixings are seen with the new millinery, and, however sleek and trim your charming girl is, a wide caper to have your neck swathed in fluff and farbelow. Those for street wear are composed largely of black satin ribbon, black chiffon and small ostrich tips, with here and there a tangle of colored velvet or a fall of rich lace. The designs given will show a few of the latest and most becoming models in these neck beauties.

Look at Them Here is a list of the new fashions which have already appeared in Paris. The hoop-skirt. The long, tight-fitting sleeves. Small pads in various sizes. High heels. Collars of enormous size. Hats worn will over the forehead. Mantlelets with long dangling from the back of the collar.

Such is the array of horrors which the fashionable women must contrive to wear before planning her spring wardrobe.

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