

ATTITUDE OF GERMANY TOWARD UNITED STATES

GEORGE VON SKAL, OF "NEW-YORK-ER STAATS-ZEITUNG," POINTS OUT THE FALLACY OF MR. BIGELOW'S PROPHECY.

BY GEORGE VON SKAL.

It is somewhat difficult to take Mr. Poultney Bigelow seriously. The great American-German war has become a fixed idea with him, and in his hunt for reasons with which to uphold his prophecies he mixes facts and fancies in such a peculiar way that it is hard to follow him. It may, however, do some good to point out the fallacies contained in his article, although this will probably not cause him to discontinue his campaign against Germany.

The statement that German sympathy with the Boer cause is the consequence of a wish to expand and acquire colonies is entirely erroneous. The causes are very simple and easily discernible, if the observer is not blinded by a desire to prove a preconceived theory. There is no doubt that the German people as a whole hate the British bitterly. The causes of this feeling are equally plain, but it would take too much space to state them here. In addition to this, both the Jameson raid and the way in which England started the war deeply offended the German's inherent love of justice, while at the same time his sentimental nature made him take the part of the weaker side. There is nothing mysterious about these motives.

It is true that at the outbreak of the Spanish war Germany sent an unnecessarily large naval force to Manila. But no proof has ever been furnished that this was done to obstruct the operations of the American navy or army. It is easily explained when we consider the Emperor's character and his infatuation for his navy. He could not let the chance go by to make a show and to let some of his ships witness real war. That the sending of such a large fleet was a mistake is now admitted frankly by the German authorities, who would willingly go a great way to wipe out what they are in the habit of calling "that unfortunate Manila incident."

It is quite true that at the beginning of the Spanish war the sympathies of the German people were with Spain, but it may well be asked, in the light of recent information, whether a single one of the European nations felt really friendly toward the United States. And if the German press charged the American army with "all manner of shortcomings," as Mr. Bigelow says, it was easily distanced by him, for it certainly never uttered a more scathing condemnation than Mr. Bigelow did after he had safely left Tampa.

The statement that anybody in Germany ever seriously considered the possibility of concentrating the German population in the United States in certain localities to form a nucleus for a German in America is false and utterly ridiculous. Such schemes have been frequently propounded, but always by dreamers and visionaries. I venture to say that the German Government is better informed on the political ideas of German-Americans than a great many Americans. Mr. Poultney Bigelow not excepted. He mentions the "Preussische Jahrbücher" as a journal which has published articles favoring the plan. This is true, but the "Jahrbücher" is a magazine on the plan of "The North American Review," and frequently publishes articles because they are interesting, without committing itself to the views expressed.

The so-called Pan-German agitation is limited to a few sheets, and has no party behind it, nor is it favored by even a respectable minority of the people. The visit of Prince Henry had certainly no connection with similar dreams, for before his arrival the representatives of Germany in the United States had been instructed to prevent all demonstrations which might have been construed as favoring Pan-Germanism. The Prince himself never failed to exhort the German-Americans he met to remain good American citizens, and he was told on every occasion that the Germans in this country had nothing but love and gratitude to offer to the Fatherland, but that their allegiance belonged to the country of their choice. All this was known in Germany beforehand, and the presence of millions of Germans in the United States was far from being an inducement for the Prince to visit America, but was rather considered in the light of a difficulty and a danger.

Mr. Bigelow's references to the sinister designs of the German Government have been so contradictory that it is about time they were hushed out of court. The facts are that the German settlements in Brazil are slowly but surely dwindling away. They cannot exert any political influence, and cannot increase or even remain as large as they are at present without assistance from Germany. This they do not receive. If the German Government really wanted to use them as an entering wedge to plant itself on the American continent, it would not turn a deaf ear to the entreaties of the Pan-Germans, who have implored it for years to assist at least in the building of railroads which the colonists need badly to bring their products to market. The government has positively and decidedly refused to do anything in the interest of the settlements. A glance at the emigration statistics of the empire shows that there is not the slightest foundation for the dangers Mr. Bigelow paints in such awful colors. During 1901 22,073 emigrants left the German Empire; of these nearly 20,000 came to the United States and only 400 went to Brazil.

