ruins (*la culture des ruines*), and prayers are to be their lot, while those who may be less inclined to lend a dreamy existence, may easily find a field for that ambition in the surrounding Italian States. If Napoleon has such schemes for the future of Papacy and of Rome, his views will be most heartily supported in the Congress by England and Russia, by Sweden, Prussia and Sardinia.

The agitation for German unity has come to an end, for want of sympathy in the North, and by the open hostility of the South, which has no aversion Prussia. The concordat of Baden still excites the irritability of the Grand Ducky, but it is not probable that the opposition will have any result. Much more serious is the agitation in the Austrian dominions. In Hungary, the Protestants defy the orders of the Minister, Count Thun, and continue to hold their meetings to protest against the Imperial decree for the organization of the Protestant Churches; the Ministers, on the other hand, institute criminal prosecutions against those who take part in these meetings. The Roman Catholic Priests and Bishops are likewise opposed to the centralizing and generalizing endeavors of the Cabinet; all the country waits only for a good opportunity for enforcing its claims by a general rising, which, however, will not take place during peace, but only when a war shall once more threaten the empire, or a revolution again shake Europe. In Bohemia, and the so-called hereditary provinces, the aristocracy and landed gentry are opposing the bureaucratic system of centralizing functionaries The landed interest feels its importance, and wishe to have some influence in the Government, whil the Emperor stubbornly opposes any reform, an believes he can silence the complaints of his sub jects by severity. Such a system cannot last long

AFFAIRS IN FRANCE.

From Our Own Correspondent.

PARIS, December 23, 1859.

Le Pape et Le Congres, is the title of a pamphlet published only an hour ago. It has been greatly rumored about for the past week; it was supposed to be another Imperial manifesto, written by the Napoleonic inspired pen of La Guerroniere. It is apparently the work of a devout churchman, by one of the majority of French bishops which took no part in the famous protesting movement taken by Bishop Dupanloup's too celebrated political pastoral. It contains nothing to contradict the report, however, that it was submitted to the Emperor and retouched a little by his elegant penholder just named. I have not now (5 p m) time to give a complete analysis of its contents. Its most important propositions are these: The temporal power of the Pope must be maintained for the sake of religion and European order; the *extent* of territory is altogether separate from the *principle* of sovereignty; it is *essential* that it include Rome; beyond the Eternal City the question of limits is not essential; his government being strictly paternal it were, perhaps, better that it rule over a small population; this people should have no army, no press, no National Legislature; its public life should be centered solely in its Municipal organization; but, in return, it should, among other benefits, enjoy exception from taxation; the Papal budget should be made up by contributions from all the Catholic Powers; the tranquillity and inviolability of the Holy See and the dignity of the President of the Italian Confederation must be guarded by a select corps chosen from the Federal army; as much municipal liberty as possible must be granted for the double purpose of relieving the Pontifical Government from administrative details, and indemnifying the people by a "local public life" for their loss of political life; under the circumstances it is not desirable even that the Romagna should be forced back under Pontifical sway—and force alone would bring them back. "The Emperor of the French, "who has constantly defended the rights of the "Holy See, has used all his moral authority to appease the spirits of Central Italy, and reconcile "the people with their former governments. *He "has not been able to succeed, and his influence has "failed before the impossible.*"

This is significant, if, as is said with some show of likelihood, Napoleon overlooked and approved this pamphlet in MS. Again I quote: "The question "is not to diminish the patrimony of St. Peter, but "to save it." And again, speaking of the competence of the Congress, and of the Congress alone, to intervene in and settle authoritatively the Roman question: "As to the special objection of certain "persons that the majority of the great Powers being "schismatic, they are consequently incompetent "to take from the Pope one of his Provinces, we "answer: Since these same Powers gave them to "the Pope in 1815, they certainly had a right to "examine the question whether or not they can "leave them to him in 1860."

The arguments by which the author supports his proposition are less important than the propositions themselves, and with the two specimens just quoted I omit them. The significance of either, which is the main thing, depends in this case not on their intrinsic political or logical merit. How far do the propositions of limiting the Pope's sovereignty to a territory entirely this side the Appenines, not to say by a narrow circle drawn about the City of Rome, and of renouncing all further attempt at restoration of the "former sovereigns" of Central Italy, represent Napoleon's ideas? That is the question. Judge ye. I would rather the pamphlet had come from Guerroniere's inspired pen. But a Bishop, as Eurydice says of weak vessels for husbands, is "better 'n nuffin."

