

BARON VON MANTEUFFEL.

At the eleventh hour Prussia was invited to join the Peace Congress at Paris, and accepted the invitation. Not being one of the belligerent Powers, or a reply to the Treaty of the 2nd of December, she was invited—we quote the words of Lord Palmerston—"not to negotiate the treaty of peace, but to accede to the result of the negotiations of those who were more directly interested in the matter." As representatives she selected her Ambassador at Paris, Count Hatzfeldt, and the President of the Council and Minister of Foreign Affairs, Baron von Manteuffel.

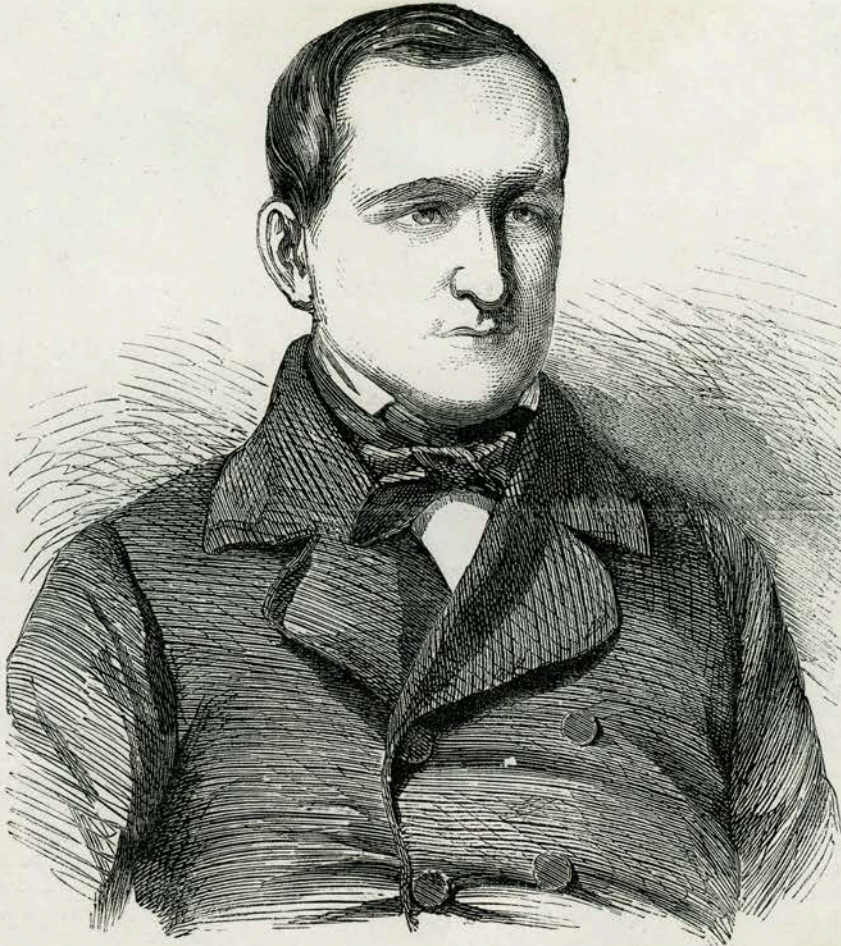
Baron Otto Theodore von Manteuffel was born on the 3rd of February, 1805, at Lübben, in the province of Brandenburg. He studied at the University of Halle, devoting his attention particularly to law and political economy. In 1829 he was appointed to an office in the Finance Department at Berlin, and was shortly afterwards appointed Councillor at Luckau, where he so distinguished himself that he was elected to represent the Sierberg district at the Brandenburg Diet. In 1841 he was promoted to a Councillorship at Königsberg. In 1843 he was appointed Vice-President of the regency of Stettin. In 1844 he was attached as Reporting Councillor to the Prince of Prussia, with the rank of a Privy Councillor. In the following year he was made a member of the Council of State. After the revolution of 1848 Count Brandenburg was intrusted with the formation of a Ministry, and Baron von Manteuffel was given the portfolio of the Ministry of the Interior. On the death of Count Brandenburg the Presidency of the Council of Ministers devolved upon Count Ladenberg, and the portfolio of Foreign Affairs was given to Baron von Manteuffel *ad interim*. On the resignation of Count Ladenberg in 1850, the King, appreciating the firmness displayed by Baron von Manteuffel during the revolutionary period, conferred upon him the Presidency of the Council with the portfolio of Foreign Affairs, both of which high offices he continues to hold. His selection as Plenipotentiary to the Paris Conferences shows the confidence placed in him by the King, and is in keeping with the precedent of the other States represented.

