

FRANCE AND HER ALLIES.

The Duke of Gramont Replies to Prince Napoleon's Story of the Events of 1870.

A SKILFUL PARRY OF PLON-PLON'S MALICIOUS CHARGE THAT "THE CHURCH" COST FRANCE ALSACE AND LORRAINE.

The article of Prince Napoleon in the Revue des Deux Mondes, dealing with the secret treaty negotiations, in 1869-70, between France, Austria and Italy, and ascribing the loss of Alsace and Lorraine to the Clerical, has not only provoked much discussion in Europe, but has induced the publication in the Revue de France of a reply signed by "Andreas Memor." Its author, we are informed, is "the statesman who had the most accurate knowledge of the diplomatic negotiations of that epoch, and who was most directly concerned in them"—the Duke of Gramont, Napoleon's Foreign Minister, of course, being the person. The general proposition lately imputed to the Church the loss of Alsace and Lorraine, that the Empire had no firm alliances when it declared war in 1870, and that if it did not succeed in making such alliances after the war broke out it was not because of Napoleon's scruples about giving up Rome to Italy, but because of the rapidity with which the Germans' crushing blows fell on an ill prepared and badly led army. The Duke takes no exception to the Prince's version of the negotiations of 1869. The King of Italy had at the last moment insisted on the evacuation of the papal territory, but the Emperor did not think that the state of Italy then was such as to afford a sufficient guarantee for the faithful execution of the pledges of the convention of 1864 against the revolutionary party, and though the Cabinet at Florence made "letting go of the Pope" a sine qua non of the alliance and Count von Beust yielded his consent to Italy's demands, Napoleon stood out and the treaty was not signed. "What, ever was the French Government's desire to conclude a treaty so favorable to its interests, it would never buy it at such a price." "In the second week of July, 1870," says the Duke, "the Emperor did not have to take up again the pourparlers of 1869; Austria and Italy themselves brought on the negotiations." France's only practicable course was to recall the brigade of occupation from the pontifical territory and, entering into an alliance with Italy, to demand of the latter moral and political assurances, the sincerity of which would have been guaranteed by the alliance itself. This the pontifical Government understood, and the Italian Government being friendly Napoleon ordered the evacuation, confiding the papacy to Victor Emmanuel's honor and loyalty in a personal letter. This placed the Pope under the King's protection, a fact which the Italian Ministry resented somewhat as a sort of reflection on itself. So Victor Emmanuel wrote to Napoleon July 21, and it was arranged that this correspondence should not be mentioned, but that an official exchange of despatches that could be laid before the Italian Parliament should take place between the cabinets of Florence and Paris, and that the two governments should return to the convention of September, 1864. The cabinets were even to revise the drafts of each other's notes, so complete was the understanding. Negotiations were now begun between Austria, Italy and France, the official character of the Austrian plenipotentiaries, Prince Metternich and Count Vitzthum, being manifest, while Victor Emmanuel's autograph letter authorized Count de Vimercati to speak for him. The treaty proposed in 1869 was to be signed, and as Germany could not be expected to refer matters to a congress it was decided, on the Austrians' proposition, that Austria and Italy should guarantee Prussia to agree to maintain in Germany the status quo on the internal basis of the treaty of Prague. To this Bismarck would inevitably return a refusal. Then Italy and Austria would make public their alliance and join France. Italy agreed to put 60,000 men in the field at once and 40,000 more within a few weeks, this force to advance through the Austrian Tyrol on Bavaria and occupy Munich, while the Austrian forces were to be ready in September and to take up their position in Bohemia. These preliminaries being settled, Vitzthum and Vimercati left for Vienna and Florence to set the machinery in action. Up to this time the agreement about Rome was that the French should evacuate it on the basis of the convention of September, 1864, involving its protection by Victor Emmanuel. One of the Italian sovereign's aids, General Turr, Garibaldi's Hungarian associate, happened to be at Paris and took, not as yet clearly defined, some part in the secret negotiations. His participation was not regarded by the imperial Government with particular pleasure. On the 20th he left Paris, and then for the first time came the suggestion that France should concede to Italy something more than a simple return in the Roman question to the convention of September, 1864. Von Beust took the initiative in a note received July 23, urging that the day France evacuated Rome the Italians should occupy it with the assent of France and Austria. This demand startled the Emperor and saddened him. He had not expected, says the Duke, that Austria would urge him to take a step openly hostile to the Pope or call upon France to repudiate a convention which had really formed the basis of the agreement just concluded. The Austrian Ambassador at Paris, too, was puzzled and surprised, and imputed the change of attitude to some secret movement by the Cabinet of Florence inconsistent with its official declarations. There was undoubtedly a party in the Italian Ministry that wished to improve the opportunity by taking a step towards settling the Roman question, and undoubtedly, also, Victor Emmanuel sounded the French Ambassador at Florence, Baron de Malaret, to ascertain whether Napoleon would not consent, verbally, in case of an emergency the Italian army should occupy Rome. The Baron replied that this was impracticable, and expressed a hope that the Roman question might not, in any way, be brought into the negotiations for the triple alliance. "I hope so, too," said the King, "for I wish to carry the triple alliance through." This was on the 25th of July. On the 26th a telegram was received at Paris from the King of Italy, stating that Austria had proposed to him a preliminary Austro-Italian treaty of armed neutrality—in accordance, of course,

