MAN OF BLOOD AND IRON.

COLLEGE AND POLITICAL LIFE OF COUNT VON BISMARCK.

Some Interesting Facts About One of the Greatest Men in the World's History—His Patriotism—His Sentiments.

When a student of Gottingen on more than one occasion, but more especially when the rector once sent for and rebuked him in a paternal way for his pugnacity, Bismarck did not accept the reproof. To the rector's astonishment, he made an indignant speech, expressing detestation of Frenchmen, French principles, and revoluntionary Germans, whom he called Frenchmen in disguise. He prayed that the sword of Joshua might be given him to exterminate all these. "Well, my young friend, you are preparing great trouble for yourself," remarked the rector, with a shake of the head; "your opinions are those of another age." "Good opinions blossom again like the trees after winter," was Bismarck's answer.

EXECUTION WITH POLITENESS.

One day he was in a committee sitting of the Prussian diet. A democratic opponent said to him:—"You alone of all your party have always treated us with politeness. Let us make a bargain. If we gain the upper hand, we shall spare you; but if fortune should favour you, you shall do the same to us."

To this Bismarck replied:—"If your party has its way, life will not be worth living; if ours is victorious, there will have to be executions; but they shall be conducted with politeness up to the last step of the ladder."

No wretched self-distrust characterized the young Bismarck. In 1851 the King asked him if he would accept the place of Prussian ambassador at Frankfort, to which he made the brief answer "Ja." His Majesty expressed a little surprise that he made no enquiries or conditions, when Bismarck replied that "anything which the King felt strong enough to propose to him, he felt strong enough to accept."

NO PETTICOAT GOVERNMENT.

Bismarck cherished England as his own country, but he never allowed his sentiment to influence his politics. When the western powers met Russia in Crimea, they were much exasperated that Prussia did not join them. But Bismarck kept out, and when, afterward, he settled first Austria and then France, Russia said nothing. That was great politics. That was one of his master strokes. When the English Crown Princess, Victoria's eldest daughter, married the Crown Prince of Germany, Bismarck had nothing to say against it on the ground of the principals' personalities, but the outcome he deplored was the domination of an English woman, should she even partly remain one, on the Prussian throne. English influence dominating the court without corresponding consideration for the Prussians. "The first lady in the land herself an English woman. No petticoat government for us," he afterward said.

HIS IMMORTAL DOCTRINE.

Bismarck's immortal doctrine of "blood and iron," was given publicity phrased under the following circumstances:—He was intent on the military reform of Prussia as a preliminary to an aggressive assertion of united Germany. It was a meeting of a hostile budget committee of parliament. From his pocket he took an olive leaf, saying he had brought it to the Radicals as a symbol of peace, but that he found himself much too soon with it. Then, as they smiled, he roused himself as follows: "Germany does not look to the liberalism, but to the power of Prussia, and Prussia must pull herself together so as not again to miss the favourable moment. Not by speechifying and resolutions, as in 1848 and 1849, can the great question of the time be decided, but by blood and iron." Then he crushed the withered olive leaf to dust. By "blood" it is to be understood Bismarck meant soldiers.

Here was one of his working political principles: "When I wish to estimate the danger that is likely to accrue to me from my adversary, I first of all subtract the man's vanity from his other qualities."

NO LOVER OF BLOODSHED.

This man of the state, this Titan in civil government, who had the taste and skill for war and created his countryman's empire by means of three conflicts, nevertheless, is no lover of bloodshed. And this is the evidence, this remark by the great ex-Chancellor; "He who has once gazed into the glazed eye of a dying warrior on the field of battle will think twice before beginning a war."

In 1886 he was shot at in the streets of Berlin by a fanatical Democrat. He went home, met his dinner guests, and at last whispered to his wife: "I have been shot at, my child; but never mind, there's no harm done. Let us go in to dinner." Later, when everyone was talking of the attempted assassination in the drawing room, Countess Bismarck exclaimed that if "she were in heaven and saw the villain standing on the top of a ladder leading down to hell, she would have no hesitation in giving him a push." Whereat Bismarck tapped her gently and said:

"Hush, my dear; you would not be in heaven yourself, with such thoughts as these."

