EUROPE.

The Proposed Livingstone Expedition of the Royal Geographical Society.

POLITICAL SURVEY OF RUSSIA.

How Victor Hugo Was Beaten and Vautrain Elected in Paris.

BISMARCK'S FRENCH NOTE.

The Kaiser Believes His Minister Too Lenient Towards France.

The following compilation of letters from England, Russia, France and Germany of our correspondents abroad will enable the readers of the HERALD to judge of the present condition of matters and things in the countries from which they are written.

ENGLAND.

Doctor Livingstone and John Bull's Pocket—The Proposed Expedition of the Royal Geographical Society—When It Will Start—The Herald's Enterprise Waking Up British Pride.

LONDON, Jan. 11, 1872.

British munificence at times presents queer aspects. No sum is thought too large to devote to Christianizing the Fiji islanders, or for the purpose of carrying Bibles and warming pans to the benighted heathen of Central Africa or Nova Zembla, but for furthering incomparably the greatest work of the nineteenth century—that of discovery and exploration—the British government manifests an apathy and infirmity of purpose singularly at variance both with past policy and with present interest. The latest illustration of this *laissez-faire* policy of the government is their conduct in regard to

THE PROPOSED SEARCH FOR LIVINGSTONE.

In one of their constitutionally chronic fits of ill-advised and short-sighted economy they begrudge the paltry thousands necessary to equip an efficient expedition and thus practically abandon the old veteran to his fate. Nothing but the pertistent effort of the late lamented President of the Royal Geographical Society, the noble-minded Murchison, backed by the solicitation and influence of his fellow geographers, could awaken any suitable response from the Home Office, and since Sir Roderick's death the chiefs of the favored haunt of red tape and flunkyism have evinced an unmistakable willingness to shelve the heroic traveller and missionary altogether. After spending the snug little sum of £8,000,000 sterling in attempting the rescue of a handful of meddlesome, malcontent missionaries detained as hostages by a native potentate whom they first "snubbed" and then cruelly outraged, they find it beyond their power, or beneath their notice, to recognize the claims of one who has done more to advance the cause of civilization—to say nothing of Christianity and the interests of his country on the African Continent—than all the missionaries and travellers of modern times put together.

HOW THE PEOPLE'S ANXIETY COULD BE RELIEVED.

A few picked men, backed by a grant of a few thousand pounds, could at any time during the past two years have solved the mystery in which the fate of Livingstone has been, and is still, involved. But the government turned a deaf ear to all such propositions; they made no sign. Time has run on, and it is even now quite questionable whether anything would have been done by either government or society were it not for the enterprise of the NEW YORK HERALD in despatching a special commissioner to the scene of Livingstone's labors, with the avowed purpose of opening up communications with him. The reports which have reached England through that channel have

KEENLY TOUCHED THE NATIONAL PRIDE,

and shamed both government and people into action in the matter. They, however, seem even yet half disposed to act in regard to Livingstone as they did on another similarly notable occasion, and leave to Americans the honor of finding, and, if possible, of restoring one of the greatest heroes and benefactors of the human race.

THE GEOGRAPHICAL SOCIETY.

At a late meeting of the Geographical Society it was announced by Sir Henry Rawlinson that the Queen, on the representation of Her Majesty's Ministers, had been pleased to bestow the royal bounty to the extent of £300 upon Livingstone's children, but not one penny toward the proposed expedition, and at the regular meeting on the 8th it was stated that no response had yet been received in answer to the urgent appeals made to the government in its behalf. It is, however, now determined to send an expedition independent of the government. The society have donated £500 to that purpose, and private subscription has already swelled that amount to £2,500; £5,000 more are required, and it will doubtless be supplied from the same source. A steamer will sail probably about the middle of the month and proceed direct through the Suez Canal to Zanzibar, where it is expected to arrive about the middle of February. As to the number and equipment of the expeditionary party nothing reliable has yet transpired. Nor do I think that the society under whose immediate auspices it is organized has yet arrived at any definite decision respecting it. Like the veteran Micawber, they are apparently waiting for something favorable to turn up. It will probably consist in about equal proportions of naval, military and medical men. Clergymen and correspondents are, it is understood, to be strictly excluded.

THE EXPEDITION

will be accredited to Dr. Kirk, Her Britannic Majesty's Consul at Zanzibar, and will doubtless be largely recruited from the Consular staff and attachés. After consultation with him as to the most advisable route to be taken they will strike at once into the interior as far as Lake Tanganika, and ascertain there the truth or falsity of the numerous rumors which have reached the coast respecting Livingstone's residence at Manyema. Without trenching on valuable space with further particulars, it is hoped that the whole of this glorious though long delayed work may be accomplished, and the members of the expedition safely back in England within the year. There is, however, a pretty strong belief existing, which finds expression in well-informed circles, that the HERALD enterprise will head off the expedition; or, in the rhetorical flourish of our transatlantic brethren, that the American eagle will once more triumph over the British lion.

