

SPRIT OF THE PRESS.

EDITORIAL OPINIONS OF THE LEADING JOURNALS UPON CURRENT TOPICS—COMPILLED EVERY DAY FOR THE EVENING TELEGRAPH.

THE CRISIS IN FRANCE—IMPERIALISM IN PERIL.

From the N. Y. Herald.

The latest news from France is of a very alarming character. Cable telegrams report most exciting demonstrations by large crowds assembled in the Montmartre district, charges of cavalry on the people, attempts to erect barricades and their frustration by the police. A number of newspaper editors were arrested, and several press seizures made by order of Napoleon and Eugene drove through the disturbed district, and were, we are informed, cheered enthusiastically by immense assemblages of people. The result of the elections, which has proved a cause of rejoicing to lovers of liberty all over the world, has been accepted generally in France as a triumphant protest against imperialism. We do not recollect any great event in these last years which has been commented upon with such unanimity by French, German, English, and American journals. As the details reach us from different quarters, it is made the more manifest that the result of the Paris elections called forth the same judgment everywhere—that the one-man government was doomed. This judgment was confirmed when it gradually became known how matters had gone in the other large cities and in the departments. The International puts it strongly, but not too strongly, when it says that Paris has declared that "it is no longer contented with a government which is neither personal government nor the government of the country by the country, nor despotism, nor liberty." As proof that the feeling is intense, we are told that the disturbances in Nantes were much more serious than at first reported, and that they were suppressed with difficulty. The dangerous character of the situation, despite the cheers, is made manifest by the announcement that M. Persigny, one of the staunchest friends and most trusted advisers of the Emperor, has written to his master recommending the introduction of further liberal reforms.

There are many, of course, who take a mild view of the situation, and who do their best to explain away the alarming character of the facts. According to such persons, France is exercising a new-found privilege and rioting somewhat in a new-found liberty. Opposition is sweet in such circumstances; but from its apparent strength large deductions must always be made in order to arrive at a correct measurement of its actual force. By some it is argued that the Emperor has himself provoked the disturbances, in order to create a pretext for withdrawing the reforms he has granted, or rather that, with a view to catch his friends and the lovers of order generally throughout the empire, he has gone far enough, and that further concessions would be dangerous. By others again it is argued that the Emperor has been fully prepared for all that has happened; that he is not at all surprised; and that he will go on, in spite of all appearances to the contrary, humoring the French people, granting further reforms, and gradually reconciling them, in spite of themselves, to Bonapartism.

Our view of the situation is different. It is our opinion that Napoleon the Third desires, above all things, to establish the Bonapartes on the throne of France. He has never been forgetful, since he became Emperor, at least, of the fate of the first Cesar. It has been his ambition to imitate the role of the second. Augustus, without his weaknesses, has been model. Rome was not sick of Cesar because so-called patriots murdered him. Augustus had a great success; his name is associated with the palmiest days of the empire; he had the honor of establishing the dynasty, and the name of Cesar remained a power until the empire fell. If this view be correct, no one must for a moment imagine that Napoleon will give up the fight. Of all living men he knows, perhaps, the most about the requirements of the times. He has his plans and his purposes, and what is better, he knows the standards and conditions according to which these plans and purposes must be fashioned. He wishes to leave his son his successor, and so long as brain remains to him he will labor at any cost and sacrifice to this end. From this point of view, and from no other, can the situation in France at the present moment be properly looked at or correctly understood.

What, then, is Napoleon most likely to do? He may not refuse to grant further reform. Very probably he will not. But reform, in the shape of increased liberty, will not be granted to the French people on any other principle than that which we have mentioned. It must first of all have a relation to the security of his own position, and secondly to the welfare of his dynasty. It must admit the necessity of Napoleon the Third, and it must make plain the way to the succession of Napoleon the Fourth.