To this notice of the chief Prussian representative we must add a few words respecting the policy of Prussia on the Eastern question. It must be remembered that since 1850 it is Baron von Manteuffel, actually the Prussian representative at Paris, who has been Foreign Minister to King Frederick William. Prussia was a party to the Vienna Conferences; and, as such, was bound in honour to act in common with the Western Powers. On the 18th March, 1854, Baron von Manteuffel declared to the Prussian Chamber that Prussia adhered to the Vienna Note; but that Prussia would preserve an independent attitude, and would resist every attempt that might be made to influence her conduct, come from what quarter it might; the strength and the sword of Germany would only be employed to defend German interests. This was Baron von Manteuffel's first declaration of Prussian neutrality. Now, neutrality, as Lord Clarendon justly foretold, has been more exhausting, more disastrous, more fatal to the interests of Prussia than a short and decisive conflict would have been. The popular sympathies of Germany have been transferred to her rival, Austria, in whose hands the destinies of Germany now rest. The passive attitude which Prussia assumed was not neutrality. It enabled Russia to withdraw her troops from the Polish-Prussian frontier to employ them in the Crimea against the Allies.

Baron von Manteuffel had a very difficult game to play. On the one hand the King (bound by such close ties to Russia) and the Court declared them-

selves for Russia; on the other, the sympathies of the Chambers and people were with the Western Powers. The Committee appointed to discuss the proposal of a loan of thirty millions of dollars for armaments unanimously adopted the resolution in its favour, provided the credits thus granted were not to be applied to the support of Russia; or, to quote the words of the report, "in consideration that his Majesty's Government

has declared that it will continue to adhere to the policy hitherto pursued; and, consequently, labour in accord with the Cabinets of Vienna, Paris, and London, and especially in intimate union with Austria, and all other German States, for the speedy restoration of peace on an equitable basis, as proclaimed in the Vienna Conference Protocols, under reservation of full freedom of decision as to active interference." This was almost tantamount to a vote of want of confidence. The debate which ensued was a warm one. General Bonin declared that a union with Russia would be tantamount to parricide. Baron von Manteuffel, with a courage which does him honour, declared that the Government would consider a conditional vote as a refusal. Despite the exertions of M. de Vincke, supported by the Extreme Left, who proposed to refuse the credits unless guarantees were given that no part of the sum should be applied in favour of Russia, the Government carried its point. In a very remarkable speech, in which M. de Vincke said that Prussia had become "the postman of Europe," he observed, "We, gentlemen, have to look at our interests in a Prussian point of view; if Russia should seize upon the



BARON VON MANTEUFFEL, PRUSSIAN PLENIPOTENTIARY AT THE PEACE CONFERENCE AT PARIS.

Bosphorus and upon the Sound she becomes invincible, and you have a direct interest in opposing it. If you are a European Power you ought to oppose such projects most energetically; if you are not, you ought the more to join those who can defend your weakness." On the 25th April Baron von Manteuffel announced that he had concluded a treaty (on the 20th) with Austria. General Bonin was dismissed from the Ministry of War; and the Prince of Prussia left Berlin in a manner that evinced his disapproval of the Manteuffel policy. Prussia obstinately refused to join the Treaty of the 2nd December, and thereby sunk into the position of a second-rate Power. It is true that Baron von Manteuffel represented Prussia with the other Powers at Paris, but, as we have already said, not to negotiate, but to accede to the negotiations, except in so far as the revision of the Treaties of 1840 and 1841 were concerned, touching the navigation of the Bosphorus and Dardanelles, to which treaty Prussia was a party.

STEAM FROM THE KETTLE.—The steam which issues from the spout of a tea-kettle is no hotter, as measured by a thermometer, than the boiling liquid within; yet, when condensed in a body of cold water or ice, it gives out as much heat as one thousand times its weight of boiling water would do. This heat of steam, which is insensible to the thermometer, is called latent heat, and it differs in quantity for different kinds of vapour.—*Dr. Ure.*

CONGREVE ROCKETS.—These destructive missiles were invented by Sir William Congreve, the eldest son of Lieut.-Col. Sir William Congreve, whose numerous experiments, made while he was Comptroller of the Royal Laboratory at Woolwich, essentially contributed to the success of the invention. These rockets were first employed at the attack of Boulogne, in 1806, by Commodore Owen. The cases are metal, and the carcasses have strong iron heads, filled with a composition as hard and solid as iron itself. The range is 3300 yards, or nearly two miles. A 32-pounder penetrates nine feet in common ground, and in bombardments pierces solid walls and penetrates several floors.—*"Things Not Generally Known."*