ABOUT PUBLIC OPINION.

This is what Bismarck thinks about the mighty force of public opinion: "True public opinion is that which is the outcome of certain political, religious and social convictions, of a very simple kind, deep down in the national life, and to recognize and give effect to this is the task of the true statesman. I might call it the undercurrent of public opinion. Hence it is that I have never reckoned with our parliamentary screamers, and that consequently I have always had the satisfaction of having enlisted on my side the public opinion by which I set my store."

HIS IDEAL WOMAN.

And now a word or two about the man and aspects of his politics in the words of Mr. Lowe: "The name of woman rarely ever crossed the latter's lips. His private life was spotlessly pure. Frederick the Great tolerated no women at his court, and in this other respect also Bismarck was like Carlyle's peculiar hero. He was little subject to feinine beauty, hated clever women, and married a lady, well born, yet plain, unpretentious, and country bred, who was the perfect type of a German hausfrau, or household goddess of the economic kind. Apart from his only daughter, who used to act as his cipherer, his wife was the only woman who was ever able to exercise a subtle influence in politics and personal questions over him. But with Queen Victoria, when she went to Berlin to see her dying son-in-law, he was greatly charmed, as with one of 'the wisest statesman of the time.' Yet it was the masculine more than the feminine element in the mind of her Majesty, which captivated the Iron Chancellor.

"In diplomacy no one ever outwitted him, and it was only in the field of domestic politics, where his wisdom was less apparent, and, indeed, was sometimes little less than folly, that his opponent occasionally got the better of him, recalling to mind the spectacle of Samson Agonistes, when he was made sport of by the Philistines."

HIS PURE PATRIOTISM.

"His patriotism was of the loftiest and purest kind, and everything that he did was for the good of his country. After he was universally acknowledged to be the greatest man of his time, he accepted no invitations to the tables of others, unless, indeed, they came from court, and then they were in the nature of a command. But otherwise, after reaching the zenith of his fame and power, the Iron Chancellor broke festive bread under no roof but his own. At no ball, or dinner or diplomatic entertainment, or theatrical performance was his towering form ever seen. As far, indeed, as the society of the capital was concerned, he might as well have been dead. The Olympus peak on which the Jupiter of European statesman sat enthroned was shrouded in a perpetual veil of mist."

TO WATCH FOR ANDREE'S BALLOON.

Instructions for Arctic Natives About the Swedish Polar Expedition.

All the whaling and sealing vessels sailing from the Pacific coast for the Arctic Ocean and all trading expeditions of every kind starting for summer tours in the polar regions are taking with them notices to communicate to the natives of the regions they visit, telling of the possible appearance there next fall of Prof. Andree's balloon, and informing them what kind of thing it is, and what to do and what not to do to it and to the men who are expected to appear with it.

Prof. Andree is to start from Spitzbergen with his balloon party some time in July next, and will try to float over the North Pole. There is no telling just where the balloon may come down, and, above all, there is no telling just what the natives of the polar regions might think of a balloon if they saw one. They might think it was an evil spirit and attempt to destroy it and the beings it carried, or they might flee from it in terror. Either of these acts would be unfortunate. So the civilized people going up Behring Sea way have been commissioned to give all the natives they come across elementary information on the subject of aeronautics and especial information as to what to do if an aeronaut comes their way.

The Swedish Consuls at the various Pacific coast cities have been at great pains to communicate with all parties going to the far north, and to tell them all about Andree's expedition and ask their assistance in his behalf. The Geographical Society of the Pacific coast is also active in the same matter. The Pacific Steam Whaling Company sends vessels to practically all parts of the Arctic Ocean reached through Behring Sea, and it has carefully instructed all its Captains, to do their best to instruct the natives. The Alaska Commercial Company will send like instructions to all its posts and to all points reached by its vessels. The Captains and agents are asked to make known to the inhabitants of those parts of Alaska, British Columbia, and Siberia bordering upon the Arctic Ocean the possibility of the balloon reaching their country, and to ask them to give the balloonists support and assistance, and help and direct them to the nearest white settlement. The natives will also be asked to report any news whatever they may get of the balloon to the nearest white settlement, and especially to report if they see the balloon.

