



THE HOUSES OF PARLIAMENT, VIENNA.

Men with a Future:

I.—COUNT AGENOR GOLUCHOWSKI,
THE AUSTRIAN FOREIGN MINISTER

THE pretentious Houses of Parliament on the Ring Strasse, Vienna, rarely attract the interest of the Foreign Minister. With the Minister of War and the Emperor he forms an inner cabinet to deal with affairs momentous enough to involve the existence of the Dual Empire itself. The Foreign Minister attends Parliament to explain the Imperial policy to the chosen representatives of the Austrian and Hungarian people on matters common to both. During the remainder of the year he is busily engaged in the square, grey-painted building on the famous Ballhaus Platz, at the Bellaria corner of the Imperial Burg, with its watchful sentries.

Three years have almost elapsed since Count Agenor Goluchowski entered its broad portals as Count Kalnoky's successor. His appointment as Foreign Minister—the direct act of the Emperor—caused at the time, May, 1895, no little surprise both in Austria and abroad. Up till this time all that was known of Count Goluchowski in European diplomatic circles was that he had acted as *attaché* at the Austrian Embassy in Paris, while in Austria itself he was chiefly remembered as the Ambassador who had suc-

ceeded, in face of great difficulties, in bringing about a commercial treaty with Roumania. Those who had come in contact with him during his term of diplomatic service abroad had found that he did not treat those of his compatriots who came to him for assistance in that cool and off-hand manner which is common to most Austrian diplomatists. In Austrian society it was known that Count Goluchowski belonged to that distinguished Polish family which was the first to give its allegiance to Austria at a time when the Galician nobles were all declared opponents of the Austrian Government. His father was for many years Statthalter of Galicia, and subsequently Minister of the Interior. Count Goluchowski is married to the Princess Anna Murat, a daughter of Prince Joachim Murat, and at the time of his call to office was living a quiet family life at his castle in Skala, Galicia.

When he made his first official speech, in reply to an address of congratulation on his appointment to office, Count Goluchowski declared his intention of seconding the Emperor's efforts in the cause of European peace, at the same time guarding Austrian interests abroad with energy and determination. Looking back on the three years

which have elapsed since then, it must be conceded that Count Goluchowski has accomplished the rare feat of fulfilling the pledges which he made on taking office. Enough has been published of what took place in diplomatic circles during the recent troubles in the Near East for us to know that Count Goluchowski was the chief agent in maintaining the unity of the European Concert.

During the Greco-Turkish War, there were days when the peace of Europe was seriously endangered by the manifest desire of Serbia and Bulgaria to take up arms against Turkey. This was prevented by the joint action of Austria and Russia, which Goluchowski was chiefly instrumental in bringing about. It is not a little to his credit that he has succeeded where Bismarck failed, and that, instead of a secret treaty made without the knowledge of Austria's allies, he was able to conclude an agreement by which Austria may act jointly with Russia in the Near East, while at the same time she maintains her allegiance to the Triple Alliance.

But it is not only in diplomatic *finesse* that Count Goluchowski has shown his ability as Foreign Minister. Recently, when an Austrian subject had been shamefully maltreated by Turkish officials in Asia Minor, the Porte was shown in an unmistakable manner that an iron hand is directing Austrian affairs abroad. Quite recently Count Goluchowski rallied the commercial classes in Austria to his side by his speech on the international tariff question. He

fully recognises the necessity of boldly facing this problem, and has expressed his views with a frankness not often found in a diplomatist. "Just as the present century," he said, "has been characterised by the struggles of nationalities, so the next century will be marked by the struggle for commercial existence between the countries of the world, and European nations must unite to successfully defend their existence." This utterance,

which has been interpreted in various ways, was chiefly directed against America and American competition, although he probably had in his mind the possibility of a Customs and Commercial Union of the British Empire. Count Goluchowski shares the dislike of England which is common to nearly all Continental statesmen, and has shown his distrust of her in more than one way. Apart from this inability to wholly escape the infection of Anglophobia, Count Goluchowski is an unusually enlightened and progressive statesman. When replying to a recent deputation, he rather surprised his visitors by telling them to inaugurate

a vigorous agitation, and so bring popular pressure to bear in official quarters.

It will be seen from this that Count Goluchowski is no bureaucrat, but a man fully alive to the necessities of the times. His aristocratic origin, his diplomatic experience, and his administrative ability, all aid him in playing an important rôle; and as he is only forty-eight, he is emphatically a man with a future in European affairs.



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