ALL SORTS OF RUMORS

are afloat respecting the *personnel* of the expedition, but this you may rely on, that nothing definite has been yet determined. Upwards of forty volunteers have offered, and the selection, which has been delegated to a sub-committee of the Council of the Royal Geographical Society, will doubtless be made and announced at the next meeting of the society.

A sorry attempt was made by a fellow at the last meeting of the Geographical Society to throw a wet blanket over the HERALD's enterprise and the reports of its special commissioner, and to bring both journal and officer under the ban of the society; but after the highly complimentary terms in which the "great American traveller" had been previously mentioned at the society's councils and public meetings the animus of the speaker was too obvious to be mistaken.

RUSSIA.

The Festive Season—The Approaching Two Hundredth Anniversary of Peter the Great's Birthday—Important Political Survey of the Empire—A Candia Exposition—How Austria Likes It—An Incident of Prince Frederick Charles' Stay in St. Petersburg.

ST. PETERSBURG, Jan. 2, 1872.

While you have already concluded your Christmas and New Year's festivities we have not yet begun them. It is yet only the 20th of December with us, and we are only beginning to prepare our Christmas trees and presents. And we are doing so this year, perhaps, more merrily than ever, having, as we know, nothing but security and pleasure before us. The *Official Messenger* declared to us the other day, *ex officio*, that our political situation in Europe is as advantageous as could be well wished for. The Germans, with whom some collision was prognosticated, sent us a distinguished deputation for the purpose of testifying the fraternal feelings that united them to us. If no particularly great stress is to be put upon this sort of demonstration, it is, at all events, refreshing to know that people are anxious to make us believe that they are our best friends. In matters of pleasure we are just as well provided for. Mme. Patti and Mlle. Schneider are with us, and will remain till the time the "Great Lent" (six weeks before Easter) begins. When that is over we shall have the two hundred years' anniversary of Peter the Great's birthday, on which occasion all sorts of entertainment will be provided, including a monster industrial and agricultural exhibition, which is to teach us what incalculable progress we have made since the days the great reformer brought us in contact with the civilized world. A party of intelligent and patriotic people begin already to make preparations for the forthcoming great day, and issued the other day a proposal for giving one per cent of their income during the whole of their lifetime towards raising funds for national education. They exert their best efforts to get every one to participate in the voluntary and self-imposed income tax, and thus to erect an everlasting monument to the memory of Peter.

Still, with all these bright and jolly prospects, the government has thought it desirable to express its views on political matters through a medium that is notoriously unpolitical—namely, the *Official Messenger* (*Pravitelstvenoy Westnik*)—whose whole duty it is to publish decrees and appointments in the military and civil service. I leave it to you to judge the importance, as well as the wording of this document of which enclosed is the full text; and all I have to add is that it has been launched without any pretext whatever—without even that of a survey of the past year, for it appeared in the *Messenger* in the beginning of December, and therefore long before new year's documents of that sort are issued. Here is

THE TEXT OF THIS IMPORTANT POLITICAL SURVEY.

Public opinion in Russia has long been engrossed by what is doing in the neighboring empire of Austria. There is nothing surprising in this. The Austrian crisis is the most important of the questions pending in Europe. The stage where it is being played out is in our immediate vicinity, the incidents in the absorbing drama reacting directly upon ourselves through Galicia and indirectly through what may be the result of it all in the East. Our papers naturally advert to these things very often. If many of them indulge in extreme views some allowance must be made for the provocation given by the language of the Austro-Hungarian journals, certainly not marked by temperance or charity towards others. At the same time it cannot be denied that the Russian press, by offending the national sensibilities of the writers at Vienna and Pesth, has contributed to confirm them in the hostile and irascible attitude they have lately assumed. As long as both parties continue in this implacable mood conflicts will be rife. And yet the more important the question at issue the cooler should be the head to treat it as it requires. Nobody will deny that the problems that have arisen and may arise in Austria are of a complicated nature, and that their solution will be accelerated by the momentous events which have recently occurred.

GREAT CHANGES.

It is not the first time in the present century that great changes have occurred. Not to mention what happened before 1815, we had the Turkish war in 1828, the emancipation of Greece, the interventions of Spain in Italy, revolutions in France, Belgium and Poland, together with the whole series of grave events consequent upon the shock of 1848. During this whole period the European governments were less dependent upon public opinion that they are now. Acting with more freedom than at present, and being less subject to the irritating impressions of the hour, they took a practical view of the various difficulties as they arose, and endeavored to calculate consequences before committing themselves to a definite course. Mutual concessions were the natural result of universal moderation, and the old Russian proverb that a bad peace is better than a good war seemed to be generally recognized. This prevailing disposition was sadly altered for the worse in consequence of the novel tendencies introduced by *le Second Empire*, and maintained by the French to this day.

WILL EUROPE REMAIN STATIONARY?

