

Excerpts relating to St. George's, Berlin, from "Twenty Years of Continental Work and Travel"

by the Right Rev. Bishop Wilkinson, D.D.

April 1883 – I left Dresden for Berlin on 9 April, and on the 10th went to the Crown Prince's palace for an audience with the Crown Princess, who wished to see me upon the subject of the proposed continental bishopric. I was received at the bottom of the great staircase by Count Seckendorf, who was upon the Crown Prince's staff in the Franco-German War, and whom Dr. Russell, *The Times* correspondent, described as "a good specimen of a young German nobleman," and so he was. He conducted me upstairs till we arrived at a pair of folding doors. These admitted us to a large *salon*, down which the Crown Princess advanced, greeted me most cordially, and immediately began speaking of my mission to Germany and Berlin. She was short, and her profile almost identical with that of her mother. She had not given audience to anyone for several days, having suffered much from neuralgia. It was most kind of her, therefore, to see me. She told me that the Emperor had given a site for an English church, and I said that I hoped that when built the Berlin church would be as good as that at Dresden. "I am sure," she said, with some *empressement*, "I hope so; we need something better than we have." The Crown Princess is a warm adherent of our Church, and attends the English service every Sunday evening. Her Imperial Highness, in speaking of the bishopric, said that we must not speak of it in Germany in connexion with Heligoland¹; that that title must not be given to the see. She spoke much of England, and after about a quarter of an hour I made a movement to take my leave, but she interrupted my intention, and seemed anxious to continue our conversation about the old country. Thinking I had trespassed long enough upon her time, I moved several times towards the door, but each time she continued the conversation, and at last said, "Now you must see the children." She called an attendant, and ordered them to be sent for, but they were out, and I missed the pleasure.

A fairly large congregation at the confirmation in the Mon Bijou Palace chapel, considering the smallness of the English community, which I was told did not number 150. The colony of English and Americans has, however, much increased since those days. The Crown Princess would have been present, but she told me that she had a State engagement, which could not possibly be cancelled.

November 1886 – Upon arrival at Friedrichstrasse station a telegram was handed to me from Sir Edward Malet, the English Ambassador, stating that the Crown Princess desired to see me.

The new English church at Berlin, erected since my visit in 1883, was built to commemorate the Crown Princess's silver wedding. It stands in the Mon Bijou Palace gardens, and is an exceedingly handsome specimen of Gothic architecture, with a slender spire rising from the midst of the roof. It is constructed of red Finland split granite, and covered with English slate. It has three entrances, one at the west end for the general congregation, another at the centre of the north wall which serves as a private entrance for the Crown Princess and family to the royal pews, and another at the north-east leading to the vestry. The church has one aisle; it would have been better had another been added, for the building is not too large for the congregation. The oak and ironwork throughout are very good.

¹ "The Archbishop of Canterbury had started discussions in 1878 and 1879 that Heligoland should be made the Centre for Northern and Central Europe, as Gibraltar was for Southern Europe since 1842. There should be a Bishop of Heligoland. The Crown Princess advised against a See of Heligoland." Schniewind, Paul, *Anglicans in Germany*, p. 33.

The font is the gift of the Duchess of Bedford, Lady Ermytrude Malet's mother. The altar cloths are very rich, the work of the Crown Princess, Princess Louise, and Princess Christian. The altar furniture is the gift of the Empress Augusta. Round the walls, beneath the roof, run texts chosen by the Crown Princess as follows: "Glory to God in the highest, on earth peace, goodwill towards men." "Let the wicked forsake his way, and the unrighteous man his thoughts, and let him return unto the Lord, and He will have mercy upon him, and to our God, and He will abundantly pardon." "The mercy of the Lord is everlasting upon them that fear Him, and His righteousness unto children's children." "The peace of God, which passeth all understanding, keep your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus." "Come unto Me, all ye that labour and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest." And the last, most significant of the exile from her beloved England, "Here we have no continuing city, but we seek one to come." Close to the royal pews, which are recessed in a small transept, is a little sculpture in marble, given to the Crown Princess by a Köln sculptor, a friend of her father, the Prince Consort. The upper part represents the infant Saviour upon His mother's knee, feeding birds which alight upon the ground, and beneath are the words, in Latin, "Behold the fowls of the air, which sow not, neither do they reap, nor gather into barns, and yet your Heavenly Father feedeth them."

