

ANDREW DICKSON WHITE AS I KNEW HIM.

BY EDWARD T. HEYN.

SHORTLY before the cessation of hostilities in the world war, came the death of Andrew Dickson White. It was not granted him to see the end of the contest with its promise of universal peace, a cause which he so brilliantly and assiduously advocated. His lofty but well tempered idealism and his profound scholarship commanded the greatest respect at home and abroad. A zealous guardian of his country's rights, he performed his difficult task as Minister, and subsequently as Ambassador, to the German Empire with admirable success, and with dignity worthy of emulation.

It was in Berlin in 1901 that the writer, entering upon his work as Correspondent of the *Chicago Record*, was first privileged to make the acquaintance of Dr. White. A warm letter of introduction by Charles Kendall Adams, the President of my Alma Mater, the University of Wisconsin, undoubtedly contributed greatly to the special kindness and courtesy with which I was received, for Dr. Adams was an intimate friend of the American Ambassador, and at one time closely allied with him in his historical studies. After Dr. White's resignation, Adams became his successor as President of Cornell University. The high regard in which Dr. White held President Adams can be seen from the following letter which he wrote me from Bad Homburg, August 13, 1902, when I informed him of the death of the former President of the University of Wisconsin.

"The news of President Adams's death is a grief to me. My friendship with him began in 1857, when, on arriving as a young professor at the University of Michigan, I found him in my lecture room. He was one of my two best students in historical and kindred subjects. He at that time became greatly interested in history, and showed not merely a tenacious memory, but a power of thinking and judging on historical men and questions that interested me in him.

"On my taking a year's leave of absence from that university in 1863, I selected him to carry on my classes as an instructor, and on my departure to take the presidency of Cornell, he succeeded me in the professorship. His work was admirable from the first;

his published articles in the *North American Review* and elsewhere, gained the highest approval, and were translated abroad.

"After some time, when the circumstances of Cornell University allowed me to do so, I called him, during several successive years, to give a course of historical lectures to the senior class, and they were greatly admired.

"When, on my resignation at Cornell, after twenty years of service, the Trustees requested me to nominate my own successor, I named him, and he was elected with virtual unanimity.

"His career at Cornell, in all its most important elements, was a thorough success. He had a most remarkable gift of choosing members of the faculty. Every professor whom he nominated turned out to be of the very best. He had also admirable judgment in regard to matters of administration. Of his resignation from his Cornell presidency, it is too early to speak; but it is only justice to him to say that both the circumstances which led to it and his whole course in regard to it were to his credit. Feeling this deeply, I recommended him to a committee of the Regents of your State University, who called him, and his career there you know better than I can. All that I can say is that my observation at my short visit to Madison during his presidency showed that he was doing noble work there for the State and, indeed, for the Nation. He, like myself, was a warm believer in the mission of the great state universities of the West. He believed, as I did and as James Bryce, in his remarkable book on America, has stated, that they are among the greatest, most valuable, and most promising of American creations. That being the case, he threw himself heartily into the work, and the great institutions at Ann Arbor, Ithaca, and Madison have every reason to be grateful to him and to express their gratitude by proper memorials to him. Cornell has already done so, the Trustees having secured a fine portrait of him and hung it in the great reading-room of the University's Library.

"I regret that I must simply send you this hastily dictated letter; but I hope that some other person, who has more leisure, will do better justice to him."

I may say that during the time that Dr. White was American Ambassador in Berlin I saw a good deal of him and I learned to admire him not only for his great knowledge and splendid grasp of all matters relating to the diplomatic service, but also for his fine qualities as a gentleman, his freedom from all narrow prejudices, and his unfailing kindness. And upon coming into closer relations with many leading men of affairs connected with the German

government, the universities, and German industry, I soon realized how highly the genial American Ambassador was regarded in all these circles.

The key-note of Dr. White's success in his diplomatic career was admirably expressed by John Hay when he wrote of the Ambassador upon the occasion of the latter's retirement from the diplomatic service: "He has the singular felicity of having been always a fighting man, and having gone through life without a wound. While firm in the advocacy of any cause which he espoused, his methods in bringing his opponents to his point of view were always conciliatory and marked by consummate tact."

