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A ROW IN THE REICHSTAG

Extraordinary Scene in the German Parliament.

Bismarck and the Royal Rescript.

The Berlin correspondent of the London Times, January 20th, sends the following account of the late stormy debate in the Reichstag: "Every available seat and corner of vantage was occupied by a curious public eager to witness the incidents of a great debate on a subject which has attracted attention of late, and promises to interest still more. The diplomatic gallery was filled, and Prince Albrecht, of Prussia, commander of the tenth or Hanoverian army corps, was present to mark the course of a discussion of so much moment for the constitutional future of the empire as the business on the order of the day was the third reading of the budget, and Prof. Hanel—a man of calm, and serious, and judicial mind—at once rose and claimed the right of animadverting on the royal rescript as within the province of such debate. It was true, he said, that the manifesto had been issued by the king of Prussia and countersigned by Prince Bismarck as Prussian minister, but it affected the officials of the whole empire. They had often seen of late how the person of the monarch had been dragged by the leading statesmen into their debates, as if thus to cover the responsibility of the latter, and this novel move was expressly approved by the recent pronouncement. With all respect for his majesty, he deplored the decree as if infringing their constitutional rights. The true position of the king was not tested by love, and the manifesto could only mar it. He could not see any possible justification for it. The first four points dwelt upon in the rescript were quite correct. They were constitutional law, and being so, it followed that it was unconstitutional to drag the person of the king into debates and to appeal to the will of the king, which was nothing more than making the irresponsible king responsible. If the federal council was not pleased with the limitations demanded by the people, it thereby confessed its displeasure with constitutionalism. Parliament was not only warranted in judging whether the rescript interfered with its rights, it was also bound to do so, and it condemned the manifesto accordingly. If the government tried to beat down the opposition by force, which he restrained it that would lead to a crisis which would have constitutionalism overboard or impair the power of the crown. Passing on, then, to deprecate as dangerous the practice of putting the monarch too much in the foreground, the speaker applauded the method of exchanging one minister for another, according to the exigency of the time, and promised the saying of the king of Bavaria, 'I will be at peace with my people.' As for the latter part of the rescript it was maintained that no government functionary was entitled in any way to bring his official influence to bear on elections. The whole manifesto was a great danger to the position of the monarch both as king and Kaiser. In Prussia love to the monarch was identical with love for the constitution. "Prince Bismarck, who had entered the house while Prof. Hanel was speaking, immediately rose to reply. The chancellor was not at all looking so ill as late reports about the state of his health had led one to expect. After some introductory remarks upon his right to speak there, he denied that the rescript aimed at reading new rights, or at opening the prospect of a new constitutional conflict. The rescript, as its terms clearly showed, did not aim at creating rights, but only at guarding existing ones, and at combatting the notion that the political traditions of their country had any validity in Prussia apart from its own constitution. Passing on, he then grappled with the theory embodied in the phrase, 'Le roi regne mais gouverne pas,' which seemed to be the ideal of progressist orators, and found expression in the excellent work of M. Taine, where the king is represented as a president honorarie appointed by the legislature, the prince scoffed at such political forms as applied to Prussia, which would soon reduce its monarch to the position of a mere major domo, and ridiculed Prof. Mommson for his constitutional folly in his respect. The chancellor then proceeded to discourse upon ministerial responsibility, with the manifesto for his guiding text, insisting that the king's signature, and not that of his minister, was the main thing. The opposite view was only maintainable if the monarch, as the king went so far as to place him among the clouds, where no one could detect his continued existence. That would be reverence such as was offered to the emperor of Japan, the mere exhibition of the soles of whose feet was a certain high annual festival shown to the gaping multitude through an iron grating. The king of Prussia felt that he must exercise his undoubted right to remind the country of the actual meaning of the constitution, which had been lately begun to be misunderstood. According to the traditions of the crown, dating from the days of the Brandenburg electors, the kings of Prussia had regarded it as their duty to be what Frederick the Great called the first servant of the state. Inside the cabinet the king commanded, and the ministers obeyed, and if not willing to do so they were free to retire. The real and actual minister-president was the king. The constitutional theories of 1849 were still far behind the ideal of Prof. Hanel, and it was a true blessing that the latter had not been realized. Had it been so they would not yet have got Reichstag and been sitting in it. They would have had no reorganized army, and they would, moreover, reviewing the history of the last thirty years, under the leadership of the vice-president of the Prussian chamber in 1863 have sided with the Polish revolution. Coming to the charge that he committed a base cowardice in naming the king (in connection with his policy), the prince maintained that it was impossible for any one to make such an accusation who had read the history of the last twenty years. 'I have, on

the contrary, always shielded royalty. I have been threatened with oakum-picking in a penitentiary and confiscation of goods for doing so, and have been said to have shown cowardice in the service of my master. The falsehood of such a report must make the blush of shame mount to your foreheads.