Is Europe to remain in the condition into which she has lately drifted? Will main force always be regarded as the supreme arbitrator of men and things, or will a beneficial reaction set in? Will the intoxication of victory and the craving for revenge perpetuate national differences, or will the disasters inseparable from war and the desolation of families at length compel a return to the wiser and more conciliatory policy which prevailed in past time? It is impossible to answer these pregnant questions. We may, however, observe that a traveller who lately had the pleasure of meeting Count Bismarck heard the following ominous words from his lips:—

"When I did all in my power to obviate war between France and Germany it was not because I doubted the issue. We were too strong to render defeat probable. But I was convinced that war, once begun, will spread over half a century."

SHOULD THIS UNFORTUNATE ANTICIPATION PROVE CORRECT,

should the endeavors of the leading minds of the age fail to preserve peace, nothing would be left for the world but to abandon the ordinary pursuits of industry and science, and con the daily papers with a view to a timely discovery of the next earthquake, of the next destructive thunder clap. We are all alike interested in averting such catastrophe, and in turning the course of politics into a more auspicious direction. It is a trite truth to say that

THE PRESENT IS THE CHILD OF THE PAST.

France, feasting on the military glories of the Bonaparte period, finds it difficult to wean herself from her ancient ways. Thus the war of 1870 resulted from that of 1866, as did the latter from the campaign of 1791. Retracing our steps even further we shall have no difficulty in discovering a continuous chain of cause and effect, which explains if it does not justify the expressions used by Prince Bismarck. Fortunately the East of Europe is free from the misfortune of such an interminable feud. The war between Austria and Prussia in 1866 completely settled a condition which had been going on for centuries; but once settled, the matter is at an end, and not likely to revive, at least under the same conditions. The squabbles between Russia and Prussia have always been of a more accidental nature, and have been easily allayed. Those two monarchies are connected by a community of interests and the glorious traditions of a long and victorious companionship in arms. Their dynasties are moreover bound to each other by the strongest ties of relationship and mutual esteem, and the services rendered by these two countries to each other at various periods of their history have cemented a friendship between them which is at least as strong as the perpetual strife going on in Western Europe.

RELATIONS BETWEEN RUSSIA AND AUSTRIA.

The historical relations between Russia and Austria are still more remarkable. Centuries have elapsed since the day when these two empires began to exercise a powerful influence upon each other, and when the political, religious and ethnographical questions arose which apparently divide them to this hour, although they have never led to open war. On these facts Prince Gortschakoff very candidly dilated in his communications to Count Buol, made in 1854, at a particularly gloomy period of our history. It must, however, be admitted that if the Austrian Cabinet was to us just then faithless and hostile, it has since evinced a more amicable disposition and returned to views the ignoring of which led to feud. Under these circumstances it would be too bold to strive for the entire removal of these traditions, and we will believe that humanity will not be disgraced by the recurrence in the East of Europe of the bitter strife poisoning the West.

RUSSIA, FRANCE AND GERMANY.

There are some other considerations to be weighed in connection with this. Germany has been waging a terrible war against France and imposed heavy terms upon the vanquished. Whatever her motives for punishing them so severely, there is the fact that she has 35,000,000 of enraged enemies on the other side of the Moselle. Hence arise two results. It is France's interest to look out for allies rather than make fresh enemies. At all events she is in need of sympathizers, and very probably will endeavor to win over Russia. Germany, on the other hand, must be conscious that she has incurred the hatred of an entire race. However humiliated and enfeebled France may be by the war, she numbers 35,000,000 inhabitants, and cannot be a pleasant neighbor for the Germans. The latter, being well aware of what they have to expect at the hands of so inveterate an enemy, made ready for all contingencies, and while strengthening the ties of friendship which bind them to other nations, are likewise anxious to avoid giving offence to the rest of Europe. Their policy cannot but be a pacific one. It is even very probable that they will exercise a pacifying influence on the Austro-Hungarian Cabinet, and that their advice will be more heeded at Vienna than ever before. Though it would be venturesome to imagine a Utopia from glowing expectations, still there are moral influences which cannot be easily resisted. Such being the case the position of Russia is clearly as advantageous as could be well wished for. As matters stand, Russia is free to act. Menacing no one, she need fear no menaces. But it is asked, Has Russia no interests which might render it advisable for her to abandon her present attitude and anticipate difficulties possibly threatening her in the future? We will endeavor to answer this question calmly, and without allowing ourselves to be carried away by prejudice or passion.

DOMESTIC POLITICS.

