

commented by Lord John Russell, that *confident* *terrible* of diplomacy, in betraying the conversation between M. de Schlenitz and Lord Bloomfield to the world, through the medium of his abominable "Blue Book." In fact, it was particularly hard upon Prussia, who has managed all along to keep the profane vulgar in the dark on the score of her policy—if that can be called, policy which is subject to the changing impulses of every day and every hour—to have her most secret thoughts, her disappointments, regrets and misgivings exposed to the public gaze by these treacherous documents.

A despatch from M. de Schlenitz to Count Bernstorff in London is now going the rounds of the press, in which he protests against the expressions attributed to him by the British Ambassador, and gives his own version of them, which, however, no one who is not, like the Prussian diplomatists, accustomed to split hairs, will find to differ materially from what he attempts to explain away; indeed, Lord Bloomfield seems to have done nothing but translate his vague tautologies and circumlocutions into plain English, which certainly makes them appear bolder rather than when couched in their original vein of misty verbosity. M. de Schlenitz concludes by regretting that the publicity given to his *fait a fait* with the representative of England will prevent him from communicating with him in future on the same confidential footing as he has done heretofore, which reminds one of Cardinal Fleury, who, when a private despatch of his was published by the court to which it was addressed, informed their Ambassador that after that he would take care not to tell them what he really thought. Altogether the explanations of the Prussian Minister have not made a favorable impression, and will scarcely have contributed to strengthen his position, which is seriously shaken, and is fast becoming untenable. His want of energy has made him obnoxious to both parties; the reactionists hate him for his lukewarmness in the cause of Austria and the Pope, and the liberals blame him for not taking more decided steps in the Hessian question, and contenting himself with diplomatic notes and remonstrances instead of resorting to the *argumentum ad hominem*. One of the most active of his adversaries is the Duke of Saxe-Coburg, who is very much looked up to by the popular party, and who has acquired an influence over the Prince Regent which is perhaps enhanced by the contrast his lively and excitable temper presents to the slow and stolid character of the latter. The duke is a man of talent and ambition, who, finding his aspiring genius cramped by the narrow circumference of his little principality, and having in vain sought to fill up his leisure hours (twenty-four every day) by the pursuits of literature and art, has for the last few years been dabbling very busily in politics, in which, however, an impartial observer must acknowledge that he displays more versatility than sound judgment. During the Oriental war he was vehemently in favor of an alliance with Napoleon, and is said to have indulged in visions of the cause of Poland in case the Allies should succeed in wresting that country from the fangs of the Muscovite. The peace of Paris put an end to these pleasing delusions, and considering himself ill treated by Napoleon (the French Autocrat being under some obligations to the Duke, who had asked his influence with his sister-in-law, Queen Victoria, to overcome the prejudice she entertained against the Imperial power,) he became as violent an antagonist of French policy as he had previously been favorable to it, and at the commencement of the Italian difficulty he made the most strenuous efforts to prevail upon Prussia to unite with Austria and the rest of Germany against the common enemy. Villafranca produced an active change in his views; he was enraged at the selfishness and pusillanimity of the court of Vienna, and since then he has been agitating with all his might to counteract the intrigues of Austria at the Federal Diet, and to form a league of the constitutional States of Germany, under the auspices of Prussia. Disgusted with the timidity of M. de Schlenitz, he came to Berlin about a fortnight ago, and by his urgent representations had almost persuaded the Prince Regent to dismiss his minister, and to adopt a bolder line of policy—to declare that Prussia would not allow any other solution of the Hessian question than that recommended by her on the basis of the constitution of 1831. It is even asserted that the Duke was willing to accept the portfolio of Foreign Affairs himself, a rumor that derives some plausibility from the circumstance that the Prince of Hohenzollern, formerly an independent Sovereign, and quite as highly connected as he of Coburg, is already a member of the cabinet. Unfortunately for the Duke, he is not able to keep his own counsel. His plans were soon brooded abroad, and at a court dinner the Princess Charles, who sat next to the Prince Regent, said to his Royal Highness, "So, the Duke of Coburg is beginning to change your ministry." These words startled the Prince, who is exceedingly jealous of his authority, and particularly dislikes the idea of being made a tool of for others for the attainment of their own objects.

The next day the Duke met with a cool reception, and finding that his observations were no longer listened to with the same obsequiousness, he soon after quitted Berlin, and returned to his own little capitol, leaving Schlenitz master of the field. But I believe this is only a temporary respite. In the present critical posture of affairs a firm hand is wanted to direct the foreign policy of Prussia; and although M. de Schlenitz has deserved well of his country by resisting the efforts of the Junkers to drag Prussia into a war with France last summer, something more is required of a statesman just now than the negative qualities of wariness and circumspection which form his distinguishing characteristics.