"Here arose a violent uproar on the left, with cries of 'Not true,' which made the angry chancellor stride over to face and hurl defiance at his liberal opponents. His countenance was red with rage, and his attitude altogether formidable. 'Do you mean to cry me down, gentlemen?' he said with a threatening look. 'Who is the man among you who made the reproach?' A voice—'No one did so.' The chancellor then said, 'Thank God for it,' and went to his seat amid much commotion. He continued: 'It is only a feeling of loyalty that keeps me in my place; which for the rest gives me no pleasure. On the contrary, it would heartily delight me to bid you farewell and see no more of you.' Substituting then into a calmer vein, the prince spoke of the imperfect development of parliamentary life and the confused relations of parties as an additional justification of the principles laid down in the rescript, and he instanced the case of the English parliament under Peel as one which had a decided preponderance in favor of the monarch. As soon as they got the length of having such a parliament they might come to him with their claims. In Germany parliament had as yet no consistency, and no decided majority, and his voice, therefore must have all the less weight. As for the passage in the manifesto about the electoral duties of state officials, the emperor had been induced to pen it by way of a reminder to them, in view of the indisputable fact that at election times, with many public functionaries, their oath of allegiance to his majesty began wholly to recede into the background. There were two classes of officials, political and non-political, and the manifesto itself was quite clear as to the respective duties of each. The former were bound by their oath to represent the emperor's policy; but of the latter nothing whatever was demanded except that they should make no positive agitation against the government (which would not, from the prince's remarks, seem to include opposing it by secret votes), and then he detailed several flagrant cases, both of omission and commission, which had led to the manifesto which his majesty was perfectly justified in issuing and for which he was quite prepared and resolved to undertake responsibility. The prince concluded by saying that he was firmly resolved to serve his majesty in the direction indicated by the royal rescript, but only as his servant, and not as his guardian. The speech was greeted with applause on the right, while the left dissented. In reply to Professor Hanel, who aggressively denied having reproached the chancellor with cowardice, the latter rose and angrily struck to his assertion. The previous speaker, he said, had accused him of evading his ministerial responsibility by covering himself with the person of his majesty, and he at least would hold that to be cowardice. He had been long used to such insults, but still he would repel them in the most decided way. This final altercation was interrupted by cries and commotion and the bell of the president calling for order. The prince resumed his seat in great excitement, and vanished in anger from the hall before the next speaker had gone far.

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A Story that Needs Corroboration.
Louisville Courier-Journal, Feb. 9.
Several days ago an item appeared in the Courier-Journal about hair being turned gray by a sudden fright, and yesterday a well known saloon-keeper in this city, in a report and remarked: "I know of another instance of hair being turned gray by fright, which is even more remarkable than the one mentioned in the paper. About 15 years ago a young man named Henry Richards, who lived at Terre Haute, Ind., was going home one evening about dark from a visit to a friend, and was walking along the railroad track. Some little distance from town was a very high trestle-work over a creek, the being no planks placed across for walking, so that people had to go over on the ties. Richards was walking along at a lively rate, and when he arrived at the bridge he did not stop to think that a train coming in was then due, but, being in a hurry to get home, he started to walk across the cross-ties. He had gotten nearly half way across the bridge when the train came shipping around a curve at a lively rate. He saw the train at once, and started to run, but saw that it was useless, as it would certainly overtake him before he could get off the bridge. He was now in a terrible plight; to jump off was certain death, and if he remained on the track the train would crush him to pieces. There was no wood-work beneath the bridge for him to hang on to, so he saw his only chance was to swing on to a small iron rod that passed under the cross-ties. No time was to be lost, as the train was nearly on the end of the bridge. So he swung himself under the ties, and in a few moments he was hanging on for dear life. The engineer had seen him just before he swung under the bridge, and tried to stop the train, but it was too late. He was so high that he could not get down, and as he only succeeded in checking the speed of the train, and made it a longer time in passing over the fern of Richards. As the engine passed over, the coals of fire from the ashpan dropped out, and a number of them dropped on his hands, burning the flesh to the bone, as he could not shake them off, and to let go would have been certain death. The trial

was almost perfectly white."

Capitol Gush.
Chicago Times.
Some of the sloppy correspondents stationed at Washington delight in describing instances of remarkable self-denial on the part of wives of politicians and officeholders at the capital. This rather nauseating weakness has grown enormously since the illness of Mr. Garfield, when the attention paid the dying man by his wife was magnified into a sort of heroism which must have been exceedingly obnoxious to that lady if it is indeed the possessor of the good sense with which she is credited. Since the unhappy days of last summer, the sloppy correspondents aforesaid have been compelled to take up less shining examples of womanly devotion, and now the wife and mother who poultices a boil on her husband's neck, or properly nurses a child afflicted with the rumps, is at once heralded as a martyr, a self-sacrificing saint, and all such. Twaddle of this description finds a ready market in some quarters, but it is becoming so commonplace that even the publications whose political creed is gush must soon become tired of it.

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