OUR GOLD MINES.

Encouraging Report From the Jack Fish Bay and Rat Portage Districts.

Mr. D. F. Burk of Port Arthur was in Toronto, the other day, and had much to say about the activity in mining circles up there. "The Empress mine, near Jack Fish Bay is progressing famously," he said. "Machinery for a ten-stamp mill was taken into the mine on the snow during the winter, and carpenters are now at work preparing the timbers for the building. They expect to be in full operation by the first of June. The Canadian Pacific Railway is now erecting new coal docks at Jack Fish, which will be used instead of those at Ross Port, and this, combined with the mining boom will make business brisk. The Sultana and Regina mines, near Rat Portage, which were sending out about $2,000 worth of gold a week a short time ago, are now shipping to the mint gold bricks of the value of over $4,000 a week. Work on the Seine River is also promising. At the Foley Camp a couple of shafts have been sunk to a depth of over 100 feet and Mr. Foley states that they are now in a position to put up a 30-stamp mill."

USEFUL AT LAST.

You should have seen how regally Miss De Frivolous swept down the avenue yesterday!

Well, that's the first time I ever heard of that girl doing anything useful.

There is no opposing brutal force to the stratagems of human reason.—L'Estrange.

Floriculture.

ROSES.

The rose is justly called the Queen of Flowers. No plant is more popular and none gives better satisfaction when properly handled.

Roses should be planted in a rich, loose soil, where they will receive full benefit of the morning sun. They should be cut back to a few buds when planted, and should have a deep, rich soil and high cultivation; as they can only bloom on new shoots or growth. In the spring all dead shoots should be cut out down to the live wood, and all live wood should be cut back from one-third to two-thirds of the previous years growth. This, with high cultivation produces a rank growth of new wood, and an abundance of rich bloom.

Most all roses, but particularly the Tea, Bengal, Noisette and Bourbon classes need careful protection if left out through the winter in this or similar climates. This may be done by hilling up with earth, or by tying up with straw or evergreen branches.

Many persons are deterred from planting roses from the fact that they suffer so from attacks of insects. But if proper attention is paid to soil planting, watering, etc., and a few simple instructions heeded, little trouble will be experienced. The Aphis is among the most annoying foes, and particularly infest plants in the house. Fumigating with tobacco smoke is about the most effective remedy. This can easily be done by covering the plant with a paper cone and passing the smoke up underneath and about the plant.

In the month of May, as soon as the leaves of garden roses have pushed out, the rose caterpillar makes his appearance. He can readily be detected, for he glues a leaf or two together to form his shelter. These glued leaves should be pinched between the thumb and finger, so as to destroy the caterpillar. This is the only simple and effective remedy for this malefactor. But for other insects, such as the saw fly and such as come at a later date than the caterpillar, an occasional syringing vigorously applied will prove an excellent remedy. A spraying with weak Paris Green is very effective. The red spider may generally be kept off, by keeping the plants daily syringed with water, as these enemies thrive only in dry atmospheres. But when the plants have become badly infested, the fumes of sulphur alone will disperse them. This remedy will cause the foliage to drop off, but it is the only known remedy which is very effective, and if the foliage does drop off, it will come again. For the rose bug, hand picking is the only effective remedy. Like the red spider, it is proof against Paris Green, whale-oil soap, and all such applications.

I might mention and describe a few of the best of the different classes. Class I., summer roses, or those which bloom in June and July. Gem of Prairie—Climber, red, occasionally blotched with white, large flat flowers, the only one of its class that is fragrant. Queen of the Prairie,—bright rosy red, frequently with white stripes. Baltimore Belle,—pale blush, becoming nearly white, compact and fine.