The Crown Princess sent the State architect, Herr Raschdorf, to England for two months to study English church architecture before drawing the plans. It is a truly royal chapel, of which our community in Berlin may well be proud. It is dedicated to St. George. Upon this occasion a large gathering assembled at the chaplain's house to meet me, Sir Edward Malet, our Ambassador, and some of the Crown Princess's household being present.

[...]

On Friday, 26 November, I confirmed in St. George's Church. The Crown Princess and Princess Victoria were present. The Princess's voice was very distinct, the royal seat being not far from the chancel steps, where my chair was placed. One of the candidates was a great-niece of John Wesley. I had some conversation with her afterwards in the vestry. Two gentlemen from Grünberg, in Silesia, called to see me upon the needs of the English in the factory of that place, numbering about 150. They were by no means all Church people. One of the gentlemen told me *he* was not, "but," he added, "we have had a meeting, and have agreed to sink our differences and seek a minister of the Church of England." This is frequently the case on the Continent, where dissenters are freer than in England to act as they please. I then went to the palace for an audience with the Crown Prince and Princess. I was shown into a prettily-furnished drawing-room, in which hung a large picture of a Franco-German battlefield. The Crown Prince was in uniform. He and the Princess received me most kindly. We talked much of the new church, which I told them was the best English church upon the Continent, from east to west, a thoroughly good, honest piece of work, a right royal chapel. The Crown Princess asked me if the church at the Hague was not better, to which I gave a decided "No." "It is surrounded by such beautiful trees, said the Crown Prince; "they wanted us to take them down for the building of the church, but I begged for them." I then spoke of our wish to build a church at Köln. "For my part," said the Crown Prince, putting both his hands upon his breast in German fashion to express heartiness of intention, "the more English churches you build in Germany the better I shall like it. This Berlin church has been the wish of twenty-five years of my life." I spoke of the beautiful altar cloths. The Crown Princess said that she had made the red one, her sister Princess Christian the green, and that Her Majesty's consul gave the white one, which had been on the altar that day. I also spoke of the monument near the royal seats. She said it was the work of a very dear friend of her father, for whom he had a great regard. She asked if I thought it appropriate. I said very much so. I then mentioned their visit to the little watering-place in Italy of which I had read, and their kindness

to the poor fisher-folk, which had pleased the inhabitants so much. The Crown Prince said it was a charming little place, quiet and out of the way, no visitors, and where they were all to themselves. The Crown Prince had an engagement, and had to leave, the Crown Princess begging me to stay, as she had several matters to talk over. First about Holy Communion. At the confirmation I had advised the candidates to attend early service, and with reference evidently to what I had urged she said it was very difficult for her to attend early service. She wished she could attend the English church more frequently, but was obliged to go to the German church. She spoke of her wish for a full choral service, and choir-boys too. "I love to see those dear English boys in surplices when I go to England, but how can I manage it here?" I told her of the Heidelberg church choir of German boys, in which she seemed interested. We also discussed the proposed institution for English and American governesses in Berlin, which Her Royal Highness was anxious to found. They wanted £7000; how could it be raised? I said that if Her Royal Highness would write her wishes to me I would endeavour to get London churches to help, and I would preach on behalf of the work. Talking of my London work, she told me how much she would like to visit the poor of Berlin, but could not do so – that in London she could walk from Buckingham Palace anywhere, but not in Berlin. After discussing several other matters, the Princess rose to go, and after some last words said suddenly that she wished I could stay over Sunday. I replied that I was due in Dresden on Sunday, and could not possibly do so. Reminding her of something Her Royal Highness had promised to do, she took out her pocket-handkerchief and, tying a knot in it, said, "Now I shall not forget." And so we parted. The Crown Prince was already beginning to speak somewhat huskily, the beginning of that long and terrible failure of speech that ended in cancer and death.

[...]

A Mr. Binns from Rummelsburg came to see me to talk over the possibility of a chaplain for Schönwieder [sic], Rummelsburg, and Hoppergarten [sic], the two former manufacturing centres containing English workmen; the latter a racing centre, containing trainers, stablemen, and jockey boys.