As to the Monroe Doctrine, we know that not a single European government would consider it binding if it had the power to transcend it. In his last message President Roosevelt stated that the Monroe Doctrine had been formally recognized by the Peace Conference at The Hague, but this was rather an optimistic view of the facts. The doctrine will be respected as long as we are able to uphold it, and not one day longer. Napoleon III attempted to disregard it, and was applauded by every government in Europe. When the Civil War was finished and the United States concluded that it was time to drive the French out of Mexico, they went very quickly, without the slightest attempt at resistance.

The opposition to the doctrine is not stronger in Germany than in any other European country. A few weeks ago one of the foremost Berlin papers printed an exhaustive treatise on the origin and the development of the Monroe Doctrine, in which the fact was strongly emphasized that, whatever European peoples or governments might think of the Doctrine, they ought to know that it had become a part of the political creed of the American people, and that any attempt to transcend it would find the United States in arms from one end to the other. Almost every paper of prominence reprinted this part of the article, and expressed its gratification that the German people were at last clearly informed of the sentiments prevailing in America on this point. This shows at least that the Germans are willing to learn.

The only explanation for Mr. Poultney Bigelow's incessant efforts to stir up hatred between the two nations appears to be that his case is pathological. If this is the case compassion should take the place of the disgust that his actions now produce.

KEATS REVISED. From The Philadelphia Record. "Speaking of pretty women," says the Cynical Bachelor, "a thing of beauty may be a jawbreaker."

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It is not for me here to say whether or not the reasoning of Germany is sound; least of all am I writing for the purpose of evoking ill will against a people to whom the whole English speaking race is bound by an infinite number of affectionate ties, whose religious and political struggles have been for the benefit of the whole human race, and whose administration to-day is a model for us.

Here I am pointing out as a student of history certain tendencies of German official life which are rapidly preparing the ground for a conflict with the United States.

POULTNEY BIGELOW BELIEVES OFFICIAL TENDENCIES AT BERLIN ARE PREPARING GROUND FOR CONFLICT.

BY POULTNEY BIGELOW.

In 1896 the raid of Dr. Jameson into the Transvaal called forth from official Germany a cable dispatch to Paul Kruger which Germans in South Africa as well as those in Berlin interpreted as indicating a disposition unfriendly to England, and akin to a desire for interference. It was my fortune to be in the German capital when this cable message was dispatched, and in Pretoria a few weeks after its receipt by the Boers. In each capital I had opportunity of noting the state of feeling to which I refer.

And, after all, a large part of the world's history is made up of this imponderable force—this sentiment that cannot be put upon the scales or added up by the statistician—yet it overturns governments, puts armies in the field, wages war and changes the map of the world.

The sentiment behind official Germany was then a hazy notion that German colonial ambition could somehow be gratified by pitting the Boer against the Anglo-African. This view was very popular at the time, and the German Emperor became a prime favorite throughout his empire for his supposed willingness to offend England.

The mobilizing of a large British fleet in the Channel and certain events in South Africa tended to cool off this sentiment so far as the Transvaal was concerned, but it roused in Germany a popular enthusiasm for a big navy which has admirably served the purposes of the government.

Germany has to-day a naval programme which promises to make her a powerful afloat as she is already on land. She intends to build between 1904-20 fifty-seven battleships, fifteen first-class cruisers and thirty-six second class cruisers. This means an annual naval budget of \$75,000,000 a year—and this money is not to be spent merely for playthings.

When America and Spain were at war in 1898, the feeling in German military circles was that Spain was the better equipped for the struggle, at least at the outset, and therefore she sent to the Philippines a strong fleet, whose mission was ostensibly the protection of German interests, but whose practical work was to show cordiality with all things Spanish and a desire to thwart all things American.

Here, as in the South African situation, Germany was again disappointed, and the upshot was a still louder clamor for more navy. German papers had no special correspondents at either of these wars, but, nevertheless, their papers were filled to bursting with alleged news fresh from the seat of war, written mainly in Berlin (or Brussels), and charging all manner of shortcomings to the English speaking side in the contest.

We rub our eyes in wonder over this German sentiment. England is nearer to Germany and can understand it more readily. But it is a thing of very recent growth, and its explanation is not to be found in official utterances.