On Thursday the Prince of Wales passed through Magdeburg on a visit to his uncle at Coburg. He was met there by his sister, the Princess Frederick William, and her husband, the former of whom spent the day with him; but the latter had such pressing business here that he was only able to pass twenty minutes in the society of his illustrious relative, and then returned to Berlin with the same train. You will guess what this pressing business consisted of—it was a review of the Guard, from which the Prince could not possibly absent himself without seriously endangering the safety of the kingdom.

This spirit of military pedantry is more rampant than ever! The Prussians imagine they can make up for the want of warlike experience by scrupulous attention to the minute of the service; but the example of Austria last year is a proof that an army may be very imposing on parade, and very inefficient on the field of battle. People who think the excursions of royalty have always some special object the journey of the Prince of Wales to negotiations that are going on between England and Prussia; through the medium of the Duke of Coburg; but if the British ministry have a political mission to perform it is not probable they would entrust it to a boy like the heir apparent.

The Easter holidays, which may be said to continue from Good Friday to Tuesday, have been greatly favored this year by the weather, so that the working classes, mechanics, handicraftsmen and operatives, could enjoy the air in the suburbs and outside the gates of the city, in the public gardens and places of amusement, where there are bands of music playing, theatrical performances, &c. (except on Good Friday), the conestibles and drinkables provided forming part of the entertainment.

It has been noticed of late that the consumption of Bavarian beer, or such as is brewed after the manner of Bavaria (sometimes called lager beer), has enormously increased in this country, when formerly the lighter sorts of beer were preferred. They have had brewers from Manheim and other parts of Bavaria to introduce their art, which has been brought to considerable perfection. The stronger and more beady sort is termed bock beer, from the German word bock, which means a billy goat, the person who drinks it being excited to such a pitch of exhilaration that he capers like a goat. This is only brewed in the spring, and the principal brewer producing it was on tip for the first time on Easter Sunday. The establishment alluded to is situated on the only hill near Berlin—not a very imposing height, but from every other part of the country being level, it has the advantage of a prospect over the city and its environs; a monument erected on the top in commemoration of the battles fought for the liberation of Germany from 1813 to 1815, in the shape of a Gothic steeple, surmounted by a cross, has given it the name of Kreuzberg, or Hill of the Cross. Besides large quantities that are sold to the beerhouses and publicans of the city, the taproom at the brewery retails the liquor to thirty coins in pint pots, called *seidels*, at 2½ silver groshens, or 6½ cents a pint, or a common sort at 1½ groshens, and such droves of people come crowding out to these fountains of strong beer during the holidays, that no less than 15,000 to 20,000 persons are computed to have been on the premises at a time. Some young men having attained the enviable proficiency of swilling six *seidels* and upwards at a sitting, others, of course, must needs try to imitate them, but got so overpowered with the strength of their potations that they had to be dragged off into stables or sleds provided for the purpose, where they were left to sleep off their intoxication. Many breweries of Bavarian beer have been established in the suburbs with various success, but the above mentioned bock has hitherto kept up its reputation. Recently, however, a company has been formed on shares, with a handsome capital, for the avowed purpose of opposing it. The ex-minister Baron Manteuffel is one of the principal shareholders, though a charitable Israelite is kind enough to lend his name to the undertaking. They have built a large brewery, with extensive cellars, saloons and other accommodations, on the same hill, and propose to brew a lighter and milder beer than the bock, selling it at a lower price, and the mania for imbibing vast quantities of the cerevisian fluid being still on the increase, they are very likely to succeed. I am told that as long as hops only were used to produce strength, the liquor was not injurious; but that in the course of time alcohol and other noxious ingredients have been introduced in the place of hops, which makes the beer prejudicial to the health.

There is a temperance society in this city, presided over by a Professor Mansfeld, but which is very little encouraged. Dram drinking is one of the greatest vices to which the population of Germany are addicted, although it is only carried to excess by the lower classes of laborers and artists. Spirits being so cheap, two cents will buy a good sized wine glass full, and you see most workmen keeping a little bottle filled with schnapps in their pockets, to take an occasional drink and treat their comrades. The pocket punch does more harm than Napoleon's rifled cannon.

Our Berlin Correspondence.

Berlin, April 14, 1860.

Indignation of the Prussian Cabinet at Lord John Russell's Blue Book—Diplomatic Equilibrium Perturbed by Lord Bloomfield's Bad Grammar, Taxology and Circumlocutory Phrases—Peculiarity of Baron Schlenitz—The Prince of Wales en route to Coburg to Visit His Uncle (?)—His Reception at Magdeburg by Prince Frederick—William and Wife—Complimentary Military Reviews—Prussian Military Pedantry—Speculations on the Prince of Wales' Visit—Increased Consumption of Lager Beer, &c.

In one of my former reports I mentioned that the Prussian government were in despair at the indiscretion