March 1887 – Upon reaching Berlin I received an intimation that the Crown Princess, hearing I was passing through to Russia, wished to see me. Upon arriving at the palace I was shown into a room hung with tapestries and furnished with quaint old German furniture. After a short while the Crown Princess entered hurriedly, saying in her eager, impulsive way, "A thousand apologies for keeping you waiting. I hear your time in Berlin is very short," she added, "but I wanted to see you." There were several things about the chaplaincy that she wanted to talk over, the proposed chaplaincy for the Schönwieder [sic] and Rummelsburg people, which she would gladly help, but that she had so many calls. I said I thought we could get on as far as stipend was concerned, but I would see. Then about the chaplaincy of Berlin. If the chaplain left, could I get the right man for the place, as foreigners judged of our church mainly by the chaplain. Also about Köln, she hoped to be able to do as I wished, and to lay the first stone of a proposed English church, but she must ask the Crown Prince. Perhaps when he went to Ems, or when she went to England for the Jubilee in June, she might be able to manage it. We then further discussed some matters relating to the chaplaincy, and the audience, which was somewhat short, owing to being pressed for time, ended. On my way from the palace I waited awhile to watch the members going into the German Parliament. A crowd was around the entrance. I asked who was expected – Bismarck. Presently a brougham drove up. I stepped into the street, and stood close to the carriage as it turned into the archway. Fortunately Bismarck sat on the

near side. He saw, doubtless, that I was English, and probably recognised the bishop's dress, for he most courteously leaned forward to the window and, with a very gracious smile on his grim old face, made a deep military salute as I took off my hat and bowed to the great German Chancellor.

November 1887 – Upon arrival in Berlin no kindly messages as formerly from the Crown Princess to greet me and invite me to the palace, she and the Crown Prince being at San Remo. A great gloom overhung the city on account of the Crown Prince's critical state of health. After a confirmation and large reception I called at the Empress Augusta's palace, but Her Majesty had not yet returned from Coblenz. On Advent Sunday I preached at St. George's Church, both the English and American ambassadors being present with their staff. A son of Count Bernstorff in uniform and many Germans amongst the congregation, also a daughter of Count Shouvaloff, the Russian Ambassador. She always attends the English church. I preached upon the Crown Prince's illness, taking for my subject the sick son of the Capernaum nobleman. I was asked upon this occasion to go and see the old Kaiser William, but I declined upon the plea that he was in sorrow on account of his son's illness, and I would not intrude upon it. I contented myself with strolling up the Unter den Linden as far as his palace, and seeing him at the historic window wave his salute to the guard as it marched past. The crowd assembled to see him was unusually large, to express their sympathy with him in his trouble. He waved his hand several times, and then retired. In less than three months he was gone. In the evening I went out to Schönweide to attend a meeting upon the subject of providing the English there, and at Rummelsburg, with a chaplain, but they appeared to me to be dissenters, and not to want me. Little came of the effort I made for them. The Crown Princess kindly wrote to me on 25 November reporting well of the Crown Prince, and expressing herself as very grateful for offering to use prayers for him in our churches in Germany, but thinking it better not to do so, as it might alarm the public. She wrote from Villa Zirio, San Remo, thanking me for my sympathy for her in her "great trouble."

I had suggested the use of a prayer in our churches in Germany on behalf of the Crown Prince. She thought the draft of it which I sent "most fit and appropriate," and earnestly trusted I should not think she did not duly appreciate the feeling which prompted its composition, but asked that no *special* prayer might be used, fearing that if it were known she had authorized the use of a special prayer in the English churches it would give rise to the idea that "immediate danger was to be apprehended."

She asked that the prayers of the congregation for the Crown Prince as for other sick people in that "for all sorts and conditions of men" and in the Litany might be used, and "prays with all her heart that it may please God to answer favourably the supplications that are raised to Him on behalf of her beloved husband."

November 1888 – Just before leaving England on 14 November, 1888, for North Germany and Russia, Count Seckendorf, who was about to accompany the Empress Frederick to England, was instructed by Her Majesty to write and say how sorry she was that she would not be in Berlin at the time of my visit. Her Majesty was about to start for England, after her great sorrow, to stay with the Queen.

[...]

[P]assing through Berlin on my way to Russia, I was met at the station by the chaplain, who handed me a letter from Count Seckendorf, to say how glad the Empress would be if I would be so kind as to visit the Emperor Frederick's tomb in the Friedens-Kirche at Potsdam, and to say a silent prayer beside it. I had but twenty minutes in Berlin before going on in the Russian train about midnight.

[...]