Germany sees no future save through expansion, and she sees no space in which she can expand save through war. Official Germany began under Bismarck, in 1874, to create a strong sentiment in favor of colonies. This sentiment was based largely upon false premises, and nearly all the hopes then officially raised have been dashed to pieces against the cold walls of experience. Thanks to British complaisance, Germany hoisted her flag over many hot strips to the extent of a million square miles, but Germans have steadily refused to settle in those places, excepting as salaried officials, and consequently official Germany is compelled in order to "save its face" to teach the credulous people that the reason for her failure is to be sought in the perfidious behavior of the English speaking peoples, who for a variety of reasons own about all the world worth having.

The visit of Prince Henry to America cannot fail to attract German attention to the strange fact that, while Germans for the last seventeen years have carefully avoided colonies ornamented with the German flag, they have with extraordinary obstinacy persisted in crowding the labor market of the very people who are by the German official press held up as brutal, cowardly and corrupt.

Between 1820 and 1896 there came to America more than five million Germans. Between the close of the Franco-German War and the year of the Jameson raid, Germans flocked to New-York at the rate of one hundred thousand a year. It is estimated by competent authority that the Germans in America who are natives of Germany, or of German parentage, represent fifteen million souls, or about three times the population of Prussia during the Napoleonic times.

The emigration has moved in perfectly normal channels—it has not been assisted by State aid from America, nor has it been helped from the Fatherland. On the contrary, nothing has been omitted that could discourage intending emigrants, and this of itself explains what I have so often noted with surprise and regret, a perpetual stream of misinformation flowing from official German papers and intended to produce distrust of things American.

Germans are essentially a nation of philosophers—that is to say, they are a people who like to construct the world on a theory and then find fault with it if it does not conform to it. For years they have depicted the Germans in America as pining for a colony with the German flag. When these philosophers learned subsequently that there were many millions of Germans in America, let alone the British colonies, who were quite satisfied with the practical arrangement of things as they had found them, official Germany thundered against these people as unpatriotic scoundrels.

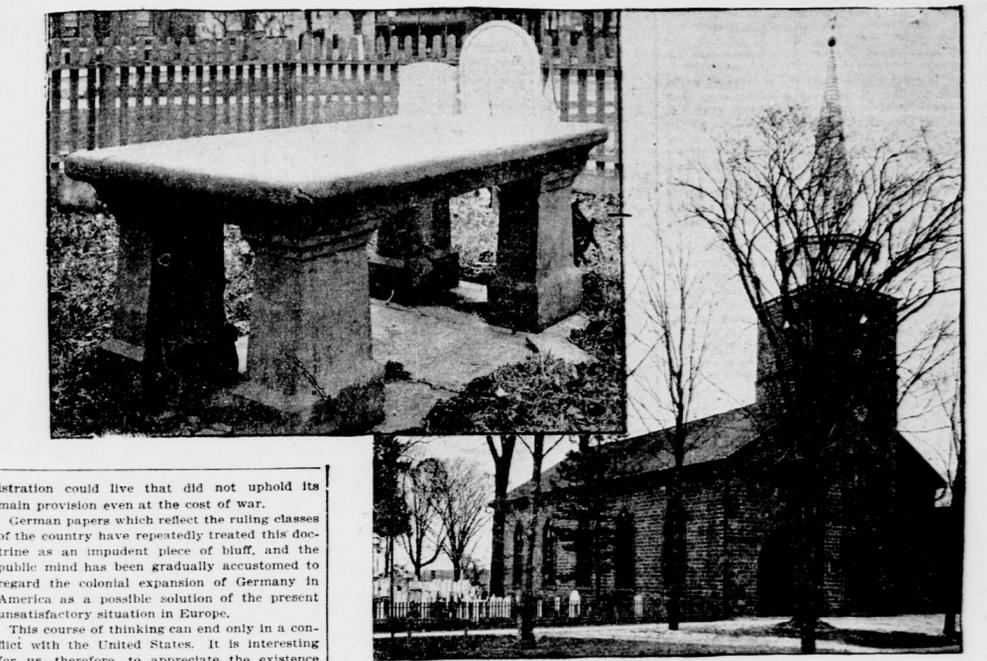
The visit of Prince Henry has given a broad opportunity for German sentiment in America to proclaim itself, and the result is unmistakable. American Germans delight in honoring Wagner or Schiller—as they delight in visiting the Rhine on their holidays. But they have in no wise responded to the many appeals made to them for a closer political union with the mother country they have abandoned.