There is much talk about, the Congress, which amounts to about the like sum of value as talk about the weather next month. It is now regarded as certain that Gorchakoff will sit for Russia, notwithstanding the absence from the assembly of the English Prime Minister or Foreign Secretary as first representative. It is not necessary to give the list of the other members, which is now made out complete, or nearly so—by the newspapers. The first member from Naples deserves a word, however; it is the Marquis Antonini and it is *deaf!* So thoroughly characteristic. Naples, by the way, is on the eve of the second great reform of the new reign. The first was a police regulation for—well, it is difficult to set it down in writing; enough to say that the purpose of it was simiar to that aimed at in the erection of the small circular edifice in the rear of your City Hall at New-York. This reform was effected by the Filangieri Ministry, and the only one, so far as I can learn, which has been effected by or under it. The coming reform is to be a change for the better in the management of the San Carlo. The impulse to it was given the other night by majesty itself, majesty being much offended by the bad singing, bad acting, bad putting on the stage, &c., of an opera he listened to there. That is really the best that can be said for Naples. As for the amnesty obtained through the representations of Lord Elliot, it is only "recognized in principle," not decreed. And even if it were decreed! Why there are men in Neapolitan prisons to-day who were pardoned out by that wretched King Bomba, more than a year ago. Meantime, awaiting the putting in practice of the "principle," Government is almost daily increasing the numbers of those who are to benefit by the future amnesty.

But not all Italian news is bad. The best, if true, is that the Tuscan government has given an order to one of the best manufacturers of Europe for twenty thousand rifle-barelled guns of the most improved sort. Foolish shrewd people, who cannot understand Garibaldi's straightforward character, nor the wisdom of his simple practical notions of Italian policy, were getting to believe the story of his having had an interview with the dowager Empress of Russia, who is now at Nice, and of having pronounced in favor of a young prince of Leuchtenberg as king of Central Italy. He denies both assertions in a public letter, and adds his urgent advice to the Italians to accept no sovereign but Victor Emanuel, and if any one tries in any way to prevent them from following this advice, "let them," he says, "have recourse to the *million guns*, the "only antidote to such unpatriotic whims, and the "infallible means of obtaining the accomplishment "of their wishes, and of not being duped"—*et n'être pas pris à la glu*, is the more apt expression of the original French, in which the letter was written; say "of not being caught by French professions of friendship, and schemes of Italian confederation, and Congressional revolutions, and other such Napoleonic and diplomatic birdlime."

If the Italians only would follow Garibaldi's counsel, the question of intervention, and the Italian question, would get a final answer. They must be allowed the credit of behaving remarkably well, however. The able Government of united Parma, Modena and Bologna is further strengthening the union of these States, and their chance of annexation, by taking the title of Royal Government of Emilia.

It is thought to be as good as decided that Cavour shall represent Sardinia in the Congress. He is the strongest man Italy can send to that post, the ablest of Sardinia's diplomatic statesmen, her best man for foreign affairs; for home affairs the actual Prime Minister, Ratazzi, is a wiser and far more liberal, as well as a more conciliating statesman. The Central States of Italy, Switzerland, the exiles of Naples and those of Venetia, will also be represented at the Congress by what we might call lobby members.

Poor Venetia seems to be treated worse, if that be possible, than before the war. Now and then the talk of purchasing her freedom from her Austrian taskmaster, is revived. The plan is not feasible. Austria always promises large reforms to Venetia as well as to other members of the Empire, very recently renews these promises, being a good deal scared by the Hungarian movement. It is her old policy of coaxing and crushing. She now promises and threatens Hungary. The threats are backed by Gen. Benedek and a powerful reënforcement to the army of occupation, 45,000 troops brought up from Italy; the promises are backed by royal breath. There is no more rumor of Franz Joseph's abdication—it never had fact nor probable conjecture in its favor.

Prince Jerome is better in health, to the great contentment of the Parisians, who are strongly attached by their pleasures and purse-strings to his royal life; for were he dead, then were gaieties of the Court and upper circles dead, which would be, in the first place, a grave loss of amusement to the indwellers of those circles, and in the second place, a graver loss of business, profit, and means of livelihood to pit and gallery, the indwellers of shops and garrets, the numberless fabricants and furnishers, whom the Winter festivities of the dress circles set to making and selling all sorts of things—silk dresses, false calves, jewelry, ices, furs, &c., &c.

We are not yet quite done talking over that Lemoine trial. The young woman is now in Paris, to be put in a convent here till she is twenty-one. Her legal counsel has received numerous proposals for her hand—five on the very day of her acquittal. This is not an eccentricity of human nature. There seems to be a class of men for which certain crimes have an attraction, as dimples or graceful accomplishments have for sounder tastes.

The report of a second duel between Galliffet and Lauriston, which I think I mentioned in my last, was erroneous. The will of both parties was good enough, but some of the Marquis of Galliffet's friends got him packed off again to his regiment by order from high quarters. He serves in the 2d Spahis, who are always kept in Algeria.

There was a "grand railroad celebration" in that heathen country last week, with a speech by the Prefect and blessing by the Bishop. The Viceroy of Egypt has ordered an iron house from a manufactory at Rouen. So Africa is getting on with the modern improvements.

