

BISMARCK

VOL. I.



Walker & Boutall, ph. sc.

*Otto von Bismarck in 1834.
from a Drawing in the possession of the Family.*

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BISMARCK

THE MAN AND THE STATESMAN

BEING THE REFLECTIONS AND REMINISCENCES OF

OTTO PRINCE VON BISMARCK

*WRITTEN AND DICTATED BY HIMSELF AFTER
HIS RETIREMENT FROM OFFICE*

TRANSLATED FROM THE GERMAN UNDER THE SUPERVISION OF

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*WITH TWO PORTRAITS AND A FACSIMILE OF
HANDWRITING*

IN TWO VOLUMES—VOL. I.

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EDITOR'S PREFACE

PRINCE BISMARCK began his notes soon after his dismissal from the offices he had so gloriously filled had removed the espalier—as he himself repeatedly said—over which his life had hitherto climbed. The first suggestion came to him in an inquiry from Messrs Cotta, coupled with an offer of publication; and as early as June 6, 1890, an agreement was made between the Prince and the representatives of the publishing firm of Cotta, by which, in the event of any *Reminiscences* being written by the Prince, the right of publication was conveyed to that house. To Lothar Bucher, the historian and diplomatist, who after the Prince's resignation lived for years, with short intervals, as a quiet inmate now at Friedrichsruh, now at Varzin, belongs the merit of having confirmed Prince Bismarck in his resolution to set down in writing his recollections and political thoughts, and of having in daily conversations kept him to the task when begun. Bucher's shorthand notes from the Prince's dictation formed the groundwork of the first draft. This for years the Prince zealously worked at, constantly revising the notes as divided into chapters and systematically arranged, and supplementing them with his own hand. In order to lighten his labour the 'Reflections and Reminiscences' were privately printed as early as 1893, with all