These appeals are not made by visionary cranks—they are not limited to an isolated academic dreamer here and there. We find at short intervals serious discussions on the theme in journals of the most serious character, as, for instance, the "Preussische Jahrbücher," of Professor Delbrueck. It makes no difference that this notion is treated with ridicule by Germans who know America and by German papers in America. German philosophy has constructed its own picture of the ideal America, and public sentiment is supporting heavy naval budgets with one eye on this academic ideal.

It is in fact a matter of time when the opportunity will offer for a protest, a claim for indemnity, an intervention, an annexation, in short, any one of the conventional preliminaries to occupying territory with questionable legal title. The only reasonable difficulty to a scheme of this nature is the sentiment prevailing in the United States regarding the Monroe Doctrine.

GRAVE OF GENERAL ENOCH POOR, IN HACKENSACK.

Washington and Lafayette were present at the burial.



FIRST REFORMED CHURCH, HACKENSACK, N. J.

istration could live that did not uphold its main provision even at the cost of war.

German papers which reflect the ruling classes of the country have repeatedly treated this doctrine as an impudent piece of bluff, and the public mind has been gradually accustomed to regard the colonial expansion of Germany in America as a possible solution of the present unsatisfactory situation in Europe.

This course of thinking can end only in a conflict with the United States. It is interesting for us, therefore, to appreciate the existence of this sentiment, and to do what in us lies to avert the consequences. We can imagine no war more disastrous to the best interests of white man's commerce and civilization than one between Germany and the United States, and there is no better means of calling such a war into existence than by persistently neglecting to realize its imminence.

It takes a strong man to go through the world without a fight now and then, and the nation that remains longest at peace is the one most ready for war. We in the United States smile at the idea of war with any one, and consequently war takes us by surprise and costs us infinitely more than it would have done had we been in fit condition.

Official Germany has for many years dreamed of concentrating German population in certain States of the American Union and thus forming the nucleus of a German in America that would be strong enough to insist upon German as the official language, and thus maintain



GEORGE C. ROCKWOOD.

As he looked at twenty-one, and as he is to-day.

tain in the midst of the United States an alien State, somewhat like that of the Boers in South Africa. For a variety of reasons this scheme has failed completely—and yet in Germany the project keeps alive.

But in South America conditions are in many respects more propitious than anywhere else in the world. The German has had no success when confronted with the aggressive civilization of the Anglo-Celt, and he despairs of making an impression on the Boer of South Africa. But he now discusses seriously the possibility of asserting German nationality in the three southernmost States of Brazil, where some fifty thousand Germans have established themselves over a territory as large as the German Empire.

Of the three, Parana has a density of population of less than three to the square mile; Santa Catharina a trifle over ten, and Rio Grande do Sul less than ten. What is that compared to the Fatherland, where the density is about 250 to the square mile?

It is true that the total of Germans in South America is small. From 1871 to 1896 nearly 2,500,000 have sought North American homes, while less than fifty thousand have settled in Brazil. But, on the other hand, in South America they are in the midst of a native population inferior to them intellectually and physically, one which they think they could dominate if properly organized and sustained by help from across the seas.

The chronically disturbed condition of the various alleged republics of Latin-American complexion gives rise to official German expectation that it is only a matter of time when the opportunity will offer for a protest, a claim for indemnity, an intervention, an annexation, in short, any one of the conventional preliminaries to occupying territory with questionable legal title.

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In South America official Germany has a situation which can, under given conditions, be exploited to advantage. Germany can put aboard ship a larger number of trained soldiers than the United States, and can place them at points where they would be highly inconvenient for her enemy. The Boer war has taught us, if the Philippine war had not, that fighting six thousand or ten thousand miles away from home is an expensive undertaking, and the Germans in South America would have many of the advantages which the Boers have in South Africa.

A VETERAN PHOTOGRAPHER

GEORGE G. ROCKWOOD CELEBRATES SEVENTIETH BIRTHDAY—SOME OF HIS EXPERIENCES.