Roger, the great tenor, reappeared on the stage of the opera last week Thursday, with an immense success of sympathy and curiosity. The spiritual Parisians were charmed to find that he could sing with one hand, and clapped their own with applausive delight. The false hand, or rather arm, is indeed an astonishingly good imitation to a spectator, of the original flesh and bone. It works by the application of the system of springs of Mathieu. This ingenious fabricant is to make a new arm for the artist which, he promises him, shall not only appear well on the stage, but do almost all the requisite services of common life. Let us hope that it will not enable the unlucky artist to renew his sporting exercise, lest next season he fire off his gun into its surviving fellow. French sportsmen have a remarkable talent for firing into themselves when in pursuit of game: for proof see the items column of the daily prints passim or the month following the annual *ouverture de la chasse*.

Take any small brightish object, a knife blade, penholder, half dime, for example: Hold it before a person's eyes, a little within the and above the range of his or (which is better) her easy vision, so that when she looks at it, and thinks of it, fixedly, as she must be engaged to do, she will have to squint convergently, upwardly and abominably, and the chances are, that in a space of from one to three minutes, she will have passed into a state of unnatural sleep, nervous sleep, artificial catalepsy—what two weeks ago we would have styled (with more or less of a sneering tone, most of us), magnetic sleep—what we now solemnly style *Hypnotism*. Now you may raise her two feet from the floor, tickle the palms of them, pull out the eyebrows, set out one arm like a pump-handle, throw up the other like a flagstaff, cut off one of them, if need be, and she will not move, complain, or feel fatigue or pain. When you have experimented sufficiently, blow upon her eyes, rubbing the latter gently if you choose, with your fingers, and she will wake up utterly unconscious of all that has happened.

Here is an invaluable anesthetic method, a welcome rival to chloroform, for the doctors and suffering patients—a key, it is hoped, for the philosophers to open the mysteries of animal magnetism, turn out the humbug, and charlatanism, and superstition, and insanity, and losel spirits (who had better stay in Heaven, or the other place, wherever they can prove residence), and let in scientific light, and careful observation, and common sense, and philosophy.

All medical Paris is busy now with experiments in Hypnotism. The above supposed case is the summary or generalizing of the chief phenomena of all the successful experiments. Dr. Broca, an eminent surgeon here, at the suggestion of Dr. Azam of Bordeaux, who had been set to look into the matter by reading a book of Dr. Braid of Manchester, England, published in 1843—Dr. Broca, I say, began his experiments last month, in one of them performing what would otherwise have been a painful operation on a patient who was utterly unconscious of it till it was over, and she restored to her natural state. He made a report of his experiments, which Velpeau, one of the greatest and most incredulous, tough old surgeons of the world, consented to read before the Academy of the Sciences. Velpeau is too careful of his great reputation, as well as too careful and cautious a man to countersign Dr. Broca's note. But the mere fact of his reading it immediately gave its statements a certain authority. It was as if he had said to all members of the profession: "Here, these experiments are respectable; you can go on and make more without "risking your little professional dignities and reputations, and run of practice. I, Velpeau, have "said it."

And now all hands, Trousseau, Nelaton, and all the lesser and little ones are setting their private patients and inmates of the hospitals asquinting inwardly, upwardly, and abominably to a cataleptic degree, and under the new title (invented by Braid in 1843) of *hypnotism* (which is Greek, *ὕπνος*, for sleepism, nothing more), are seriously investigating facts, which, under the old and modern titles of inspiration, enchantment, fascination, spirit-power, witch's power, devil's power, trance, ecstacy, animal magnetism, charlatans from the time of the old Egyptian priests, down to this month of December and "Professor" Wapshot, have made use and profit of, duping superstitious millions, and driving mad unhappy thousands.

Apropos of humbugs, they say that Herr Baumbach has resigned his office as Minister of Electoral Hesse, near the Court of Tuileries, declaring that he cannot live here on 6,000 yearly thalers, and that reminds me of the Persian Embassador who represents here and at London at "oncee," which reminds me to suggest that our next Plenipotentiary represent Virginia at two or three Courts at a time, and to add that the world seems to get on smoothly enough without any Minister to represent Virginia near the Court of the Tuileries for the last months.

NAPOLEON'S LAST MANIFESTO.

From an Occasional Correspondent.

PARIS Dec. 21, 1859.

The impression produced here by Louis Bonaparte's latest *coup de tête*—I speak of the pamphlet, "The Pope and the Congress," published by La Guerroniere, the responsible undertaker of his master's political "studies"—is quite the reverse of what our good evangelical friends over the other side of the channel may be inclined to suppose. The rage of the clerical party aroused, of course, the Voltarian Paris *epicier* who regards with an intense delight the Imperialist dissolving views, first exhibiting the Pope before all Europe in the shape of the quasi chief of the intended Italian Confederation, in order to change him afterward into a sort of half-pay officer. But still the delighted *epicier* himself shakes his head knowingly, and considers that things are drawing to a crisis. If the Man of December, it is said, dares to provoke the "*vras celestes*" of the clerical party, he does so from necessity, not from choice. He plays out this card because he has hardly anything to lose. The Second Empire was reared upon the broad shoulders of the French peasantry, whose golden age is blended with the First Empire. It was the peasantry whose votes converted the needy gambler of St. James street into the lucky inmate of the *Elysée Bourbon*. Now, after the establishment of the Second Empire, the usurper had only two courses open to himself in regard to those true pillars of his *régime*, the French peasants. Either he must mend their material condition, or compress their mental powers. Taxation was to be lessened, or superstition to be increased. Pockets were to be filled, or minds to be emptied. For the latter process Louis Bonaparte depended altogether on the Catholic Church, which offered the more willingly to march with him as he made concessions unsurpassed even in the time of the Restoration and the *drapeau blanc*.

