

**THE EMPEROR'S DIARY OF THE
AUSTRO-GERMAN WAR, 1866 AND
THE FRANCO-GERMAN WAR, 1870-
71 TO WHICH IS ADDED PRINCE
BISMARCK'S REJOINDER, PP. 1-143**

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The Emperor's Diary of the Austro-German War, 1866 and the Franco-German War, 1870-71 to Which Is Added Prince Bismarck's Rejoinder, pp. 1-143 by Henry W. Lucy

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HENRY W. LUCY

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THE EMPEROR'S DIARY

Frederick VII. *1870-71*

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OF THE

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AUSTRO-GERMAN WAR, 1866

AND THE

FRANCO-GERMAN WAR, 1870-71

TO WHICH IS ADDED

PRINCE BISMARCK'S REJOINER

EDITED BY

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"A POPULAR HANDBOOK OF PARLIAMENTARY PROCEDURE," ETC

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INTRODUCTION.

IN the third week of September, Europe was startled by the publication of what purported to be extracts from the private Diary of the Emperor Frederick of Germany, written whilst he was yet Crown Prince, during the stirring times of the Franco-German War. The first impression was one of incredulity as to the authenticity of the document. But from the candid mind all incredulity vanished on studying the work. It bore on every page the impress of the hand of the dead Emperor.

Authenticity admitted, or at least credited, the Diary was elevated into the position of one of the most interesting and

valuable documents ever given to the world. It was not only that here was written, with the full freedom of self-communion, comments on mighty events in which the diarist had been a partaker, and in which he had the keenest personal interest. The information conveyed was in many points not only startling in its novelty—as, for example, the disclosure of the overtures hostile to England made by the captive French Emperor—but ran counter to commonly accepted views of history, as in the passages which represent the Crown Prince as the chief agent in the movement for United Germany, with the Emperor apathetic, and Bismarck sceptical.

For certain reasons the sensation created by the publication of the Diary was more extended in England and France than in Germany. The *Deutsche Rundschau*, in

which the contribution originally appeared, is a high-priced, steady-going monthly magazine, with a limited circulation. The proprietors, justly appraising the value of this attraction for their October number, availed themselves to the fullest extent of the German copyright laws in forbidding extended quotations in the daily press. The Paris papers, on the other hand, made lengthy though judicious selections from the article, which was translated and printed almost verbatim in the London press, and became for a time the sole topic of conversation, not only in political circles, but in the wider range which had, ever since his visit to London in the Jubilee train, taken a personal interest in the Crown Prince.

After a few days there appeared a brusque though cautiously worded *démenti* issued in the name of Prince Bismarck. The official