

Memoirs of
Ernest II, Duke of Saxe-Coburg-Gotha



DUKE ERNEST II.
IN HIS FORTIETH YEAR.

A

F 284
46

MEMOIRS OF ERNEST II

Duke of Saxe-Coburg-Gotha

VOLUMES I AND II

EMBRACING PERIOD

1818—1850

VOL. II

WITH PORTRAIT OF DUKE ERNEST

London
REMINGTON & CO., PUBLISHERS
HENRIETTA STREET, COVENT GARDEN

1888
ALL RIGHTS RESERVED.

A

C O N T E N T S

—:o:—

CHAPTER I

THE SCHLESWIG-HOLSTEIN QUESTION.—MIDDLE AND SOUTH GERMAN INDIFFERENCE.—ANIMOSITY BETWEEN DANISH AND GERMAN POPULATION IN SCHLESWIG.—THE HEREDITARY SUCCESSION.—ANTICIPATIONS OF A BREAK-UP IN DENMARK.—CHRISTIAN VIII.—HIS WANT OF ABILITY.—A MAN OF PLEASURE.—THE PUBLIC LETTER.—MUTUAL REPROACHES BETWEEN DANISH PARTIES.—THE CONSTITUTIONAL POSITION OF SCHLESWIG.—EVIDENT POINT OF STRIFE.—DUKE OF AUGUSTENBURG'S TACTICS.—ACCESSION OF FREDERICK VII.—ADOPTS UNITED STATES CONSTITUTION.—PATENT OF 28TH JANUARY.—DANES DISSATISFIED.—PARTIAL RECOGNITION OF KING'S PROJECTS BY PRUSSIA.—FORMATION OF PROVISORY GOVERNMENT IN HOLSTEIN.—SURPRISE AND OCCUPATION OF RENDSBURG.—OLSHAUSEN.—PRINCE VON NOER AT ENMITY WITH HIM.—WAR DECLARED BY PRUSSIA.—HANOVER FAVOURABLE TO THE DUCHIES.—COLD FEELING IN BERLIN.—ENGLAND COMES FORWARD AS MEDIATOR.—LORD PALMERSTON I

CHAPTER II

LORD PALMERSTON'S PROTEST AGAINST PRUSSIAN OCCUPATION OF SCHLESWIG.—PRINCE ALBERT'S COMMENTS.—RUSSIAN PROPOSALS FOR AN ARMISTICE.—INTERVENTION IN BERLIN.—PRUSSIAN MEMORIAL TO LORD PALMERSTON.—NEGOTIATIONS FOR ARMISTICE THROUGH COUNT POURTALES.—DEMANDS OF THE IMPERIAL GOVERNMENT.—DIFFICULT POSITION OF PRUSSIA.—AUERSTADT'S OPINION AS TO ENGLAND.—DOUBTFUL CONDITION OF THE DUCHIES,—PROPOSALS FOR BASIS OF TREATY OF PEACE.—DANISH PRONOUNCED INADMISSIBLE.—INSURRECTION OF NORTH SCHLESWIGERS.—BUN-

CONTENTS

SEN'S PROJECT OF PEACE.—STATEMENT BY SAMWERS.—HIS LETTER OF 23RD FEBRUARY.—CONFERENCE IN LONDON.—THE SITUATION MISUNDERSTOOD AT BERLIN.—SAMWERS ON THE STATE OF THINGS IN LONDON 31ST MARCH 1849 21

CHAPTER III

INEFFICIENT STATE OF SCHLESWIG-HOLSTEIN WAR DEPARTMENT.—GENERAL VON PRITTWITZ COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF OF THE IMPERIAL TROOPS.—DIFFICULTY AS TO THE DUKE'S APPOINTMENT TO THE ARMY.—APPOINTMENT TO CHIEF COMMAND OF THURINGIAN CONTINGENT.—INTERVIEW WITH VON PRITTWITZ UNSATISFACTORY.—AT GETTORF.—REPORT FROM VON STIEGLITZ.—THE OPTICAL TELEGRAPH.—THE SEA FIGHT OF ECKERNFÖRDE.—ROMANTIC ESCAPE OF A NORWEGIAN COUNT.—LETTER TO PRINCE ALBERT.—HIS REPLY.—SCHLEIDEN'S REPORT 46

CHAPTER IV

RESIGNATION OF ARMISTICE GOVERNMENT IN THE DUCHIES.—A GOVERNMENT OF STADTHOLDERS.—POPULAR RISING IN SCHLESWIG-HOLSTEIN.—CHARACTER OF PRINCE VON NOER.—AN ENGLISH MAN-OF-WAR FIRED UPON.—DEMAND FOR REPARATION.—THE AFFAIR PLEASANTLY CONCLUDED.—LETTER TO PRINCE ALBERT.—PRINCE ALBERT'S OPINIONS AS TO FAILURE OF NEGOTIATIONS FOR PEACE.—CAPTAIN SCHWARTZ AND HIS PAY.—A RUSSIAN LANDING FEARED.—ARRIVAL OF THE DUCHESS AT GETTORF.—DIFFERENCES BETWEEN PRITTWITZ AND BONIN.—THE STORMING OF KOLDING.—ACTIVITY OF THE DANES.—PRITTWITZ HANGS BACK.—HIS LETTER.—EMBARKATION OF THE DANES.—THE AFFAIR OF FREDERICIA.—BUNSEN'S ACTION.—LETTER FROM COUNTESS REVENTLOW.—SYMPATHIES OF QUEEN VICTORIA.—THE BERLIN ARMISTICE AGREEMENT : THE PROTOCOL 75

CHAPTER V

UNPLEASANT SITUATION OF THE DUKE.—SPECIAL ENVOYS TO BE SENT TO ALL THE GERMAN COURTS.—THE DUKE'S LETTER TO COUNT REVENTLOW-PRIETZ.—THE COUNT'S REPLY.—EXTRACTS FROM HARBOU'S DESPATCHES.—THE DUKE OF AUGUSTENBURG ADVISED