We are not, therefore, unwilling to believe that the immediate result of the elections will be a gentle and agreeable humoring of French feeling and desire. But concession will not be allowed to wear about it the garb of timidity. The Emperor must not seem to yield to compulsion. There may be allowed a little larger license to the press; the right of public meeting may be less restrained; but it will not be permitted that these reforms be abused. If, however, these should not tell, and tell immediately, it may be taken for granted that Napoleon will, without delay, give an outward direction to French discontent. His popularity of late years has waned, and he knows it, largely, because he has not been sufficiently willing to fight. He has shown himself a lover of peace even in circumstances of great provocation. But he is not the man to allow any desire, any opinion, any theory to stand between him and the object of his life. France is unquestionably sore because France has been taught to believe that Prussia has become a powerful and dangerous rival, chiefly through the mistaken policy of the Emperor. Prussia has become somewhat arrogant. The humbling of Prussia, especially if that humbling would imply the restoration of the boundaries of 1814, would be a gratification to the entire French people. A war with Prussia is the way of escape out of a great difficulty. If no other way of escape can be found, and no other way at the moment seems possible, war with Prussia may be considered certain. It is a terrible extremity to be reduced to; but it is a stronghold to which the Emperor will flee as a prisoner of hope when all other refugees fail. Bismark knows this, and Bismark is now ready.

"OLD WOOD TO BURN."

From the N. Y. Tribune.

Eight thousand children coming home the other day to keep the old Mother's one hundred and fiftieth birthday, shaking hands heartily under the hospitable sky, remembering proudly that mother's past and prophesy-

ing proudly her future, were as cheerful a sight to see as the sun looked upon. Derry, sitting among the grey rocks, in a wise simplicity, and calling back to her thronging descendants, found among them citizens of half the States of the Union, Senators, Judges, men of science, divines, college professors, editors, poets, travellers, women of fashion and fame. Together they recalled the days when a handful of the sturdy Scotch-Irish, sixteen families in all, penetrated unknown woods, raised their forlorn cabins, defied frost and starvation, established school and church, and by-and-by named the hamlet in memory of the heroism of their fathers in Ireland forty years before. Together they revived with exultation the exploits of Derry men in King William's war, in the Colonial war, and, not without tears, remembered their part in the war for Union. Together they celebrated the peaceful avocations of their generation, and proved that thrift, and skill, and ingenuity, and wit have been the constant inheritance of the blood. And, parting, these eight thousand people went away with kinder hearts toward the old home and each other, and a deeper respect for the impelling convictions that founded that home.

Such festivals have a fine significance. New England is bounded now by the Pacific on the West as by the Atlantic on the East. Wherever a New England man carries New England ideas, she plants a colony. Her sterile hill lots have broadened into fertile prairies; her narrow rivers stream to the Gulf and the Western Ocean; her slow-increasing villages turn cities in a night. In the whirl and rush of affairs, in the heaping up of wealth, and the absorption of immense and complex interests, in a migratory life, changing from city to city and from house to house, and in the contact with all nationalities, the sentiment of home-loving and home-keeping gets somewhat dulled, the distinctive characteristics of American civilization are somewhat worn away, and the old yearns and the old friends and the old influences are somewhat forgotten. New York is flattered at being called the New Paris; Chicago is pleased with being likened to New York; Omaha and Denver emulate Chicago. And this is not through a feeling of kinship, but of rivalry. It is a mad race for wealth and the things of wealth. Now New York ought not to be a second Paris, or a second anything. None but herself should be her parallel. She should develop a new and larger civilization, because her conditions are new and large. The artificial fineness of the Old World does not belong to her. Nor should Chicago repeat New York. The life that is in her should express her. And Omaha and Denver doubtless have an individuality of their own which is better than anything they can borrow. The cities will come to this direct and honest expression as their citizens come to live their own lives. And no help to this good end is more potent than standing within the influence of lives that were direct and honest.