One of the oldest photographers in New-York in years and experience, George G. Rockwood, Ph. D., celebrated last evening at his home, No. 239 West Eighty-eighth-st., his seventieth birthday. The date also commemorated his forty-third year in the business life of the city and his forty-seventh year as a photographer. He picked up the art in his teens at Troy, N. Y., and three years later opened a gallery in the old Roosevelt building, at Thirtieth-st. and Broadway. He was the laughing stock of his contemporaries, for Thirtieth-st. was then the Harlem of old New-York, remote from the business center. In the Roosevelt Building,

ured extensively on subjects pertaining to his art. His wide knowledge of human nature and his ready sympathy, no less than his photographic skill, have contributed to his success in securing photographs of celebrities met and women. "I frequently met Mr. Greeley," said Mr. Rockwood, "and photographed him both at my studio and in the woods near Chappaqua, with an axe on his shoulder. One day Mr. Greeley came to my studio, fagged and worn out. In posing him, I started a political discussion in the hope of securing an eager look in his eye. To all my efforts there was one reply—a gentle snore!" "I was more successful with Major Anderson of Fort Sumter," he continued. "Major Anderson seemed to find a charm in my enthusiasm, and he came frequently to my establishment. One day when I had him before my camera, I said: 'Major, there is a time during the bombardment of Fort Sumter when you were on the eve of surrender. Tell me that true?' "He sat still for a moment, then, slowly rising, he lifted his hat and bowed and in the most solemn manner, and with great dramatic force, said: 'No, Mr. Rockwood! No! No! When I raised my eyes to the stars, I saw the Almighty God for his protection. I knew that it would never come down in disgrace.' "In his second administration, President Cleveland came to my gallery, and when I saw him open the door, I rose and, extending my hand, said: 'Cleveland, I am very happy to grasp the hand of the first Democratic President I ever voted for.' Mr. Cleveland's face beamed with pleasure. "I am glad to know you voted for me, Mr. Rockwood," he replied. "Yes, I voted for you in the first campaign," said I, "and if God will forgive me, I will never vote for another Democratic President." Mr. Cleveland burst into a hearty laugh and said: "This is good humor when the camera snapped." "To stimulate Dr. Seth Low's interest when he came to my gallery upon the eve of his departure for Europe, was not so easy a matter. In place of his usual sunny genial smile when greeting a friend, he wore a thoughtful, serious expression. I was puzzled for a moment how to dispel it. "Dr. Low," I began, "did you ever meet a human being with whom you would exchange personalities?" "I don't know as I ever thought of that," he said with quickened interest, "but if the man ever came to whom I would exchange, you are the man, Dr. Low." "He started, and his face was a study. The man," he continued, "who could put down a cool million of dollars and say, 'I dedicate this to God and the good of my country,' that is the man I believe I should be willing to exchange personalities with." "Major Low's face assumed almost a grave, a dignified expression, which the camera caught, and he replied, 'There are, Mr. Rockwood, other uses for money than its mere possession.' "

NATIONAL CAPITAL NOTES.

THE NEW COLOMBIAN MINISTER—ANTI-SLAVERY DAYS RECALLED—GENERAL WOODS' POPULARITY IN CUBA.

Washington, April 12 (Special).—The recent recall of the Minister from Colombia to the United States, Dr. Silva, caused much surprise here. He had represented his government in this capital for only a year, and during that time had been most zealous and assiduous in pressing the object for which he was sent to Washington, the adoption of the Panama route in the canal project now before Congress. Whether he was needed at home or whether it was thought by those in authority that he could more efficiently carry on the work now begun by him is not known.

The simple fact is that he has been superseded by Vincente Concha, one of the most promising of the younger politicians of Colombia. The new minister from the South American republic, whose future depends so much upon the action of this government, began his career as a newspaper man, starting at the very bottom of the ladder, and at the time he reported for one of the local papers of his native city—Bogota—he studied law. His wit, enterprise and real ability won him speedy recognition, and soon after receiving his degree as a lawyer the President of Colombia, Carlos, invited him to become his private secretary. Mr. Concha was promoted from one confidential position to another, until finally Mr. Carlos's General in his Cabinet, and later Secretary of War. He is said to have held the entire confidence of the President under whom he served, and to have exerted an extraordinary influence in his party.