Upon arrival back in Berlin I consecrated a mausoleum, which had been erected by wealthy parents as the resting-place of an only child, a little girl. It is a costly little building of yellow stone; there is room for several more coffins, the crypt having two small wings, one on either side of the entrance. I held a short service, but it was impressive, and the parents – she English – were very grateful. Mr. Grove, of Berlin, had the orders for alterations at Kronberg, the Empress Frederick's house near Homburg. He told me it would be very fine when completed. The present Emperor bought it for £20,000, and gave it to his mother. Mr. Grove saw a good deal of Mackenzie² when in Berlin. About a fortnight before the Emperor's death he asked him what hope there was. He replied that he might live for some time to come. It was the Empress Frederick's intention to fill the east window of St. George's Church with glass to the memory of her husband, and Queen Victoria would place one in the nave, the English of Berlin wishing to fill the rose window in the royal pew to his memory.

I confirmed and preached in St. George's Church on the Sunday, and preached twice to the factory people out at Schönweide and Rummelsburg, on either side of the Sprey. I was shown our Queen's signature in the vestry book of St. George's: "Victoria, R.I., April 25, 1888." Under it "Victoria," no R.I., though she was both. Then a space, and then "Beatrice"; above hers, "Henry Battenburg." A joke went round at his writing his name above hers, when someone remarked, "Ah! here in Germany gentlemen come before ladies." Then follow the signatures: "Victoria of Prussia," "Sophia of Prussia," and "Margarita of Prussia." Our Queen was much pleased with the church. "Es ist eine schöne Kirche," she said to the chaplain, forgetting that he was English.

Upon returning to my quarters I found a request to attend an audience of the Emperor William the next day at 12.45. I had much talk with Lady Ermytrude Malet at dinner about the Emperor Frederick's illness. She told me that she should never forget the day upon which she heard that he was a doomed man; that was before he went to Ems. Lady Ermytrude thought it very good for the Empress that she had gone to England, so completely overwhelmed was she with all she had passed through, so much changed by the constant grief and anguish of that terrible time. The interest she took in the church was about her only comfort; she visited it frequently, and superintended little alterations and improvements, which distracted her mind in a measure from the one thought. Lady Ermytrude thinks she will be happy at Kronberg altering and managing as she pleases; interest and occupation being what she needs. The Empress Augusta wrote regretting her absence from Berlin at the time of my visit; she was always kind and ever thoughtful.

Sir Edward Malet informed me that the Emperor had communicated with him about the audience with me, and he had replied to the effect that he should be very glad if he would see me. He expressed himself as much gratified at the Emperor wishing to do so, and said he felt sure it would

² "Relations between the two countries were strained on account of the role of the British medical expert, the laryngologist Sir Morell MacKenzie, during the fatal illness of Emperor Friedrich III." Schniewind, Paul, *Anglicans in Germany*, p. 35.

do good. I told him that I thought it very kind of the Emperor wishing to see me, since he could not, of course, take the same interest in me and our Church that his father and mother had done. "No," he said, "that is true; but I am sure it is well you should see him; indeed, when I was consulted about it, I replied that I thought it would be right that he should see you."

So on Tuesday, 27 November, I went to the Kaiser's palace at 12.45 for the audience. The Emperor was receiving a large number of military men of various regiments, all, of course, in full uniform and decorations. These passed out in considerable numbers as I entered. I was ushered into a large audience room at the top of the great staircase, and requested to wait for a few moments. In about five minutes, consumed by much going to and fro of officers and court servants, the doors at the end of the large saloon were opened, and I was conducted by the Hofmarschal to an inner room, and thence through a short approach into a third room, small but richly furnished. After a short pause the Emperor entered, bowing rapidly two or three times, and advancing quickly to where I was standing, grasped me heartily and warmly by the hand. He was in uniform, wearing the Order of the Black Eagle. He spoke of the church, its beauty, and quiet situation. I said in reply that it was all that could be desired, and that the English community of Berlin had much for which to thank His Majesty's royal house, the site having been given by his grandfather, and the church built practically by his parents. Having thus cleared the way by the recognition of past benefactions, I ventured further to ask His Majesty to complete the good work already done, by granting a site near the church for a chaplain's house. He replied that he would see what could be done, as he knew the chaplain had at present to live a long way off.

[...]