As to the amelioration of the social condition o the French peasantry, so loudly trumpeted by Bonapartism in 1848, such a thing was quite incompatible with the vital condition of the Second Empire. The latter meant, in fact, pushing the principle of state centralization to its utmost limits, and, therefore, trebling the bulkiness and the cost of the state-machinery. It meant, besides, corruption employed as the first motor of Government influence. It meant buying off the dangerous working classes of the towns at the expense of the country. It meant Asiatic court-splendors and localized wars, whose glory France herself had to pay for. It meant, in a word, spending of public money on the largest scale, and where was that money to come from if not from the most numerous and most squeezable part of the nation, the French peasantry? The lot of the *proletaire fonciers*, as it is now the usage to call the nominal proprietors of three-fourths of the French soil, has consequently been impaired in a geometrical progression. The increase of the French city population, altogether to be traced to the decay of the rural districts, tells its own woeful tale. Besides, the quack medicine of the *Credit Foncier*, intended to alleviate the mortgage debt that rests upon small freeholds, has proved effective only in accelerating the alienation of the latter and the concentration of landed property in fewer hands.

To prevent, under these circumstances, the access of the revolutionary propaganda to the huts of the rural districts, no resource was left save the high pressure exercised by the clergy on the rural consciences. The peasantry might furnish the army indispensable for keeping in check Paris, Lyons, and the other great towns; but the peasantry itself was, in its turn, only to be held in leading-strings by the host of the Pope, and it is the Pope's own host, hisholy *gend'armerie*, to whom Louis Bonaparte has now been forced to throw down the gauntlet, without by this desperate measure conciliating the good will of the opposite camp. The Republicans and the *Ouvriers* of the Faubourg St. Antoine say that the Man of December means to cheat the Pope out of the Romagna, in order to have something to sell at the forthcoming Congress, and that he means to make Rome the scapegoat of the European *status quo*, in order to revenge himself on the Roman triumvir, who, in his last pamphlet, characterized Louis Bonaparte as a "pendulum balanced in the "hands of Satan, there to vibrate between cunning and voluptuousness."

The Orleanists lastly give out that Bonapartism has turned into Pritchardism, the Pope being sacrificed to get the good grace of the evangelical friends of London and the schismatical Pope of St. Petersburg. Coming now to the La Guerroniere pamphlet, it suffices to say that it is written in the usual Decembrist style of mock grandeur. Its method of reasoning is plausible, but illogical. The Pope cannot be divested of all temporal power, because, from the Universal Pontiff, he would then become degraded to the position of a French, Spanish, Austrian, or Italian subject. On the other hand, the same person cannot act simultaneously the parts of the Prince and the Pontiff. Consequently, his temporal power must be reduced to a mere pasteboard sovereignty. It must exist "without "cut an army, without a parliament, without a "code of laws, or a court of justice," and even without a territory. It must be circumscribed within the precincts of Rome—"a small corner of "earth," presumed to be "free from the passions and "interests which agitate other people," and to live upon the study of ruins.

There, in that snug corner, the Pope is to wield a paternal power, protected by detachments of the Italian Federal army—the municipal self-government of his subjects relieving him from all administrative troubles. The Romans, of course, will feel but too glad to renounce all political life, forming a flock instead of a people, *ad majoram gloriam dei*. As to the Romagna, it was given to the Pope by the Congress of Vienna. So it may be taken from him by the Congress of Paris. The Romagna *has*, in fact, slipped away from his hold. Who is to restore it to him? France! But, by her armed intervention, France gave the signal to the Romagna for breaking loose from his holy rule. Austria? But this would be equivalent to the resumption of her domination in the Peninsula. Naples? It can but keep off revolution at home by keeping quiet abroad, and, besides, it will not be allowed to interfere. Being, therefore, unable to regain the Romagna by his own forces, and being interdicted from doing so by foreign aid, what can the Pope do but bow to the dictates of the Paris Congress, pronounced to him by the oldest son of the Church? But, then, there is in store the great Bonapartist panacea for all human frailties. The Pope, for his loss of power, and the Romans, for their exclusion from the ranks of history, are both to be compensated by a large tribute paid to the Holy Father on the part of the Catholic powers, instead of by his own flock. Both are to be bought off in hard cash. Buying off in fact, the upshot of the pamphlet. Buying off was the last word of the peace of Villafranca. Why not try it with the Pope? *Pro batum est.*

A REVIEW OF EUROPEAN POLITICS.

