FRANCE & GERMANY FROM THE PEACE OF FRANKFORT IN 1871 TO THE PEACE OF ALGESIRAS IN 1906. PP.1-138

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VICTOR MEYNIER

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LONDON SWAN SONNENSCHEIN & CO., LIM. 25 High Street, Bloomsbury, W.C. 1908

FRANCE AND GERMANY

PREFACE

This short history is intended to prove, firstly, that the French people are not so fond of revolutions and wars as their neighbours are wont to give them credit for, considering that all their revolutions can be traced to the bad faith of their own rulers, and to the machinations of their traducers; and secondly, that upon the whole, their political good faith is certainly equal, if not superior, to that of their neighbours on the eastern side of the Vosges, who never cease proclaiming urbi et orbi their unimpeachable good faith and high standard of political morality. Many of the historical facts narrated in this book will come as revelations to the English public, thoughthey are well known by the Head Officials of the Foreign Office. The impartial readers will decide for themselves where the truth lies.



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INTRODUCTION.

BEFORE I enter fully into my subject, I shall briefly relate the chief events which created and caused the downfall of the second French Empire.

I will not go farther back than the Revolution of July, in 1830, which was caused by the violation of the Constitution by Charles X. and). his Ministers. That Revolution put an end to the old French Monarchy of "Divine Right," to be replaced by that of the younger branch of the d'Orléans.

The political leaders of the bourgeoisie—or middle class—in presenting Louis Philippe to the people, declared that he would be a kind of "citizen" king to the new and liberal monarchy. Great were the rejoicings all over France to celebrate the new era of concord and liberty.

In course of time the "citizen" disappeared, as in dissolving views, to be replaced by a rather