Yesterday a living, to-day a dead Kaiser, for on the following day, 28 November, I went to Potsdam. It was a lovely day for November, quite spring-like, and one almost expected to hear birds singing in the woods. New Babelsberg, which is passed on the way, is beautifully situated in lake and forest of Scotch firs, interspersed with islands. This was left to the Empress Augusta for her life. From the Potsdam station I drove past the Marmor Palace, the Potsdam residence of the reigning Kaiser. Under this palace at the end of the new bridge stands an old gnarled elm tree, under which petitioners stood and held up their petitions to Frederick the Great when he appeared at the window. If he was willing to receive the petitioners he called them up to hear their requests. The tree is low, small, decayed, sheathed in iron up to the branches, and surrounded by iron railings.

Potsdam is full of palaces, a fine, clean, handsome town, not too new, dating back to the time of Frederick the Great. Fine old trees and water everywhere. After driving for about one and a half miles we reached the outskirts, and the carriage stopped at a lodge near the Friedens-Kirche. Here I presented Count Seckendorf's letter containing the Empress Frederick's kind wish that I should visit the Emperor's tomb. Without the presentation of this letter there would have been no chance of admission. The letter had to be left in the hands of those who had charge of the church, in order that the visit might be verified as one authorized by the Empress Frederick herself. I was conducted through walks and approaches planted with fir and evergreen shrubs, to the Friedens-Kirche. It is Byzantine, of simple but beautifully finished style, in yellow freestone. A lofty campanile with open stone galleries stands at the west end. The interior consists of a lofty nave and two aisles. Much marble is used throughout – black, white and red. At the west end stands an organ in a gallery, built around a rose window. The nave and its pillars are simple, severe Byzantine. [...] Until a fortnight

before my visit the coffin had rested in the nave of the church, near the tomb of Friederich Wilhelm and Louise. Thence, the mortuary chapel having been redecorated, frescoed, gilded, and otherwise prepared, the coffin was moved. The chapel is entered by folding doors of white and gold. These were unlocked, and I was allowed to stand close to the coffin. The little chapel had probably not been opened for any but members of the Royal Family, and I felt it a great kindness on the part of the Empress to allow me the honour of visiting so sacred a spot. The interior was lighted by a window, looking out on the small lake by which the new mausoleum was being built. It presented a mass of colour consequent upon the almost endless number of wreaths and costly ribbons overset with gilt and silvered ornaments, which literally choked the walls. At the east end are these words "Lasset die Kindlein zu mir kommen," and under them stands the small grey sarcophagus of young Prince Sigismund, the son of the Emperor and Empress Frederick, who died at about five years of age. [...] Next to Sigismund's sarcophagus and westward stood Prince Waldemar's coffin. He died at the age of thirteen of diphtheria. [...] Then longwise – that is head to the east and filling up the rest of the space in the tiny chapel – stood Kaiser Friederich's coffin. [...]

Here at the foot of the coffin I knelt, and prayed [...]

1889 ... begged Her Majesty to fix her own hour and choose the hymns. She selected "Brief Life," "Abide with Me," and "Thy Will be Done," saying that they were all favourites. "But one thing I want you to do, don't let it be known; there need be no congregation, and I don't want a crowd outside." I said I would take care that Her Majesty's wishes were attended to. She might leave all arrangements to me. I then asked her to excuse me, upon the ground of seeing the chaplain that night and making all necessary arrangements. So we parted.

At ten o'clock the next morning the Empress Frederick, with the Grand Duchess of Saxe-Meiningen and her little daughter, with the Princesses Margarita and Sophie and the Court in attendance, arrived at the church, and took their places in the royal pew. The doors were locked upon their entrance, and no one was admitted, indeed, no one knew of the service; all had been kept, according to her wish, secret. The service consisted of selections from the burial service, special psalms, and a special lesson. "The souls of the righteous," etc. I then gave a short address upon the resurrection of the body, the service occupying three-quarters of an hour. At its close I returned to the vestry, where a message came to me from the Empress that she wished to see me before leaving the church. She had been much moved by the service, and was still deeply affected. She grasped my hand, saying again and again, "I am so grateful to you for this; it has all been so full of comfort, thank you again for all your kindness." I said that Her Majesty must always command me to act as her chaplain whenever I was within call.

1890 – At Riga I made but short stay. At Eydkuhnen, the frontier, the German officials demanded my passport. "Passport in Deutschland!" I exclaimed. "Oh, Englisher? Rechts," and the Civis Romanus sum was sufficient.