Correspondence of The N. Y. Tribune.

GERMANY, Dec. 12, 1859.

The old year, on this side of the water, is closing with a dull spell in politics. Political action, as far at least as it is perceptible to the common eye, is almost suspended, and Europe is waiting for New-Year's Day and the Congress. In my letter of Nov. 1, which I hope has reached you, I predicted that a rupture between France and England would not take place. So far, it seems that I have been correct in my views, though nobody can venture to predict what state of things will spring from the Congress. As to the man who continues to act the rôle of the manager of destiny, his office is connected with some difficulties, but so far he seems to know how to overcome them. Everybody knows that Louis Napoleon has his friends and tools in the British Government, and among the chief organs of public opinion in England, and that foreign politics are not at all the department in which the good people of the British islands are used to control their clerks and advisers. Still there is a limit to that indifference, and the English friends and tools of the French Emperor and the English manufacturers of public opinion in his favor, are under the higher direction of Russia. Now, if Louis Napoleon had really hostile intentions against England, he must have acted in agreement with Russia. England was threatened with a complete and dangerous isolation since Prussia put herself again under the Russian influence, while Austria is under that of France, and France and Russia were secretly coöperating. But such a combination would be turned against Louis Napoleon as soon as Russia might think proper to do so, the balance of harmony and antagonism between these two powers being dependent upon some delicate questions in reference to the affairs of the Mediterranean and of the Turkish Empire. In case of a rupture between France and Russia, France would be the power which is essentially isolated. The treaty of Zurich, it is true, stipulates an eternal peace and friendship between the Hapsburg dynasty and that of Louis Napoleon, but, either circumstances would be more powerful than such a stipulation, or that article of the treaty would prove more calculated to link the two dynasties together in one common disastrous fate than to increase their strength and safety. Then would be the time for Russia to act openly and without restraint. The secret instigator of revolutions all over the globe, why should she abstain any longer from setting fire to the materials of destruction heaped up on the Danube and in Turkey, when two great purposes at once could be reached such as the destruction of the hated rival in the south-east of Europe, and of her revolted *prefect* on the Seine? Prussia would seem to have no serious cause for fearing the immediate consequences, or, if she thought she had, would not the party now ruling at Berlin hail the opportunity, so long desired, of ultimately centralizing Germany under the scepter of the Hohenzollern? And England—would not Lord Palmerston, or any other friend of Louis Napoleon in the British Cabinet who is his friend because introduced to him by so illustrious a personage as Russia—would not a British Government of such a character—and there is scarcely another one to be expected—think the destruction of the growing maritime power of France a more immediate purpose than to oppose the less immediate danger from Russian progress in the East? In Germany the smaller States of the Confederation would take the side of Austria and France—that is to say: the Governments would try to take such a position in order to save their existence. The population, however, under *such* circumstances, consulting nothing but their hatred toward Louis Napoleon and toward the stupid and illiberal system by which Austria has been almost ruined, unable fully to understand the dangers threatening from Russian progress on the Danube and as far west as the Adriatic, and desirous, above all, to see Germany united under *one* Government, would support Prussia in her course of annexations, and in less than a fortnight the Prussian eagle might alight on the summit of the Bavarian Alps. This, it is true, would not exactly be what Russia would like to see; but might not she think it practicable to pay Prussia with the expectation of such a result, while she herself would take realities for her share in the spoils? The expectation, at least, would go far in influencing that Prussian party by which the news of Austrian disasters in Italy were received with rejoicings. In short, nothing could suit better the views of this party, now governing at Berlin, than to see Austria and France together on one side, and the rest of Europe on the other.

Louis Napoleon, knowing all this considerably better than we do, found it advisable to recede from the threatening attitude he had taken toward England, from which fact we may draw the conclusion that he does not feel safe in reference to Russia. For one of the two—England or Russia—he must have on his side. England, of course, found the renewal of the good understanding very acceptable, and thus, by mutual consent, the fragments of the "*entente cordiale*" were soldered together, albeit with nothing better than tin. Time and the Congress will show with what kind of metal it has really been done, and how long the mending will last. Whatever may happen, the moving power and leading views will always be contained in the *Oriental question*.

The extreme fraction of the party now ruling in Prussia hope to see Austria isolated at the Congress. England with Sardinia—such is their expectation—will form the left side with the radical opinions in reference to the Italian question. Prussia and Russia will occupy the center, representing the more moderate liberal views. Austria and France will be the conservative element, and as such will refuse to satisfy the more exacting demands of the Italian patriots. But France, it is further expected, will be pushed forward by circumstances. Louis Napoleon will be forced to take the side of the Italian nation in the regulation of the affairs of Venice, and Austria will be left behind, alone and without support. In the mean time, the national agitation of the Magyars is entertained in Hungary, and an outbreak would, at least, have the effect of augmenting the difficulties of Austria to such a degree that she would be more or less at the mercy of such friends as Prussia. *Then* would be the time for Prussia to offer assistance, in exchange for those concessions in the affairs of Germany which Prussia could not even succeed in extorting in the desperate situation in which Austria was placed immediately before the armistice of Villafranca. What the secondary Powers represented at the Congress will do seems to be thought of little importance, though their influence, after all, might prove greater than expected, if they should be wise enough to act in concert among each other.