Dr. White, while Minister at Berlin in 1879-1881, had won the friendship of Baron von Bülow, then Prussian Minister of Foreign Affairs, and when he returned to Berlin in 1897 as American Ambassador, a similar friendship sprang up between him and Prince Bernhard von Bülow, the German Secretary of Foreign Affairs, who later (1900) became Imperial Chancellor. Of the Von Bülows, Dr. White in his autobiography writes:

"Father and son were amazingly like each other, not only in personal manner, but in their mode of dealing with public affairs. With the multitude of trying questions which pressed upon me as ambassador during six years, it hardly seemed possible that I should be still alive were it not for the genial, hearty intercourse, at the Foreign Office and elsewhere, with Count von Bülow. Sundry German papers indeed attacked him as yielding too much to me, and sundry American papers attacked me for yielding too much to him; both of us exerted ourselves to do the best possible each for his own country, and at the same time to preserve peace and increase good feeling. Occasionally during my walks in the Tiergarten I met him on his way to parliament, and no matter how pressing public business might be, he found time to extend his walk and prolong our discussions."

Dr. White placed great value on these informal discussions. When the policy of our Government in favor of the open door in China assumed a definite shape, Dr. White handed me the following memorandum:

"The Imperial Chancellor and the American Ambassador were observed, day before yesterday, taking a walk together in the Tiergarten, and, to all appearance, chatting happily in apparent continuance of the old friendship which existed between Count von Bülow's father and Mr. White when the latter was Minister here twenty years ago. Those who know that, during the past week,

the Ambassador has presented to the Foreign Office a new and more definite memorandum from his government against land-grabbing in China, may see in this some confirmation of the general opinion here that Germany inclines to take a friendly attitude toward the American view."

It was from Prince Herbert Bismarck, son of the Iron Chancellor, that the present writer learned how highly Dr. White had been regarded by his father. Prince Herbert Bismarck stated to me that not since the days of Motley had there been an American held in such high esteem by the man of blood and iron, as had Dr. White. At a later date, when the Ambassador had published an article on Bismarck (I think in the *Century Magazine*), a somewhat bitter controversy arose in one of the Hamburg papers, in the course of which, some of Dr. White's statements with regard to his relations to Bismarck were challenged. I took occasion to send him the original text of the article in the Hamburg paper to Italy where he then was, and received the following reply from him:

"Arriving in Alassio, I find your kind letter of November 13th, [1903,] and for the first time see the original text of the article in the *Hamburger Nachrichten*.

"I, of course, do not wish to enter into a question of veracity with one who writes in the spirit shown in this article, but I may say to you, personally, that, apart possibly from the one trifling detail, every statement made in my Bismarck article is exact in every particular.

"The only possibility of mistake is as to the exact date of my first sight of Bismarck. My article was written at Berlin, my diaries being in America, where they are now, and there is a bare possibility that my memory may have deceived me as to the date, though I still think that it must have been in 1868.

"It is also barely possible that upon seeing Bismarck and his family at that time in south middle Germany, I may have jumped hastily to the conclusion that they were coming from Kissingen. But apart from those two unimportant details every other statement is exactly and literally conformed to the truth.

"I beg you as a friend not to bring me into any controversy on the matter; I have no time nor taste for it. When the articles are gathered in book form, I shall have given them careful revision, and should I find any mistake anywhere it shall be rectified."

Mr. White's Bismarck letter also brings to mind the very interesting conversation I had with the Ambassador after I had shown

him a very illuminating letter which I had received from the great historian of ancient Rome, Theodor Mommsen. It may still be recalled that during the Spanish-American War, Mommsen, although previously always most friendly to the United States, revealed an antagonism to our country not unlike that shown in the great war just over, by certain prominent German professors. Mr. White, after reading Mommsen's letter then told me with much satisfaction, how during the Spanish-American War he had induced Mommsen not to publish a highly sensational article in an English magazine, in which the historian charged that the United States had become "a robber power, a piratical power, and that by pouring her incomparable resources into military designs she might menace the world's quiet, and might like Rome carry forays into every continent."

I may say that I was not in Berlin during the Spanish-American War, but in 1902, when Cuba became free and independent, I wrote Mommsen as follows: "The enclosed clipping will show you that the sceptical predictions of the German press that the United States would not grant independence to Cuba has been proved false by the establishment of the Cuban Republic." Mommsen's letter in reply, to which I have already referred, written in excellent English, contained the following:

"Do you know what the Germans call a *Hans in allen Ecken*? I should certainly get in this not very flattering predicament if I dared to sit in judgment between the United States and Cuba. Still I do not hesitate to give my private opinion. The actual American imperialism, utilizing the lesson of the South-African War, allows to Cuba full self-government, reserving political supremacy to America. This certainly will be the substance of the paramount treaty between Cuba and the United States. This final decision may be very wise, and on the whole, the new form of the Monroe Doctrine will raise, I should think, no opposition in Germany, but I cannot find it so extraordinarily generous as you seem to think."