Firstly, as regards our domestic politics, it would be superfluous to prove that all our nearest and dearest interests combine to recommend peace. Peace to us is not only a means of developing our present resources but also of gathering that strength which can stand ward off the dangers of the future. On this point, indeed, the whole Russian press is agreed. But some journals are afraid that while we continue in a state of preparation political combinations may be formed around us, which, instead of reinforcing our position, may have the opposite tendency, and invigorate those hostile elements we may have some day or other to contend against. With an eye to these contingencies a good many people in this country apprehend that Germany will be tempted to profit by the Austrian crisis for annexing the German provinces, remove the centre of gravity from Vienna to Pesth and make Austria a compensation in the East. Some even go the length of pointing to the alleged desire of the Germans to co-operate with the Hungarians and Austro-Germans for the execution of this design. In either case they regard the fate of the Sclavonian races, who are our natural allies, as sealed; in either case they foresee that Hungary will eventually enter into a powerful league with Germany to exclude us from Europe, and more especially from all participation in the affairs of the East. Those who go furthest fancy that the integrity of Russia will be menaced, and the Galician Poles, always ready to hurt us, be used for opening a way into the very heart of this empire. A combined Prusso-Swedish invasion from the north and a Turco-Persian irruption from south and east, complete the picture of the most dreadful coalition ever formed against us or any one else. Without carrying to refute these overwrought prophecies, we cannot deny that there is something in the opinion of those who, looking at the recent innovation in Austria, contend that we cannot allow a system to be established on our very frontiers which aims at strengthening our principal enemies and at weakening our natural allies. The changes which are being made in Austria concern us not only as neighbors, but also as co-nationalists of the numerous Sclavonian tribes, whose fate is greatly imperilled by recent events. Without wishing to exaggerate possible dangers, we yet cannot help saying that if the Austrian crisis were to assume an aspect prejudicial to ourselves, the simplest means of averting evil would be to acknowledge the peril and act calmly and resolutely. We, of course, have no wish to unite the various Sclavonian tribes under Russian hegemony. On the contrary, we combat this idea, and hold that those advocating it will only arouse national sensibilities and create difficulties which it is not our interest to nourish, nor the interest of the Sclavonians either. The enthusiasts recommending this grand design are in the habit of telling us that we should imitate the example of German unity, and that we have an equal right with our Western neighbors to form our co-nationalists into a compact whole. They forget that German unity is the result of the history of a thousand years, that it was preceded by an uncommonly high degree of civilization, and that the people who succeeded in establishing it had long before attained military, financial and political power of no ordinary extent. They likewise lose sight of the fact that, notwithstanding all these advantages, the Germans had to carry on a prolonged national movement, and to go through a war which, but for the egregious mistakes of the Napoleonic policy, might have had a less favorable result. And, after all this, unity, in the sense in which the term is most frequently used, has not yet been fully secured. It is even doubtful whether what has been established after so many years of toil will outlast the present enthusiastic period. Are there no separatistic elements in Germany endeavoring to modify or break up unity?

THE SCLAVONIAN TRIBES

are differently situated; their history, being of more recent date, has not yet been developed to the same degree of maturity. Still their destinies are being gradually worked out. To accelerate the process would be to count the fatalities of chance. There is no need to do this, considering that the national existence of the Sclavonian world is no longer a subject of doubt. Henceforth no human power can succeed in erasing this grand fact from history. Already Austria endeavors to conciliate the Sclavonian inhabitants of her provinces, and is intent upon changes which may ultimately produce fresh elements of culture, progress and power. The process is certainly fraught with difficulties, and the first experiments have been frustrated by the agency of antagonistic elements. But there is no cause to despair. Similar exertions are being made in Turkey, where Islamism, relying upon the population of Asia Minor, offers even a greater obstacle. If these partial successes have been effected by a natural law, which man may fight against but cannot overcome, we may fairly expect that the movement will proceed till it terminates in a comprehensive reorganization.

THE TURKS

themselves are aware that their government to be strong must develop the wealth of the subject, which cannot be done without relaxing the old tyranny and inaugurating a system of civilization and progress. They have realized at last that the discontent of their Christian subjects and the constant recurrence of outbreaks, filling the empire with ruin and exhausting its finances, sate the very foundation of their rule and must lead to final catastrophe. If this is so is it our interest or the interest of the Sclavonian tribes to interrupt this continuous process, and interfere with the labor of a whole race who are toiling to call into existence a new national element? The work may be slow and obstructed at every turn, but it is nevertheless steadily progressing. To precipitate a historical evolution of this magnitude would be to diminish its vitality and perhaps bring it to a complete standstill.

BY BECOMING WHAT SHE IS

Russia has conferred an immense service upon all nations of Sclavonic descent. A great military Power, with a language, civilization and literature of her own, she has developed a national type, which is a powerful help to the scattered members of the Sclavonic family, oppressed by the strong arm or devoured by the superior civilization of foreigners. To continue her course of domestic invigoration and abide by her pacific policy is the greatest boon Russia can confer upon the Sclavonians. Russia would injure herself as well as the Sclavonians were she, while unattacked, to exhaust her resources in a struggle the more dangerous for being premature.

PANSLAVISM.

From all this it follows that Russia, by preserving amicable relations with her neighbors, is rendering herself most useful to the great Sclavonic family. The greatest enemy of the Sclavonians, on the other hand, is that imprudent Panslavism which prevents their being accorded those political rights so necessary to reach the national autonomy. No government will submit to a portion of their subjects systematically opposing them and obeying inspirations coming from abroad. States may be destroyed by others, but they object to cutting their own throats. Subjects menacing the safety of their own government will always be kept down.