It is painfully felt by the German nation that neither the German Confederation, as a whole, nor the smaller German States, taken together—in which position they would be more than equal to Prussia in population and resources—are to be represented at the Congress. Thus the interests of a nation of more than forty millions are left to the discretion of two rival Powers, each of them claiming the leadership of the Confederation, which cannot be obtained except by the reduction, if not the annihilation, of the other. This simple fact alone shows the unsatisfactory condition of Germany, and he absolute necessity of reforming the Federal Constitution.

The smaller States, with Bavaria and Saxony at the head, have taken steps to remedy the evil. Conferences of Ministers of State have been held, not long ago, at Munich, and more lately at Würzburg, for the purpose of acting in concert in endeavors to amend the Federal Constitution; and, in fact, in all measures tending to promote the unity and power of Germany, and to take care, above all, of those national interests which are apt to suffer under the contending aims of Austria and Prussia. Austria does not appear to throw any obstacle in the way of this patriotic enterprise, which is entirely constitutional. Though the States engaged in it are called *Secessionists* by the advocates of the Prussian scheme, the personal character of some of the princes and statesmen supporting the movement precludes any idea of unpatriotic purposes. You will undoubtedly hear more of the subject, which, if I am not mistaken, will occupy a considerable share of the public attention of Europe in the coming year.

Under these circumstances, it may not be amiss to give your readers a succinct account of the present state of party divisions and party platforms in Germary.

In 1848, those platforms were abstract principles: Socialism, Republicanism, Monarchism, Absolutism, and what other *ism* may have moved and agitated the German mind. This is not the case now. All parties now agree that national unity and power, giving to Germany that political position and influence which every German thinks she has a claim to, but does not possess, under the present circumstances, and cannot possess with the present federal constitution—all agree that *this* is the first desideratum. The national constitution must be put on a different footing: *this* is the general opinion in Germany, an opinion acknowledged by the Governments just as well as by the people; an opinion, therefore, which is quite legitimate, and is publicly expressed in a flood of pamphlets of more or less merit. Political life is as high in Germany as it ever has been before 1848, but it is by far more sound and positive in its aims than ever before. Amendments to the federal constitution, of more or less importance, have already been moved by some of the minor States, and it has been the object of the ministerial conferences at München and Würzburg to prepare further action in this direction, and secure the concert of all the smaller States, so as to establish a well constituted and consolidated balance of power between Austria and Prussia. Thus the platforms of both the parties now existing in Germany have reference only to the different views in the amendment or reform of the federal or national constitution, and accordingly we have to distinguish three principal parties.

The most active among them is that which aims at uniting Germany under the Prussian scepter. This party dates its existence from the revolution of 1848 and '49. At that period it consisted of the majority of the Frankfort Parliament, who carried the resolution to place the imperial crown of Germany on the head of the King of Prussia. It is well known that that monarch was either too proud to accept such a gift from the hands of a popular assembly, or not bold enough to brave the opposition of Austria. He refused. But, after having done so, he repented, and a trial was made to unite the smaller States of Germany under the leadership of Prussia by separate acts of voluntary or half-voluntary subordination or annexation. For the realization of this project, the coöperation of that same party which had met with the refusal of the King when offering to him the imperial crown was lent and readily accepted. Austria, however, by a firm and threatening opposition, frustrated the Prussian scheme, and since that time (1850), the adherents of this party were reduced to political insignificance, until lately, when, in connection with the change of government in Prussia and with the position taken by that power in the Italian war, the party is revived, strengthened by the remnants of the Democratic party of 1848 in Prussia and in some other sections of Germany, who united with them and gave them that more active and enterprising character by which they are now distinguished. During the period after 1849 the party was called the *Gothauer* or Gotha party, from a meeting at the town of Goths. Now, after their revival they are called the *New Gothauer*, or New Gotha party. In their most sanguine expectations, their *Ultras* take it for granted that Austria, sooner or later, must go to pieces, and that then the whole of Germany will be constituted as one sole and undivided empire under the Prussian scepter. Few, however, are bold enough to follow this lofty flight of political imagination; and as it is impossible that Prussia could annex the whole of Germany so long as Austria exists, the party is sometimes called the *Kleindeutsche Partei* i. e., the party of *Little Germany*. People of other countries, however, will always best understand its essential character by simply styling it the Prussian party. It is, in the affairs of Germany, what Sardinia and its adherents are in the affairs of Italy—endowed with an excellent appetite to swallow the whole country, but satisfied for a while, if it must be, with a good piece of it.