I recall that Mr. White, while Ambassador in Berlin, gave a dinner in honor of his friend the late Frederick W. Holls of New York, who with him had been one of the American delegates to the International Peace Conference at the Hague in 1899. A reference to Dr. Holls in this article has a certain interest at the present time, for Mr. White can be quoted as authority for the statement that while both Chancellor von Hohenlohe and his Foreign Secretary, then Count von Bülow, had assured Mr. Holls while on a visit to Berlin, that Germany at the Hague conference would support the

suggestion of the United States for arbitration treaties, it was the Kaiser who finally prevented the acceptance of the far-reaching plan, which might possibly have prevented the world war.

The saddest day for the American colony in Berlin came in 1902 when it was informed that Dr. White would retire from his ambassadorial post on his seventieth birthday. Americans then living in the German capital felt that soon they would lose their best friend, and this sentiment was well expressed by the late Senator John L. Mitchell of Wisconsin when he wrote me in 1903: "Mr. White must be greatly missed by Americans in Berlin. . . ., so gentle, kind, and helpful in every way." The friendly interest of Americans in Mr. White was admirably expressed by President Roosevelt when he wrote Mr. White on his seventieth birthday: "The best is yet to be and certainly, if world-fame, troops of friends, a consciousness of well-spent years, and a great career filled with righteous achievement are constituents of happiness, you have everything the heart could wish."

Many former American university and musical students can still testify to the personal interest which Mr. White took in them while they were in Berlin. Indeed he always said that he considered it a pleasure and honor to render them service. Especially American women students were greatly indebted to him, for it was chiefly through Mr. White's efforts that the doors of the Berlin and other German universities were finally opened to American womanhood.

Mr. White was formerly a great admirer of the German universities and especially of the Berlin University, and it was therefore of special interest to me that he wrote in a letter which was read at the Alumni dinner of Cornell students in New York, November 29, 1916: "Stronger and stronger becomes my belief that the American universities are now to take the lead in the advanced education of the world, and that the American people will recognize this fact, and stand back of these institutions in the epoch-making days now at hand."

After his retirement from his post, in several messages Mr. White gave me further proofs of his interest and good will, and I recall with pleasure his interesting letter in 1909, when I served the American Government in an official capacity in Bohemia. On a visit to Prague, after I had written Dr. White of this intensely interesting city, he answered that he would have been much pleased to again have visited the "Hradschin," the castle where the Bohemian kings once lived, and especially the "Landstube," that part of the old "Burg" where the famous "defenestration" took place,

when the two imperial Austrian commissioners Martinitz and Slavata, by an angry crowd were thrown from a high window and had a very narrow escape from death. The aforesaid reference made by Dr. White to an incident in Bohemian history, which, ushering in the Thirty Years' War, led to the destruction of Bohemian independence, is of particular interest just now when Prague is again the center of attention through the establishment of the Czecho-Slovak Republic.

In 1910 when I went to Catania, Sicily, and while on a beautiful Thanksgiving day I sojourned in Syracuse, I was reminded of the introduction which Von Moltke gave to Dr. White when he presented him to the German Empress: "Mr. White was born in Homer, he lived in Syracuse, and he was once President in Ithaca." In the last named American city is Cornell University, and this famous institution, and a fine statue of Dr. White now standing before Goldwin Smith Hall, dedicated in his presence in 1915, are embodiments of his work and of his personal appearance. In his autobiography Dr. White states, that not in a boastful spirit, but reverently he had recorded his achievements in the line of education, literature, science, politics, and diplomacy, and that he had sought to fight the good fight and keep the faith. What some of these achievements were while Dr. White was American Ambassador in Berlin, I have in a small way attempted to tell in this article.

BOLSHEVISM AND THE LAWS OF PROPERTY.

BY HOMER HOYT.

THE Russian revolution was a lesson in the anatomy of nations. The slender nerve filaments that control the huge corporate bodies of material wealth and the institutions of Church and State were laid open before the eyes of the world. This dissection taught us not only that nations possess a central nervous system, but that a shock to a vital part of this nervous system will cause the disintegration and paralysis of a mighty empire. Chief among these vital points is the system of distributing wealth, or rather the laws of property and contract which control the distribution of that wealth. Recent events in Russia have demonstrated that a sudden shock to the laws of property may shatter the structure of credit which rests on the foundation of stability in property values, that it may deaden the nerves of business enterprise, kill the specializa-