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GOVERNMENTS AND PARTIES IN CONTINENTAL EUROPE.

CHAPTER VII.

GERMANY: THE WORKING OF THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT.

AFTER having surveyed the political structure of the Empire and the States, we are in a position to examine the actual working of the federal government. This may be said to turn upon the relation of the Chancellor to the three organs of the Empire; for, like a central wheel that is geared to all the others, the Chancellor comes into direct contact with each of the imperial authorities. The subject may, therefore, be conveniently treated under two heads: first, the relation of the Chancellor to the Emperor; and second, his relation to the Reichstag; his relation to the Bundesrath having already been considered while dealing with the organization of that body.

Actual working of the government depends on the relation of the chancellor to the other federal authorities.

It is clear that the Chancellor would occupy an absurd position if he were confined to the matters that belong strictly to his office, for he would be the sole