IN THE PAST,

when Sclavonians and Greeks were exposed to the worst tyranny, Russia thought it her duty to protect her conationalists by main force, an obligation which she never hesitated to fulfil as far as she could. At present, when the strife between nations is carried on in a more civilized way, culture and peace are the mightiest weapons to wield.

THE DISTRIBUTION OF THE VARIOUS TRIBES

among the historical monarchies of Europe is, moreover, a law of Providence destined to promote progress. Portions of the same nationality being assigned to different States, peace receives an additional guarantee. In the olden times, when national and linguistic frontiers coincided, wars were more frequent and terrible; and, in the conflict we have just witnessed, had all the Latin races stood on one side and all Teutonic on the other, the collision would have been infinitely more fearful than it was. We are indebted to the historical and geographical divisions which have in course of time supervened between men of the same race that these gigantic struggles between nation and nation are no longer possible.

PEACE

being a general necessity we may hope that it will be preserved. France needs it to recover her strength. Germany is anxious to consolidate unity, and has no wish to endanger the precious fruits of victory by too much enterprise. Austria has no more immediate interest than to set her house in order. Russia prizes peace as the one thing needful to secure her advancement in wealth, culture and reform. Unwilling to attack, she is too strong to dread being attacked. It would be well if the motives animating the pacific action of the Powers were duly appreciated by the press, and employed as a means of allaying susceptibilities and dispelling prejudice. Let us hope that the really well-intentioned among journalists will imitate the example set them by the various governments.

HOW THE SURVEY IS REGARDED IN AUSTRIA.

It is quite natural that, being addressed chiefly to Austria, a document of that sort should have provoked an avalanche of articles in the Vienna press, and all of them interpreting the document with such hostility that the *Journal de St. Petersbourg* (not to be confounded with the *St. Petersbourg Gazette*, which is a Russian paper, while the *Journal* is a French organ of Prince Gortschakoff), printed on the 19th of December (1st of January), another note more especially addressed to the Vienna Cabinet.

"Some of the Vienna papers cannot give up calumniating Russia," says the *Journal*. "Unable to disavow the moderate tone of the political programme published by our government, they declare the government's declarations to be insincere. If Russia had ambitious views she would not have been in want of opportunity to bring them to a realization in 1829, 1837, 1840 and 1848. That Russia has always considered the existence of Turkey and Austria as indispensable elements of the European balance of power. To be sure the Crimean war ought to have greatly changed the views of the Russian government. Yet, notwithstanding the proceedings of the various Ministers that succeeded one another at Vienna, our Cabinet never took advantage of the provocations given to it. As to the question of the sincerity of our government, the Austrians ought to remember that our government is essentially a strong one, having its roots in all that national feelings and traditions produce, and that it has, therefore, no necessity whatever for saying what it does not mean." The rebuke is a pretty sharp one, as you see, if we keep in view that it is not a private newspaper that makes it, but an organ of the Foreign Office.

THE VISIT OF PRINCE FREDERICK CHARLES

gave occasion to an incident worth relation. A gala performance was to be given at the Michael Theatre, consecrated to French plays. The cast refused, however, to play before the German hero. The Chamberlain in charge of the theatres, which are still an imperial institution here, made his report to the Emperor, and received the following answer:—"Of course the artists are quite at liberty to refuse playing; but I am just as much at liberty to order them to leave the country within twenty-four hours should they persist in this refusal." And the result of this answer was that the artists did play.

FRANCE.

The Paris Election—How Hugo Was Beaten—Vote for Vautrain or Lose Your Employment—Metternich's Farewell Dinner—Another French Consul in Trouble.

PARIS, Jan. 9, 1872.

The electoral campaign which M. Thiers ventured upon with his two chiefs of the staff, M. Barthélemy St. Hilaire and M. Calmon, has been crowned with a success which neither he nor any one else in France or abroad could have anticipated. M. Vautrain, the Chairman of the Municipal Council, has beaten Victor Hugo by a majority of 121,158 votes against 93,423. As a matter of ultimate success this result has no meaning whatever for M. Thiers, for M. Vautrain is as radical a republican as can be found among decent sort of people, and a man who will never be elsewhere but on the opposition side. But for the moment it is a great success in that sense that, having made up his mind to accept the least evil of the two, M. Thiers managed to avoid the greater being imposed upon him. He preferred Vautrain to Hugo and he got him, and this is the way in which he did get him:—

HOW IT WAS MANAGED.

