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PRINCE CHLODWIG
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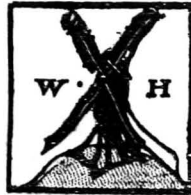


Prince Chlodwig
of Hohenlohe-Schillingfürst
in the year 1846

MEMOIRS OF
PRINCE CHLODWIG
OF HOHENLOHE
SCHILLINGSFUERST
EDITED BY FRIEDRICH CURTIUS
FOR PRINCE ALEXANDER OF
HOHENLOHE-SCHILLINGSFUERST

TRANSLATED FROM THE FIRST
GERMAN EDITION AND SUPERVISED
BY GEORGE W. CHRYSTAL, B.A.

VOLUME I



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MCMVI

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PREFACE

ON March 31, 1901, Prince Chlodwig of Hohenlohe-Schillingsfürst, who had resigned the office of Imperial Chancellor in the previous autumn, kept his birthday at Colmar in the house of his son. After the birthday dinner he took the writer aside and surprised him with the question, "Will you help me to write my memoirs?" This led to a conversation in which the Prince expressed the desire to spend the rest of his life in arranging his papers and preparing them for publication. He proposed to send all his deeds and papers to Schillingsfürst, and invited me to stay with him there for some weeks during the summer. We were then to look over the materials to hand and to arrange the plan of the book. In the event of his death the Prince told me that his son, Prince Alexander, would take possession of all his papers, and that his relations with myself had been already arranged. Decision upon matters of detail was postponed for those further discussions which were reserved for our summer meeting but were never held. At the beginning of July 1901, the Prince again visited Colmar, but he was then a dying man, and the end came a few days later in Ragatz. Thus he was denied the pleasure of personally beginning the last piece of work with which he proposed to conclude a long and laborious life. Prince Alexander and myself thus remained under the obligation of fulfilling the last wishes of the Prince so far as possible. It must be said that after the Prince's death his project could never be more than imperfectly completed. He had intended to refresh his memory by a re-examination of his papers, and thus to become his own biographer. After his death all that can be done

is to publish the papers which he has left behind, in accordance with his desire, so far as publication seems advisable.

From the year 1866 the Prince had been accustomed to keep a continuous record of his experiences and impressions, which he called his "Journal." The entries in this journal were completed by abstracts and copies of reports and letters which the Prince had preserved as possessing some autobiographical value. Had he been permitted personally to undertake the work of editing his memoirs, he would probably have amalgamated the journal and these documents into a uniform narrative. This he could not do, and it was impossible for the editor to make any attempt of the kind. A biography always gives that picture of a character which the contemplation of its activities has evoked in the author's mind. Even had I considered myself competent to write such a biography of the Prince, the terms of my commission would have forbidden the attempt. The Prince asked me to help him to write *his* memoirs. For the accomplishment of this task it was an essential condition that the editor's personality should be as far as possible suppressed. Hence the form of the book, in which the desires of the Prince are as nearly fulfilled as was possible after his death. The reader will see no figure before him but that of the Prince, and will hear the Prince's words or read the documentary evidence of his actions. No addition has been made beyond the insertion of such matters of fact as are indispensable to the full understanding of the material at my disposal.

For the period before the beginning of the journal the Prince left behind him nothing more than isolated descriptions of travel with political reflections. A diary begun in Coblenz in the year 1842 contains only a few entries intended to supplement his memory, and is also incomplete for the period. These deficiencies were partially filled by his letters to his mother and sister, the Princess Amalie. Thus it was possible to provide a first-hand account of the Prince's early development, the

fragmentary character of which is compensated by the authenticity of the record.

Valuable additions to the Prince's personal papers were provided by communications from the widowed Princess Konstantin of Hohenlohe (*née* Princess zu Sayn-Wittgenstein-Berleburg), and from the Prince's surviving sister, Princess Elise of Salm-Horstmar. To the kindly interest of these noble ladies is due the fact that during those later periods, when the papers of the Prince were chiefly restricted to political affairs, it was possible to give some account of his personal life and of his wider interests. This is especially true of the information concerning the last months of his life provided by the Princess of Salm-Horstmar.

I must avail myself of this opportunity to express my thanks to his Royal Highness the Grand Duke of Baden for his gracious permission to print certain of his letters to the Prince, especially those which throw most valuable light upon the struggles and difficulties of the transition period from 1866 to 1870 and also form a fine memorial of that unbounded confidence which united the Grand Duke and the Bavarian statesman.

My warmest thanks are due to my friend the Freiherr Julius von Freyberg of Munich for information upon Bavarian affairs, and also to Professor Friedrich of Munich, whose kind information and provision of references greatly facilitated the editing of that part of the book which deals with the Vatican Council.

FRIEDRICH CURTIUS.

STRASSBURG, *July* 1906.

ENGLISH EDITOR'S NOTE

SEVERAL passages in these volumes deal in minute detail with points of German Constitutional history which are perhaps of greater interest to the professed student of politics than to the general reader. These passages, although of less interest, outside Germany, than the more personal and anecdotal parts, are given in full in the English Edition, because they have their due place in the biographical structure, and because there has been a general demand for an unabridged English version of the Memoirs.

The Editor of the English Edition wishes to express his obligation to the Rev. H. J. Chaytor, M.A., to whose invaluable assistance he is deeply indebted; to Miss Simmonds, who was kind enough to help with the work of revision; to Mr. E. W. Gilbey, of Reuter's; and to Professor Chrystal, Miss Chrystal, and Mr. H. N. Dickinson, who have been so good as to read a great part of the book in proof, and to make many helpful suggestions.

GEORGE W. CHRYSAL,

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