I reached Berlin early on a Sunday morning, preaching at St. George's in the evening. The Empress Frederick and Princesses Victoria and Margarita were present. After service the Empress waited in the royal lobby, sending word that she would like to see me. Was I stopping in Berlin? I said that I was only passing through from Russia on my way to England, and that I had been five nights out of bed. "What a journey!" she exclaimed; "you must be dead tired." She wished to know if I was coming

to Berlin again this year. She asked this, I understood, because she wanted me to unveil the new windows which she and our Queen were putting in to the memory of the Emperor Frederick. I told her I should not. She said she was going to England in June, and hoped to see me there.

1893 – At Berlin I confirmed in St. George’s Church. A window had been recently erected there in memory of Queen Victoria’s Jubilee, the subject being the visit of the Queen of Sheba to Solomon. A small window had also been erected in the Empress Frederick’s Closet, representing an angel holding the shields of England and Prussia together with an Imperial crown. Poor Empress Frederick! Always staunch and constant in her love to England.

May 1895 – At Berlin I preached and confirmed and did other work. The new Parliament House was then just finished. It is fine, but the dome too low and squat. The Column of Victory stands near, [...] one of the most perfectly proportioned and designed works of art in Europe.

Upon this occasion I had much talk with Sir Edward Malet upon this important chaplaincy; I strongly advised a new appointment. This was duly effected.

1896 – Upon reaching Berlin I was met by the Ambassador’s carriage, and drove to the Embassy, where I was the guest of Sir F. and Lady Lascelles. The Empress Frederick had expressed a wish that I should visit her “Governesses’ Home” with Sir Frank, so we went and inspected it. Then to the palace of the Empress Frederick, who wished to see me. She had much to say, upon all sorts of subjects. [...] She seemed never weary of talking about England. It was always dear England and what might be passing there. “I shall be at the confirmation to-morrow, certainly,” were her parting words as she came out with me into the corridor. She was always most considerate, friendly, and kind. I never saw her again. She fell into ill-health, which increased till the terribly painful end came.

1898 – Upon my arrival at the Embassy I found Sir Frank Lascelles at the top of the short flight of steps leading up into the hall, standing to greet me in all his diplomatic magnificence, having just come back from the Queen’s birthday dinner with the Emperor. The [Continental Annual Church] Conference met in the great ballroom of the Embassy, Sir Frank having kindly put the Embassy at our disposal for the sessions. All was most kindly ordered and hospitably arranged for us.

[...]

The Berlin cabs are now provided with dials or taximeters, which indicate the distance travelled by figures showing the number of pfennigs to be paid. The dial starts with a fixed figure of fifty pfennigs; that fare must be paid for any course however short up to eight hundred metres. When the passenger has travelled four hundred metres the figure 60 springs into the place hitherto occupied by the figure 50. When another four hundred metres has been travelled 70 springs into the place of the 60, and so forth. Four persons can ride for the same fare. It would be an inestimable blessing if this taximeter system obtained in England. How much cabby warfare it would spare the public.

March 1900 – On the Sunday I preached and confirmed. During my visit to Berlin I took the opportunity of talking over the trusteeship of the Berlin Endowment Fund, advising as trustees, Sir Frank, the American Ambassador, the Bishop of London, and Lord Ashcombe. Lord Gough, who is

attached to the Embassy here, told me that the Lutherans who refused to blend their Lutheranism with Calvinism under Frederick William III were imprisoned for thirteen years, and liberated by Frederick William IV. But they are still persecuted.

1902 – The year 1902 opened with a start for Russia on 30 January. I reached Berlin on the 31st, confirming the next day, and preaching on Sunday, 2 February.

1904 – Having confirmed and done my work at the Hague, I went on to Düsseldorf, to endeavour to settle the differences in that chaplaincy, and from thence to Berlin, where, as usual, I was Sir F. Lascelles' guest at the Embassy. Princess Feodora, the Empress's sister, came to lunch one day; she is affable and pleasant.

A confirmation on 20 February was followed by a large reception of the English and American colony in the ballroom of the Embassy. Germany seemed to be with Japan in the war, but the papers and the Government kept quiet and said nothing. The new bronzes lately erected in the English church to the memory of our Queen and the Empress Frederick are very good.