In the first place MM. St. Hilaire and Calmon were ordered to call upon all the district mayors and similar authorities and to direct them to use their utmost efforts to send to the poll all the moderate people of their districts who would be likely to abstain, being equally averse to both candidates. And while these two gentlemen were busy at Paris the President himself undertook to work at Versailles. He asked several of the leading tradesmen like MM. Goin, Barbedienne and Dreyfus to come over to him and to have a talk, during which he exposed to them all the dangers of Hugo's election from a business point of view. In the Quartier du Sentier nearly all the big merchants received one way or the other the same intimation. To all of them it was carefully explained that all hope of a return of the Assembly to Paris, and, consequently, of a revival of the trade, must be given up if Hugo was elected; and all of them set at once to work so energetically that Hugo, who had on Friday morning three-quarters of the large factories upon his side, had hardly one-quarter on Sunday morning, some of the employers having declared to the workingmen that should Hugo be elected on Sunday they need not return to work on Monday, as the workshops would be closed. At the gigantic establishment of Cail & Co., where the workingmen are known to be particularly stanch in their radicalism, intimidation of this sort would not have answered, and, consequently, a different policy was pursued. The men were told by their patrons as well as by "red" emissaries that Hugo "had deserted the field in a moment of danger" and that he was a "false brother," and so successful proved to have been the propaganda that out of 2,900 workingmen about 1,700 abstained from voting; and this was all the more important as the district where the factory is situated was already more disposed in favor of Vautrain. The only place where M. Thiers' efforts have completely failed was the faubourg St. Antoine, which voted, with a remarkable unity, for Hugo. But one quarter, could, of course, do nothing, and yesterday several of the republican municipal councillors offered their congratulations to M. Vautrain, and reminded him that the Paris tradesmen and manufacturers, after the vote of Sunday, reckoned upon the speedy return of the Assembly to Paris. They stated that the people of Paris considered that the government was morally bound in this respect. Keeping in view that negotiations on this subject of the tradesmen and manufacturers with M. Thiers were so recent there was apparently no need to remind M. Vautrain of them once more, and since the congratulating municipal councillors ventured to do so it must be supposed that they were afraid that M. Vautrain was not aware of the bargain by which his election was secured.

FORCING THE TICKET.

But through having succeeded in getting M. Vautrain into the Assembly M. Thiers has by no means crushed his enemies, the ultras. Thus, if on Sunday the centre of Paris was perfectly quiet, behind the Pantheon, in the Rue St. Jacques, Rue des Ursulines and kindred places groups of individuals were walking about, stopping the passers by and forcing upon them Hugo's tickets. In certain quarters people who declared themselves in favor of Vautrain ran the risk of being beaten to death. In the Rue de Paris, at Belleville, an old man of the name of Jaquinot and his son were greatly ill used for a declaration of this sort. In the Rue de la Roquette, at Montmartre, in the Rue Lepic and Rue Véron the police were compelled to interfere to protect M. Vautrain's supporters. To be brief, I must say that the present elections in Paris assume a good deal of the English or Irish character—a character they did not possess formerly. But the government of M. Thiers does its best to conceal both its own manœuvres and those of the "gentlemen of the government," and you must have had some Reuter's telegrams declaring that everything was going on as quietly and legally as could be wished for. Even the number of those who abstained from voting is concealed by the government; but it must be considered as amounting to no less than 300,000.

ABOUT THE PROVINCIAL ELECTIONS

nothing positive can be said to-day, as the result is not yet sufficiently known. The only thing certain is that Gambetta's candidate at Toulon, M. Freycinnet, has been defeated by M. Cotte. This will be, of course, attributed to the fact that M. Cotte has the reputation of being more red than M. Freycinnet; but the truth is that M. Cotte was a prefect at Toulon under M. Gambetta, and managed to keep all the conscripts of the department to drill at home instead of sending them to the camps of instruction. This made him very popular in the city, which did not give a single soldier to France during the whole of the war, and though M. Cotte was subsequently dismissed from the prefecture he has now been sent by his patriotic fellow citizens to the Assembly.

POLITICAL GOSSIP.

Passing from electoral politics to political gossip, I must note two dinners which took place the other day—the one at M. Thiers', the other at Prince Metternich's. M. Thiers' dinner was given to the Emperor of Brazil. The Empress was present, too, at the President's house, and seemed just as much interested in the elections as her husband was. The dinner took place on Sunday, and the telegram announcing the victory of M. Vautrain arriving at the dessert the Imperial couple seemed thoroughly to enjoy the news. On the same day and at the same hour Prince Metternich was giving a farewell dinner to a party of fourteen Imperialists, including M. de Persigny, M. Benedetti and M. Conti, the latter of whom never before during this year ventured to appear at official or semi-official dinners. The toast for the Emperor and the Empress was proposed by the Prince and answered by M. Persigny, who said that he had the certainty of seeing the much-regretted Ambassador of Austria back before June, for the spring would not pass without seeing the return of the Emperor, and the punishment of the traitors who prepared and executed the revolution of the 4th of September.

IMPERIALIST MOVEMENTS.

In the way of imperialist movements I must notice the arrival of M. Emile Olivier, after a year's retreat in Italy. He has taken a small apartment in Rue de Satory, at Versailles, and is about to produce *un dossier foudroyant* against M. Trochu and General Palikao. Another of the imperial servants has been requested to come over to Versailles less willingly, and that is M. Tolhausen, late French Consul at Leipsic. He is accused of not having informed the government of the military preparations that were going on around him in the spring of 1870, and of having not done so consequent on some illicit connections with Prince Bismarck. M. Tolhausen has been placed under arrest at home, in charge of a colonel of the gendarmerie.