Diametrically opposed to the party just described is the *Grossdeutsche Partei*, or party of *Great Germany*, which may be called the Austrian party. The fundamental position in the platform of this party is this: that the empire to be formed by the German nation, at any rate, and whatever might be its organization, must include Austria with all her present dependencies. Germany—thus runs the arguments of this party—must neither lose the North Sea and the Baltic on one side, nor the Adriatic on the other; nor can she suffer that the mouth of the Danube could ever be shut to her commerce, and not the slightest doubt can exist of the certainty that every square foot of Austrian territory east of Venice, detached from the Empire, must become the prey of Russia, while, all she has lost and may still lose in Italy, must fall under the supremacy of France. Every loss of Austria, every piece detached from her territory, is a gain to the hereditary enemies of Germany, with whom, sooner or later, the German nation shall have to wage a war for existence. The destruction of Austria would result in Europe being altogether annexed to Russia or being divided between Russia and France. In reference to the fate of the smaller German States, which the Prussian party simply intends or advises to swallow, the Austrian party keeps a more decent silence, and not less reserved is this latter party in reference to the intended political organization of *Great Germany*.

The natural interest of the rest of Germany, placed between the two overgrown members of the Confederation, and threatened by the ambition of both of them, doubly dangerous while the necessity of a thorough change is felt throughout the nation, has produced a third party, which may be called that of the German Triarchy, or the *Trias*, as the designation has been brought in use. In a sectional sense, it is the party of South-Western Germany, or Germany Proper; but the real sense of the platform is that the minor States of the present Confederation should neither be swallowed up by Prussia nor by Austria, nor divided between the two, nor remain what they are now—the sovereign but powerless and insignificant members of an ill-constructed and loose confederacy—but should unite into a more compact body, strong enough to defend its independence, and to stand on an equal footing with Prussia and Austria, and that these three German Powers, viz: Austria, Prussia, and this projected South-Western Commonwealth, should form a close offensive and defensive alliance, destined to form the nucleus to a Confederation on a larger scale, capable of withstanding the aggressions of France and Russia forever, and to become the center of a United States of Europe.

A separate Republican party does not exist in Germany at the present time, not even in secret. As matters stand now, the German governments might fairly allow free discussion on the question of Republicanism, as I am sure that he who would now recommend that system to the German nation for adoption, would not have more chance of making proselytes than he who would recommend monarchy to a mass meeting in the Park. The remnants of the Republican party of 1848 are to be looked for among the three parties enumerated, and the feeling is absolutely predominant that the first necessity to the German nation is an organization of the whole German system powerful enough to preclude any danger from outside.

JULIUS FROEBEL.

MARINE AFFAIRS.

LOSS OF HER SHIP SILAS HOLMES.

NAMES OF HER PASSENGERS AND CREW.

Mr. L. W. Sillbergh, the mate of the unfortunate ship Silas Holmes, belonging to Wm. Nelson & Sons (already reported lost), having arrived at New-Orleans on the 27th of December, has made an interesting statement in reference to the disaster. He states that she got ashore on the East Key, Tortugas, on the 3d of December, and after lightening by taking out three lighter loads of cargo, got off. She left Garden Key on the 9th in charge of a pilot, and went ashore again near the fort. She was got off again by the assistance of the wreckers and the hands of the fort, when she proved to be leaking 500 strokes an hour. Capt. Griffith put eight of the steerage passengers at the pumps, and all hands consented to proceed to New-Orleans, the ship being considered seaworthy. On the 11th inst. the pilot was discharged, and on the 12th the leak had increased to 1,500 strokes an hour. This continued to the 16th, when the ship encountered a heavy northerly wind, the leak increasing. At 4 a. m., 15th, the pumps sucked; but at 8 o'clock a. m. found three feet in her hold, although the pumps were going all the time. At 4 p. m. found the water over the skin, the wind blowing strong; ship down to close-reefed topsails. At 5 p. m. found the leak gaining fast, with four feet water over the kelson. By observation, the ship was about 100 miles from the bar of the Mississippi. At about midnight the water was over the between decks. By this time all sails were furled except the fore and main topsails, which were also close-reefed. At 2 a. m., 16th, Capt. Griffith ordered five women and one man (all passengers), and two seamen, into the port quarter boat; also launched the starboard quarter boat; and Mr. Sillbergh and the steward got into the starboard quarter boat to bring her to the windward, in order to take off the other passengers and crew. But the boat filled with water, and they found it impossible to manage her, the ship drifting to leeward faster than they did. They were taken into the quarter boat, and in about fifteen minutes they lost sight of the ship. The five women and three men in the port quarter boat stated that they had been obliged to cut the painter to keep the boat from being stove by the counter of the ship. Kept the boat's head off wind all night. Next morning discovered two ships three miles to leeward, bound down the gulf. They were directly in the track of the Silas Holmes, but the boat was not discovered by them. It is most likely that one or the other of these ships went to the assistance of the Silas Holmes, and that by them Capt. Griffith, crew, and passengers, were taken from the sinking vessel. Mr. Sillbergh, five women and four men, remained in the small boat at sea until the 19th, with only three gallons water, and a small portion of bread and beef. They were then picked up by the bark Dorette, Capt. Gaban, from Bremerhaven, and from his hands they received every attention that a seamen's generous heart could prompt. The recipients of his kindness can never forget it. Mr. Sillbergh does not appear to entertain much doubt but that the Silas Holmes was perceived by one of the two ships mentioned by him as bound down the gulf, and within three miles of the unfortunate vessel when the boats lost her. When the Silas Holmes left New-York she had on board a very valuable cargo. Her crew consisted of captain, two mates, one carpenter, one steward, one cook, ten seamen, and two boys. She had twenty-one passengers. We append a list of the names:

PASSENGERS.