The above are much the more valuable among the now remontent climbers. They are rapid growers, and surpass all climbers for hardiness. The flowers are produced in large clusters late in the season, when other summer roses are gone. When it is desired to cover walls, unsightly buildings, etc., with roses none will be found to do the work so efficiently as the prairie roses.

Aureti.—Fine, dark, velvety purple globular and double.

Harrison's Yellow,—A very free bloomer, golden yellow, medium size, semi-double.

Persian Yellow,—A free bloomer, bright yellow, small, nearly full. It is desirable to grow more than one plant of this variety, and by pruning one this year and one next, annual crops of flowers may be had.

Madam Plantier,—One of the best pure white roses; blooms in clusters.

Russell's Cottage,—Brilliant red blooms in large clusters.

The above five varieties require careful pruning. Remove weakly wood altogether, and only shorten a few inches the shoots left for flowering. If pruned close they will not bloom, as the flowers are produced from terminal shoots of the old growth.

Class II., Moss Roses.

This is a favorite class with every one, on account of the beautiful buds which for bouquets and cut flowers are invaluable. They require close pruning and high cultivation and careful winter protection. They amply repay careful attention by the increased size and beauty of the flowers.

Princess Adelaide.—Pale rose color, of fine form, foliage often blotched or variegated, good both in bud and flower. Do not prune this variety very severely. The most vigorous of all the mosses.

Glory of Mosses,—Pale rose color, very large, full and beautiful.

Gen. Dronoh,—Deep crimson, very mossy and a free bloomer, dwarf habit, perpetual bloomer.

Countess of Murinais,—White, slightly tinged with flesh color.

Saleb.—Clear rose color, very double,—of vigorous growth, and abundant bloom, a perpetual bloomer.

Class III., Remontant or Hybrid Perpetuals.

These are among the most satisfactory of all the roses. They are constant bloomers, of hardy habit, and require less careful attention than most other varieties. But they will well repay high cultivation. As they bloom on new growth, they should be pruned back severely every spring.

Gen. Jacquem'not.—Brilliant crimson, large and extremely effective, fragrant and oft excellent hardy habit.

Gen. Washington.—Bright red, with crimson shade, large flat form, very full and a very free bloomer.

La Reine.—Glossy rose color, large, moderately full, very free flowering and one of the most hardy.

Paul Neyron.—Deep rose color, good tough foliage, wood rather smooth. By far the largest variety in cultivation; a fine bloomer and very desirable.

Vick's Caprice.—Large, pink, striped and dashed with white and carmine, vigorous and free blooming.

La France.—Delicate silvery rose color, very large, full, fine, globular form; but rather slender, a most constant bloomer, the sweetest of all roses, and unsurpassed for delicacy of coloring.

Coquette de Blanche.—Pure white flowers in clusters.

Class IV.—Noisette Roses.

These are the finest autumnal bloomers and are distinguished by flowering in clusters. They require careful protection during winter.

Augusta.—Sulphur yellow, large and full, very fragrant, strong grower.

Narcisse.—Pale yellow, a beautiful tea scented rose.

Cloth of Gold.— Rich, deep yellow, large, double, fragrant and a vigorous grower.

W. J. KERR.

THE OLDEST UNIVERSITY.

The "School For the Sons of the Empire" in Pekin.

The City of Pekin contains what is undoubtedly the oldest university in the world. It is called the Kwotszekien or "School for the Sons of the Empire." The duties of the faculty are somewhat difficult, for, in addition to the instruction of the scholars, they have to admonish the Emperor of that which is just and good, to reprove him for his faults, and have the hereditary privilege of schooling the members of his family in the sciences and arts. During the last three hundred years, however, the scope of their teaching has been widened, and all those throughout the province who purchase degrees, and are of defective education attend the Kwotszekian. The antiquity of the college is very great, and the granite register, consisting of stone columns, 320 in number, contains the names of 60,000 graduates of the highest degree. These inscribed columns constitute the university roll of honour, and the record goes back more than 600 years. The university also contains the "Thirteen Classics," engraved on 182 massive granite columns, probably almost the

ONLY STONE LIBRARY

in existence. There is one in Sanganfu also, but that belonged to the Kwotszekian when Singan was the seat of Empire.