The new minister from Colombia has recently passed his forty-fifth birthday, and looks his age. He is a man of dignified bearing, whose face shows the lines made by strenuous work and honest duty. He has a talent for politics, for managing men, is astute, sagacious and self-contained. Mr. Concha's mission accomplished, he will probably return to Colombia, where his wife and four children await him.

The recent death of Mrs. Hale, mother of Mrs. William E. Chandler and wife of the late Senator Hale, of New-Hampshire, who was for many years a conspicuous figure in society at the capital, brings to mind that interesting period in the history of the country when of the North Senator Hale was an ardent abolitionist, one of the fiercest opponents of the extension of slave territory, including the annexation of Texas. He opposed from the beginning the war with Mexico, which Mr. Webster designated as "an iniquitous war made in order to obtain by conquest slave territory." He fought the compromise measures, including the Fugitive Slave law, with a force, logic and wit that made him the talk of the day, and until slavery was abolished never for a moment ceased his efforts for the emancipation of the black man.

Mr. Hale was not only a distinguished statesman, but a leading lawyer of his day, and one of the attorneys in the slave rescue cases in Boston. It was he who uttered the famous paragraph which Mr. Sumner said was worthy of Curran or Erskine: "John Deeree claims that he owns Shadrack. Owsn what? Owsn a man! Suppose, gentlemen, John Deeree should claim an exclusive right to the laws of the defence of the stars. Would you sanction the claim? The stars shall fall from heaven, the moon shall grow old and decay, the sun shall fall to give its light, the heavens shall be rolled together as a scroll, but the soul of the despised and hunted Shadrack shall live on with the life of God Himself! I wonder if John Deeree will claim that he owns him then?"

Later on, when he was indicted for obstructing the fugitive slave law process in the case of Anthony Burns, and the conduct of this case inspired Mr. Parker to speak of him and his associate, Charles Mayo Ellis, as "magnanimous benefactors for their labors in a noble profession, and generous advocates of humanity, equaling the glories of Holt and Erskine, of Mackintosh and Romilly, in their respective churches. He had written and lectured

ME AND HEAVEN IS HERE

Robert Edeson, the actor, tells this story of the stage: "I've seen and heard a good many funny things in the way of plays and play actors in my time, but the greatest thing I ever saw or heard was in Milwaukee. This was several months ago. It was in one of the museums there. The museum had a stock company in its theatre, and its great specialty was border drama. Every week they gave a new drama of the wild and woolly West. This play that I saw was a blood-curdler of that character, and at the time I dropped in at the theatre the stage was pitch dark and two men were fighting a duel. I could hear the knives clash together and hear the men stumble around the stage, but I could only faintly distinguish the forms of the combatants. The drama was a thump on the floor and the villain I knew it was the villain by his accent hissed: 'Ah, ah, my dear brother! You have been a good man, but now, no one is to see me do the deed! Then the drummer high the music drum, and the villain, in a cloud of light, and away up on a rocky pass a woman (the heroine) was seen standing. 'Coward!' she shouted, 'me and heaven is here!'"

AN EMBROIDERED DILEMMA.

Among the passengers on a Glenside accommodation train the other afternoon was a very stout old woman. She occupied an entire seat, says "The Philadelphia Telegraph," as she was so extensive of build that there was hardly room beside her for the package of hooks and eyes and the three hatpins she carried down to the train. The woman was apparently very much worried, and finally when the train was nearing Elkins Station, she leaned over and tapped the feet of a young man sitting next to her in front of her. "Pardon me, young man," she said, "but will you tell me the name of the next station?" "Elkins, ma'am." "When we get there," she continued, "won't you kindly help me to do something?" "The young man chivalrously expressed his willingness to do the woman the requested service, but he looked so surprised that she had to make an explanation." "I wouldn't give your assistance, young man," she said, "but I tried to get off at Oak Lane, two stations back, and couldn't. You see, I am so stout that I am completely unable to make my way back." The conductor saw his misfortune, and thinking from my position that I was just boarding the train, helped me on again."

CLIMAX OF A BORDER DRAMA ENACTED IN WESTERN CITY.

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