

**GERMANY UNMASKED, OR, FACTS AND
COINCIDENCES EXPLANATORY OF HER REAL
VIEWS IN SEEKING TO WREST SCHLESWIG FROM
DENMARK: WITH AN APPENDIX CONTAINING
REMARKS ON THE "MEMOIR" ON SCHLESWIG
AND HOLSTEIN "PRESENTED TO VISCOUNT
PALMERSTON BY THE CHEVALIER BUNSEN**

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Germany Unmasked, or, Facts and Coincidences Explanatory of Her Real Views in Seeking to Wrest Schleswig from Denmark: With an Appendix Containing Remarks on The "Memoir" on Schleswig and Holstein "Presented to Viscount Palmerston by the Chevalier Bunsen by Christian Karl Josias Bunsen

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"PRESENTED TO VISCOUNT PALMERSTON BY
THE CHEVALIER BUNSEN."

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INTRODUCTORY REMARKS.

It is not a little remarkable, that whilst France has thus far falsified the prediction that aggressions by her on other nations would, as a matter of course, ensue from her recent revolution, Germany, whom no one suspected of aggressive tendencies, and who, next to Belgium, had the most to fear from the hostility of France, has, now that her apprehension on this account is allayed, equally belied the expectation entertained of her—has, in fact, changed places with France, since one of the first acts of *her* recovered freedom has been to disregard and violate the independence of another and a far weaker state, with the view to her own aggrandizement. If “the world’s history” be, as Schiller has remarked, “the world’s law,” then assuredly does Germany,

in her present history, furnish proof that that law is not uniformly based either on equity or justice. The actual state of things between Germany and Denmark in respect of Schleswig, is certainly not calculated to inspire us with a contrary belief; unless, indeed, the former "Faustrecht," or law of the strong hand, is to be again recognized by mankind as a legitimate principle of action. The state of relations referred to is not the least important of the consequences incident to the great drama which is now being played in the length and breadth of Europe, and which, whatever may be the faults committed during the transition state, must inevitably tend to the regeneration of the European family of nations. It would, however, be erroneous to suppose that the present aggression of Germany upon Denmark *originated* in the late triumph of popular rights in the former country, although unquestionably precipitated by that most unlooked-for of events. The idea and the intention of such an aggression already existed prior to the social and political revolution which has taken place: its occurrence has supplied the opportunity that was both coveted and wanting

for the commission of the act, and in this respect at least has admirably subserved the purpose of the German Governments. The first *open* manifestation of the designs of Germany upon Holstein and Schleswig took place in effect in the summer of 1846, or nearly two years since, being elicited by the letters patent of the late King, Christian VIII. of the 8th July of that year, declaratory of his views in regard to the succession, and which the Germans thought proper to construe as arbitrarily proclaiming the unity of the Danish Monarchy, without reference to the special rights of the duchies. It is true that the German Governments and the Diet confined themselves at that time to mere representation; reserving, nevertheless, their judgment in the matter, and declaring their intention to watch ulterior proceedings—a line of action which obviously left them a wide margin for the future. But so far from imposing on the press, or on the freedom of speech and meeting, any such restrictions *as most assuredly they would have imposed* had the question been that of wresting Livonia, Courland, and Esthonia from powerful Russia, instead of Holstein and

Schleswig from comparatively feeble Denmark, they, on the contrary, virtually suspended the censorship, and allowed the utmost latitude to the press and individual action; so that the agitation to which the appearance of the letters patent gave rise in Holstein (for to Schleswig it cannot be said to have extended) being re-acted upon from Germany at large, where the letters patent were stigmatized as an outrage upon the nationality of the "Fatherland," was still further incited, and acquired thereby a force and character which it would not otherwise have possessed. It is to be remembered, too, that then as now the chief fomenters of the agitation in Holstein were natives of that province; and that although the names of the two duchies were associated, in order to make it appear that their respective populations were agreed, there were in reality very few Schleswigers who took an active part in the matter. In consequence of the interpretation given to the letters patent, the King issued a supplementary manifesto, wherein he disclaimed the intentions imputed to him, and conceded, as regarded Holstein, to the popular demand, but expressed his determination to adhere,

in the case of Schleswig, to his original views; nor did this announcement give rise to any special remonstrance on the part of the latter province. The concession respecting Holstein had the effect of gradually allaying the excitement, since they who had been interested promoters of it considered that, for the moment, sufficient had been gained, and that an after-means of carrying out their views on Schleswig had been supplied by the ascertained sentiments of the German public. But little further occurred in reference to the matter until the present King of Denmark signified his intention of establishing a free constitution throughout his states, and the revolutionary movement took place in Germany; when the Holsteiners seized the opportunity to renew the former agitation, rose in open rebellion, and appealed to Germany for assistance, who has not only afforded it, but also recognized the authority of the Duke of Augustenburg in Holstein, notwithstanding that he has placed himself in the position of *arebel*, and can only exercise legitimate sovereignty there in the event of the King of Denmark and his uncle dying without male issue. Short of abandoning the sovereignty,