Mr. Perito, wife and daughter,	Charles Hunter,
Philip Fickling,	Henry A. Miller,
Edward Whiting,	George Groves, and wife,
Henry Hillman,	Wm. Lambert,
P. Tolan,	A. Nicholas,
Elias Dugan,	P. B. Lyons,
A. F. Granlick,	John Rodgers,
Mr. Ainse, and friend,	Mr. Jacobs.
Catharine Hart.	

OFFICERS AND CREW.

C. R. Griffith, Captain,	Henry Wilson,
L. W. Sillbergh, Mate,	David Teaton,
Julius Smith, 2d Mate,	Lewis Smith,
John Lemmer, Carpenter,	John L. Marshall,
Edward Merid, Steward,	John J. Shelts,
Peter A. Dennice, Cook,	Edward Purcell,
Joseph Davis,	George Brown,
Henry Fulton,	Edward Clare, } Boys.
Daniel Roberts,	Vincent Irwin, }

NAVAL INTELLIGENCE.

The United States steamer Iroquois will sail to-day for the Mediterranean, via Madeira and Gibraltar. She will be the flag-ship of that station until next Spring, when the flag will be transferred to the old Constitution frigate, which will be sent out next Spring.

The U. S. steamer Mohican has just come out of Dry Dock; all the necessary repairs required on her have been effected. She will sail on the 14th inst., for the coast of Africa, taking out a large mail for the African squadron.

The U. S. surveying steamer Bibb, now lying at Jersey City, will be sent over to the Brooklyn Yard in a day or two, where she will go out of commission until next Spring.

The U. S. sloop-of-war Vincennes is daily expected at the Brooklyn Navy Yard from the coast of Africa.

The U. S. steam-frigate Powhatan, Flag Officer Josiah Tattnall, was at Hakodadi on the 21st December. The general health of the crew and officers was good.

The U. S. ship Pensacola arrived at Key West on the 28th ult. Under sail from Pensacola, 7 days out, she put in for more ballast. The officers speak very highly of her capacity as a sailing vessel. She was to have taken on board 150 tuns ballast, and to have sailed for Norfolk in two or three days.

Letters dated October 11, at Yoenhama, Japan, have been received at the Navy Department from Lieut. Brooks of the schooner Fenimore Cooper, stating that at his request Commodore Tatnall had ordered a survey of that vessel, which had been condemned as unworthy of repair.

Commodore Tatnall had gone to Hong Kong and Shanghae, but would return so as to sail for home on the 23d of February.

The Philadelphia Press says:

"The Navy-Yard is at present the theater of a scene of unwerly inactivity. There is a small number of hands at work on half time. On the last pay-day, the entire force of shipcarpenters, except three, were discharged, together with fifteen painters. A Board of Engineers will meet at the Yard on Thursday, for the purpose of examining applicants for appointment and promotion."

BURNING OF THE SHIP WILLIAM STETSON.

Advices from Liverpool of the 23d December state that the ship W. V. Moses had arrived there with the captain and crew of the ship William Stetson, burned at sea. The captain reported that the William Stetson was bound from Mobile for that port, with a cargo of cotton, and was discovered to be on fire on the 1st of December, about 4 o'clock a. m., when smoke was seen in the forecastle.

The fore-scuttle was taken off to get at the cause of the smoke, but the smoke increased so alarmingly that immediately all was stopped up to check the combustion, but smoke was soon after seen coming up the pump, and through the deck.

She bore up for the Western Islands, being then about 500 miles distant. Toward evening, saw the ship W. V. Moses, and finding the progress of the fire so rapid as to make all efforts to suppress it hopeless, the captain and crew took refuge on board that ship, saving nothing but their clothing.

Soon after the ship burst out all in a blaze. The captain is of opinion that the fire was caused by friction in the hold, the vessel having worked and strained considerably after leaving Mobile, or by fire that by some means had got into the cotton before being shipped.

[By letter to Elwood Walter, esq., Sec. Board of Underwriters.

The Wm. Stetson is a 3-deck A2 ship of 1,143 tuns. She was built at Rockland in 1851, and is owned by Nesmith & Sons, of Thomaston, Me.

THE MYSTERIOUS STONE AT HEATH.—We have been furnished with some further particulars in regard to the mysterious stone found at Heath four years ago. Dr. Hitchcock and Prof. Shepard of Amherst have examined the stone and do not find it to be