GERMANY.

Bismarck's Note—A New Explanation—The Kaiser Thinks Him Too Kind to Thiers—Growth of the German Navy—Muzzling the Clergy—The Religious and the Labor Questions—Festivities of the Season.

BERLIN, Jan. 8, 1872.

Those not classed among the stereotyped admirers of Bismarckian iron rule are cudgelling their brains to discover the true motives of the astonishing production recently published by the Chancellor—viz., his brusk note of December 7, threatening dire vengeance against France. It will be remembered by comparing dates that for three weeks after this bullying despatch the Chancellor was reported quite indisposed, though it was generally understood that he was hale and hearty, and that, when called upon by his anxious physician, he jestingly sent word that he was too sick to admit him. The fact was that he had the blues, and did not care to be seen either in public or at court. The following version of the affair we have from a source usually considered well informed:—Early in December the old Emperor, having learned the acquittal of the French murderers, Tonnelet and Berdin, flew into a passion, and instantly called Bismarck, and flatly told him that all this was in consequence of his coquetting with Thiers and his condescension to Pouyer-Quertier, and that he loved his soldiers too well to see them recklessly assassinated. Bismarck mildly remonstrated, maintaining that, in consonance with the customs of civilized nations, the French government could do no more than transfer the criminals to its courts, and that no one could assert that the French laws were purposely framed to acquit the guilty. But the Emperor remained deaf to such reasoning and insisted upon

PROMPT RETALIATION.

Bismarck retired grumbling and meditating as to whether or not he would yield to the wish of his imperial master. Upon "second sober thought" it occurred to him that his conciliatory policy towards Thiers had not been productive of anticipated results; that the wily President of the French republic was thinking more of reorganizing the army than of paying the milliards, and that, in fact, Thiers made excellent use of the pecuniary position to hold himself in office, knowing well that his services would be at an end if the indemnity were paid and the country freed from occupation. Swayed by these reflections, Bismarck wrote his bitter note of the 7th ult., which produced such a thrilling sensation throughout the Continent, and seemed for a while to threaten a renewal of the Franco-German strife.

ANOTHER DECIDED STEP

on the part of the Chancellor is his energetic development of the German navy, which, as you have been informed by wire, has been severed from the military department and placed under his immediate control. The Minister of War, General von Roon, an infantry officer, ceases to have a say in marine affairs, and now the naval force, though nominally under command of another infantry officer, General von Stosch, is directly controlled by the Foreign Department, thus enabling Bismarck to carry forward its aggrandizement. There can be no doubt that his object is to make it, in the shortest possible time, a first class navy, and perhaps more powerful than any now in existence.

It is probably for this purpose that the German squadron, which at first was to consist of four vessels, but is now augmented to seven, is being fitted out, at an expense of two millions, to impress foreign Powers with the increasing naval greatness of Germany. It is evident to every observer that, as a political Power, the new realm is making gigantic strides. As for its internal development it is far from corresponding with the outward appearance. True, a few of the somewhat liberal laws introduced since the union of the Fatherland have resulted in unmistakable benefits. For instance, the law permitting individuals to marry and settle when and where they may desire, without being treated as mere serfs by the authorities, has materially diminished the number of illegitimate births. On the other hand, we might point to the first fruit of that narrow law passed at the late session of the Reichstag, and intended to

MUZZLE THE CLERGY.

A Catholic priest at Moosburg, Bavaria, in a sermon delivered during last March stated that the Pope was deprived of his property because of the faithlessness of Catholic sovereigns who were in duty bound to protect him, and who, though claiming to govern "by the grace of God," seemed to do it by the grace of the devil. When the trial took place, about a week ago, five witnesses appeared against the accused who testified to having heard the words above mentioned, which the State Attorney construed as treasonable, while a much greater number of witnesses could not recollect having heard such expressions. The unlucky priest was sentenced to one year's imprisonment in a fortress.

EVIDENCES OF INDUSTRIAL PROGRESS

daily become more apparent. The new census shows a considerable increase of the population. Money is extremely abundant, and speculation in all branches of trade is assuming unprecedented proportions. Banks and stock companies spring up like mushrooms, and such is the competition among the former that fields of enterprise are being sought for branch banks even as far as Shanghae and Yokohama.

THE TWO GREAT BUGBEARS

of this epoch—viz., the religious question and the labor question—are just now thrown somewhat in the background by this general prosperity. Some sensation was produced by a letter from a Russian layman to Döllinger asking him to assume the full responsibility of his movement, and, instead of basing his creed upon the Council of Trent, to return at once to the orthodox Church, as it stood a thousand years ago and is still upheld in the East. "Unless you repent of your present errors and fully discard Roman Catholicism, we, the universal Catholics, cannot admit you to our fold."