Attached to the university is a magnificent temple of Confucius, and adjoining the temple is the Imperial lecture-room, so called because the Emperor must attend there once every year and receive the instruction and exhortation of the college presidents This ceremony is still kept up, though the majority of the college buildings are in ruins, and its educational value is almost nil. The only use of this ancient institution now is to enable the professors to hold a sham examination periodically, and thus entitle them to draw their salaries. The emoluments are not large. Each professor draws $3 per month, two suits of clothes, and two bushels of rice every year, and a fur jacket once in three years. There is, however, a certain amount of honour and social distinction attached to the office, so that the applications are far more numerous than the vacancies.

There are six colleges for students, named as follows:—Hall for the Pursuit of Wisdom, Hall of the Sincere Heart, Hall of True Virtue, Hall of Noble Aspirations, Hall of Broad Acquirements, and Hall for the Guidance of Nature. Each college or hall has two professors and many assistants, and the faculty consists of two presidents, three vice-presidents, the rector, two directors of instruction, two proctors, two secretaries, and one librarian. Twice a month all these officials assemble in full war paint and perform

NINE PROSTRATIONS

on the flag stones in front of the temple.

The gorgeous robes and imposing ceremony made this a rather impressive spectacle, but of late years even this has been done by proxy, and two or three members go through the prescribed genuflexions and then write the name of the absent ones as well as their own in the ponderous ledger entitled the "Record of Diligence." The degrees can be purchased for a moderate sum, and some years ago 100,000 diplomas were sent out into the provinces in one year. Perhaps not 20 per cent. of the recipients of the degrees had ever even seen the walls of Pekin. The colleges mentioned date back to a very remote period, and in 1644 the Tartars added eight more colleges, one for each Tartar tribe. The whole fourteen buildings are now, however, in a very dilapidated condition, and no instruction is given in any of them. Every now and then an attempt is made to revive these Government schools, but it never comes to anything. The last attempt was made by Wo-Jin, the tutor of the Emperor and a bitter opponent of Western ideas. He died soon after his appointment as president of the university, and the ancient Alma Mater of the early Chinese is still merely a remembrance of the proud institution which was in its glory before Plato was born. —New York Times.

THE NOSE A MICROBE KILLER.

According to some recent experiments there are about 15,000 microbes in each pint of air which is inspired. In some localities this number may reach 1,000,000, but the average city number is about as stated. This microbe laden air is taken into the air passages. When the air is expired it is quite sterile. The air has further been found to be sterile in the naso-pharyngeal cavity. The inference is, therefore, that the nose is a most powerful microbe destroyer, and also that, in order to destroy the 15,000 microbes, it is important to draw the air through the nasal passages.

NO AMATEUR WANTED.

She—Are you sure I am the first woman you ever loved?

He—I swear it.

She—Then you may go. After you have had some experience, come to me again.

DRINKING LONDON.

The Amazing Amount of Liquor Consumed in Great Britain.