Frenchmen and Englishmen, heirs of ages of magnificent national existence and enormous national wealth, kindle their patriotism and cement their brotherhood with the contemplation of their wonderful conquests. The heirs of two centuries of struggling for civil and religious liberty; heirs of hardship overcome and poverty cheerfully borne; heirs of grand political ideas nursed by that very hardship and poverty, must kindle our patriotism and cement our brotherhood by the contemplation and remembrance of these inheritances. When the homely old New England plow calls us back to the fourth and fifth generation, it will be well to go with eagerness. Perhaps the very name of the plow town has a hint of heroism, like this London-derry. At least the tie of close kinship of common blood will warm our hearts, and make us sensitive to the influences of the time. And these influences will be a generous friendship, which will forget all boundaries of States; a fresh remembrance of valor, and unselfishness, and simplicity; a fresh desire to live our broader lives as nobly as they whose names we bear lived their narrow ones so many years ago; an impulse to carry back into the daily existence from which we came a genuineness that it had somewhat lacked; a conviction that we, too, have received the high commission to leave the world better than we found it. Every mother's birthday feast that is made is a wise festival, because it draws children's hearts nearer together in rejoicing, and the birthday of a venerable village, whose children are so many that they do not know each other's faces, must be best of all.

ELECTION BRIBERY.

From the N. Y. World.

It seems that the wisdom of the British Parliament, in providing what they hoped would be a guarantee for the purity of elections, is foolishness. This guarantee was in the shape of a law providing that a defeated candidate might bring an action against his successful rival, to be tried before a judge in the town where the election had been held, and that, if he could prove to the satisfaction of the judge that bribery of any kind had been resorted to by the successful candidate or his agents, or that he or they had obtained votes by intimidation, the election should be set aside, and the seat be imposed on the guilty parties, and the seat given to the candidate who had been defrauded out of it. This law came into effect at the general election for members of Parliament last fall. At this election, bribery and intimidation were practised to a greater extent than ever before; and it was said that there was scarcely a district in the three kingdoms in which the successful candidate had not, either in person or by deputy, laid himself open to these penalties. The preliminary expenses of conducting the trial provided for by the law, however, were heavy; and, therefore, only about one-sixth of the whole number of members elected were compelled to defend themselves before the courts. Six hundred and fifty-eight gentlemen had been elected; one hundred and two of them were haled before the judges. These one hundred and two trials have been going on in different parts of the country for the last six months. The last one ended a few days ago. The result is that in twenty-two of them the successful candidate was found guilty and deprived of his seat; in the other eighty cases the suit was withdrawn or the prosecution failed. It is remarkable that all of the cases which resulted in unseating a member were those first tried, the judges, in these cases, having not yet fully made up their minds as to the loop-holes and quibbles of the new law, and deciding against the accused on plain, simple, and broad principles. But, after a score of cases had been thus disposed of, the decisions suddenly changed their character; the weak points of the law were ascertained; the evidence seemed made to suit them; and nothing but acquittals followed.

THE LAST OF THE TASMANIANS.

From the N. Y. Times.

The last of the aboriginal Tasmanians (or natives of Van Dieman's Land) is dead; and there has been a horrible squabble among the doctors for the possession of his bones. There are many historical illustrations of the fact that the Anglo-Saxon is the exterminator of the races whose territory he seizes; but nowhere can an example of this be found more striking and complete, or in which the processes have been more rapid, than that of the Tasmanians. It is but sixty-six years since the English made their appearance in Van Dieman's Land. A short time previously, the English Government had learned that it was an island, and resolved to turn it into a penal colony. The first party that landed there consisted of a small body of soldiers and convicts; and, in reading the narrative of the circumstances, we are reminded of similar incidents in the history of our own country, where the red man and the white have come in contact. It is recorded that when the English appeared, a little troop of native men, women, and children came down to the shore bearing branches that they meant for olive-branches. But the English officer, being suspicious, angrily waved them off, and they, not understanding his gestures, gathered quickly around a water-hole. Thereupon he ordered his men to fire into them, which was done with fatal effect. This was an introduction after the usual English fashion—a fashion, which, to the present day,