As for the labor question, it cannot be said that the government entirely ignores it, for conferences between the Minister of Commerce and the great reformer, Schulitze-Delitzsch, have lately taken place, and the condition of the laborer, strikes, coalitions and the so called "social question" were earnestly considered. Such are the signs of the times—an old fogy Prussian Minister compelled to sit head to head with a liberal deputy, a representative of the laboring classes!

THE SEASON OF FESTIVITIES

is now opening, and, as last winter was one of constant mourning for the rulers and the ruled, the splendor and extravagance of this bid fair to more than compensate for the abstinence of the past. The Emperor and Princes are still enjoying the chase; the well known Ullmann, of your city, is gathering crowded houses with his troupe, composed of Miss Moubelli, Sivori, the Florence quartet, Hammacker and others, and on the 18th proximo the annual feast of decoration will be more splendid than ever, because of the great number of crosses, medals and orders awarded during the war, and the wearers of which are expected to be present. The young Americans sojourning here, under lead of Kreissmann, Bliss, Abbott and ladies, have already enjoyed one *hop-soirée*, which wound up at early morning with a genuine Virginia reel.

CANADA.

The Boys' Home at Belleville Destroyed—One Boy Burned to Death.

BELLEVILLE, Ont., Jan. 29, 1872.

A fire occurred here early this morning in the Boys' Home. The building was totally destroyed, and one boy was burned to death. The night was intensely cold, and the inmates barely escaped in their night clothes. Total loss $8,000; insurance $2,000. The Home was established by and was under the control of Miss McPherson, who for the past two years has brought out a number of orphan children from England and provided for them in Canada.

Disastrous Fire at Norwich.

NORWICH, Ont., Jan. 29, 1872.

A disastrous fire occurred here to-day, which destroyed fifteen business places. The principal sufferers are:—James Barr, foundry and store, loss $9,000, insurance $3,000; G. Moane, Post Office and store, loss $5,000, insurance $1,200; B. Miller and Co., loss $5,000, insurance $2,000; R. A. Duncan, loss $5,000, insurance $1,000; Haken, loss $1,000, insurance $500; and several other sufferers in small amounts.

SMASHING THE "RINGS."

What the Grand Jury Are Doing in Jersey City—More Astounding Developments—An Assessor Fleeced of $300.

The Grand Jury now in session at Jersey City are rendering a service to the plundered taxpayers which can never be requited. Contractors, policemen, office-holders, journalists and private citizens have been impressed into the service of the State to aid in the grand inquest and bring the violators of the law to justice. The records of the Police Department are in the possession of the Grand Jury, and those of the Board of Public Works will be made use of next. Every department of the city government will have its doings thoroughly sifted and every expenditure will be examined. The means by which a certain "ring" of contractors have obtained all the contracts to the exclusion of all other competitors will be inquired into. Fully a dozen cases will be brought forward to prove that contracts were not awarded to the lowest responsible bidders as required by the charter, and in each of these cases the members of the Board of Public Works are indictable.

But the most astounding developments of all are those in connection with the assessment of office-holders for political purposes. One of these cases will be brought before the Grand Jury during the present week. It appears that during the late political campaign the most desperate efforts were made by the Bumsted "ring" to carry the Assembly districts. In the Third district an organization, known as the Pavonia Club, sprang up for the purpose of aiding the ring, in order to support this club and demoralize the voters of the district the most exorbitant assessments were levied on office-holders. Mr. Joseph Acton, the Assessor for the district, was approached by one of the Police Commissioners, who informed him that he must pay the sum of $400 towards the funds of the club. Mr. Acton demurred, stating that his salary was only $1,800 a year, and such an assessment would be outrageous. The Commissioner retorted that an applicant for Mr. Acton's position had offered $600 if the position were given to him. Mr. Acton was further reminded that all the Assessors had contributed a like amount. Under these representations the Commissioner induced Mr. Acton to sign a power of attorney, so that the Commissioner drew the amount at the City Clerk's office.

Upon inquiry into the matter Mr. Acton ascertained that not one of the other Assessors had contributed one cent. He thereupon brought the matter before the Pavonia Club, and a committee was appointed which reported in favor of returning $100 to Mr. Acton. This was the only redress the aggrieved man could obtain. He brought the matter before the Courts, and, in addition to the civil suit, the Grand Jury will be called upon to pronounce on the case. The Grand Jury have other matters affecting the same Commissioner under consideration.

ALARMING FIRE IN HOBOKEN.

A fire broke out yesterday in a wooden tenement in Garden street, between Fourth and Fifth, in the very heart of an entire block of frame buildings. A large lumber yard was close by, and this added to the alarm of the inhabitants. The wind was blowing violently at the time, and so impressed were some of the people in the surrounding dwellings that the whole block should be consumed that they began to empty out their valuables in utter confusion. The firemen were soon at hand, however, and struggled heroically to save the property, and ere long their efforts were met with success. Had the flames endured much longer the water must have frozen in the hose and the loss would be incalculable. Unless preventive measures be soon adopted there is constant danger of numerous rickety tenements being consumed in that locality.

INDIAN TERRITORIAL POLICY.

ST. LOU