The quantity of liquor consumed by this population of three-quarters of a million is almost incredible, says the London Standard. It is as follows:—Beer, 70,955,604 gallons; spirits, 11,205,627 gallons; and wine, 30,040 tons. The wine may be omitted, because it is not certain what was meant by a "ton," but the others show the following consumption per head:—Beer, 97 gallons; spirits, 14 gallons. In order to explain the significance of these figures, it need only be stated that the average consumption per head in the United Kingdom during the last 30 years has been:—Beer, 28.4 gallons; spirits and wine together, 1.48 gallons. The highest figures recorded during the period are:—Beer, 34 gallons, in 1874; spirits and wine, 1.81 gallons, in 1875. It appears, therefore, that our worthy forefathers drank three times as much spirits as we do in our most intemperate moments. There were 654 inns and taverns, 5,975 ale-houses, and 8,659 "brandy-shops"—in all 15,288 houses for the consumption of liquor on the premises. That is to say, there was one pot-house to every six houses and to every 47 persons. In 1891 the proportions were one to 63 and one to 550 respectively. Even if we take the total number of retail licenses of all kinds, both for on and off consumption including the so-called grocers' licenses and those for refreshment houses, they only represent one to every 430 persons; so that public-houses in the last century were nearly ten times as numerous, relatively to the population, as all the establishments where liquor is sold to-day put together. The majority of them, it will be observed were "brandy-shops," or spirit bars, and these mainly existed in the poorer quarters to the eastward of the city and on the Surrey side. In the west end and the city they were comparatively few. Ale-houses, on the other hand, were more evenly distributed, and, if anything, rather more numerous in the better quarters. This throws some light on the habits of the working classes, and completely disposes of the idea that bar-drinking is a modern invention. The public-house was even less a place of real refreshment and more of a mere bar than it is to-day. As for the inns and taverns, which our fancy peoples with honest folk refreshing themselves in a legitimate fashion after the day's toil, there were only 654 of them, against some 15,000 common pot-houses and bars. The coffee-houses numbered 551. And these were the "good old times," which are supposed to afford such an edifying contrast to our own evil days, when the "rising tide of liquor" threatens national ruin. It will have to rise a long way before it reaches 97 gallons of beer and 4 of spirits per head, with a pot-house at every sixth door.

A PATHETIC STORY.

A Young Man Stole From His Employer to Support His Mother and Brothers and Sisters.

A pathetic story was recently told in a London police court by a lawyer who was defending a prisoner at the bar. The evidence convicting his client was too strong to be refuted, but the motives which led to the crimes were inspired by affection, and sympathy was thus excited for a foolish and unfortunate man.

The prisoner was a clerk in a large dry-goods shop. For eight years he had supported his mother and his younger brothers and sisters, who were dependent upon him after his father's death. It had been a hard struggle. There were many to feed and clothe. Other relatives had left him to bear his burdens alone.

Misfortunes had multiplied. His mother had broken down under a most painful, incurable disease, and had required constant medical care and nursing during a long illness. Overwhelmed with largely increased family expenses the young man became so desperate that he began to cheat his employers that he might keep those whom he loved alive.

The method was ingenious, and the robberies escaped detection for a long time. Customers in the shop often left behind the bills for goods which were handed to them with their change. His device was to secrete these bills, and to use them in serving other customers. One memorandum for a small amount would go to the cashier, and the customer would receive the correct statement, the salesman pocketing the difference between the two bills. This went on for months before he was suspected of dishonesty and caught in the act.

The young thief had no bad habits. He did not waste the money which he stole, but took it home and used it in paying household expenses and doctors' bills. When his mother died he had to provide for the funeral expenses and he did it by stealing from his employers.

These facts were brought out during the trial, while the prisoner hung his head for shame. The magistrate sentenced him to two months of hard labor in prison, but expressed regret that he was compelled to make an example of so dutiful a son and so affectionate a brother. He remarked that the prisoner had carried a heavier burden than ought to have been put upon him, and that his relatives had been seriously, almost criminally at fault in not assisting him.

The best motives of course did not excuse or justify the young man's dishonesty. After eight years of devoted service for those dependent upon him he was convicted a thief, whose only consolation could be the thought that his mother had not lived to witness his disrgace. He deserved the light sentence and the magistrate's sympathy; and the relatives, wh ohad left him to struggle on alone when they might have relieved him with timely aid, earned the rebuke that was administered to them. Too often some one member of a family is obliged to carry the burden of the support of father or mother, or of some other of its members, by relatives who fully deserve public condemnation for the selfish delinquencies.