they practise with outside barbarians. A number of years passed away without any serious outbreak of hostilities; but, in course of time, the natives began to take ground against the intruders, while each side accused the other of deprecations on person and property. Whenever they got a fair or an unfair chance (says an English writer) the settlers let the black man feel the weight of their hands, and made very free with the black women. Then, a bloody internecine war was waged between the blacks and whites in the island; the whites raised the cry of extermination, and the most shocking barbarities were perpetrated. After years of this work the aborigines were pretty well thinned out. In 1830 a man who must be supposed to have been either a Quaker or a Quaker offered to go out peacefully among the natives and secure the submission of the tribes, and in five years he had led every Tasmanian tribe to peaceful submission, after which they were placed by themselves in an island off the coast of Van Dieman's Land. But still they rapidly dwindled away, so that in 1837 but 300 were left; in 1860 but 14; and now comes the account of the death of the last of the Tasmanians—an account which tells how his head was cut off and sent to London, his feet and hands cut off for exhibition elsewhere, while the burial service was read over the poor wretch's trunk, footless and headless, and furnished with another man's head.

CUBA WELL LOST.

From the N. Y. Tribune.

In a debate in the Cortes on the 25th of last month, the present head of Spain was provoked to avow that the hatred of Cubans to the Spanish Government is too great to be appeased or converted, and he might have added, conquered. He further acknowledged that men who, at the time of his Captain-Generalship under the Ministry of O'Donnell, were his devoted friends and counsellors, are now leading the insurgents, or are among the exiles in New York straining every nerve for their cause. Here is a dismal admission for Spain, and this, too, from the man who is to become her Regent, and, perhaps, practically her President. It speaks reluctantly the unanimous opinion of every friend of the Spanish administration in Cuba, and virtually confesses what Captain-General Dulce and Major-Gen. Mena have of late more boldly said, that the island this time is lost to the mother country. It is worth remembering that both Marshal Serrano and General Dulce were once members of a commission of information appointed in 1857 to testify as to the reform necessary to the island, and then declared to Queen Isabella that without speedy redress of its grievances it would be hopelessly alienated. General Dulce has seen his misgivings verified to the letter, and felt the fatality of opposing an earnest revolution with bankruptcy and anarchy. Cuba is lost to Spain, and worse than lost. Every soldier sent out for her conquest is a traitor to authority, and represents so much dearly-bought money thrown into a flood.

The Spanish Minister at Washington is reported to be exceedingly anxious as to the situation of the authorities in the island. Seeing that his brother, the political Governor at Havana, contemplates his flight, the best of the crisis, this does not surprise us. The best art of the ambassador will be required to show us in what way Spain still keeps possession of her territory, and how it is possible for us at present to respect her authority. If we recognize the rebels who have expelled General Dulce and installed a regime of slave-traders, we surely do offense to those at whose hands the late Captain-General received his commission. If we recognize the President and Congress at Guaimaro, we are still liable to displease the friends of those Castilian leaders who insist that they did us good offices in our own hour of difficulty. But we see not how Spain can help acknowledging what is now plain to the world, that her Cuban possession is gone utterly—in forfeit to her misuse of opportunities, means, men, lands, and whatever wealth God gives to a country for the prospering of peoples. Cuba will be free instead of slave, and the Spanish race will be the gainer for all that Spanish misgovernment has forfeited. Her possession will be well lost if Spain but learn to take honest care of her people at home. She is well rid of an heirloom of her barbarism if she can turn introspective eyes upon her own condition and consolidate freedom, rather than vainly cling to empire.

One other consideration seems to point to the Spanish need of renouncing the province in the tropics. Minister Figuerola's count of costs for carrying on the Government of Saain amounts to the great sum of \$150,000,000, while the budget contemplated by the Republicans of the Cortes is no more than \$90,000,000. The deficit in the minister's estimate reaches the serious sum of \$55,000,000, and we now hear, through the cable, that he has announced the impossibility of reducing his budget. The conviction of this news may alarm Spain, but it is suspicious to Cuba, and we doubt not the mother country will find it better to save fifty-five millions than to waste fifty-five millions more for the conquest of a ruin.

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From the N. Y. Times.

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