with the secret understanding previously arrived at between Italy, Austria and France at Paris—which would facilitate the action of the two powers in a direction favorable to France. While these assurances were being exchanged General Turr reached Florence (July 27) and brought Victor Emmanuel a budget of gossip and views, unofficial but most interesting, which revealed a great change in the situation from that of the 18th of July, when the triple alliance had been arranged, with the Roman question, which had prevented an understanding in 1869, quite left out. General Turr on his part found Italy agitating with regard to Rome, and Austria proposing a preliminary treaty between herself and Italy as a condition precedent to the triple alliance with France. The French Government now found it necessary to invite categorical explanations. This it did July 28. King Victor Emmanuel in reply formally withdrew his demand on France for anything more than a simple return to the terms of the convention of September, but on the very same day Count von Beust telegraphed from Vienna to the Austrian minister at Paris to say that the suggestion he had made (on the 20th)—his letter reached Paris on the 23rd) that France should evacuate Rome had been inspired by Italy. The Italian Ambassador at Paris being questioned at once asserted as positively that Austria and not Italy had taken the initiative in the matter; and the French Government found it necessary to unravel this contradiction. The Italian Ambassador, the Chevalier de Nigra, telegraphed to Florence for an explanation, and received a reply July 29 from the Italian Foreign Minister, Count Visconti-Venosta, declaring positively that whenever France should execute her part of the convention of September 1864, "Italy, which has not denounced that convention, would carry out faithfully its clauses, confiding in a just reciprocity on the part of France in meeting her own engagements." All was not apparently settled, and the Duke of Gramont, wrote to the French Ambassador at Vienna: "The incident is completely ended. * * * In consequence we had ourselves to day standing plumply on the ground of the September convention; nothing more than that is asked of us, and we will carry it out. Our corps of occupation will evacuate the pontifical states on the 5th of August." At this moment, however, King Victor's aide-de-camp and Prince Napoleon's friend, General Turr, suddenly came upon the scene again, this time at Vienna. He could hardly claim to be even an "official" agent of Italy in the face of Visconti-Venosta's explicit declaration, but it was desirable that he should be informed of what had been done and that an understanding had been arrived at. The Duke of Gramont telegraphed on the 29th of July to Prince de la Tour d'Auvergne, the French Minister at Vienna, thus: "I have received a letter from General Turr, who writes from Florence and is on his way to Vienna, where he will stop at the Hotel Muller. He is meddling in the whole negotiation, and though he has no authority for so doing, I think he is employed by (Prince Napoleon). It seems to me that at Florence he did more harm than good. I fear he may do the same at Vienna. Send for him as soon as he arrives and tell him from me that we will on no consideration abandon the convention of September—that he must not even speak of it. Use the same language to him as you have to the others on this subject. Prince de la Tour d'Auvergne acquitted himself of this commission July 30. Two days later Count Vimercati reappeared at Paris from Vienna with the draft of an Austro-Italian treaty in four articles. Austria and Italy agreed by this treaty to place their forces by land and sea on the footing of an armed neutrality, which was to be converted by common and simultaneous accord into an effective co-operation in favor of France. All the conditions to be observed during and after the war were prescribed, and the moment of action chosen by Austria, and selected by her chosen her army would be ready to move, was to be the beginning of September. There was a special article in the treaty by which Austria engaged to second Italy to the end of obtaining a more advantageous settlement of the Roman question than that which would result from the convention of September, 1864. This article brought up again, though in a less explicit form, precisely the proposition which on the objection of France had been previously laid aside. Furthermore, Vimercati's new treaty was between Italy and Austria alone and did not offer France an immediate participation. This the Duke of Gramont pointed out. He was told that as France was already at war the signing of a triple alliance would bring Prussia and probably Russia down at once upon Austria and Italy before those powers were ready to fight. To leave no doubt as to the real object of the treaty, the clause about converting the armed neutrality into an effective co-operation with France, however, had been added. Count Vimercati left Paris after a stay of a few hours to carry the treaty to the Emperor Napoleon at Metz. He brought it back to Paris the next day. Napoleon had indicated two changes: The date of entering into active co-operation must be fixed, and be an early one, and the article about Austria seconding Italy in the Roman question must be struck out. It was not easy to say why this article should not be struck out, for on the 25th of July the Italian Minister of Foreign Affairs had told the French Ambassador at Florence that, "after the recent declarations, a recent stipulation by which the Cabinet of Vienna promised its good offices to obtain from France important concessions in the Roman question would neither be serious nor useful." How, then, did the stipulation get into the text of the treaty brought only a few days after this from Vienna by Count Vimercati? On the 4th of August the Emperor Napoleon wrote to the Duke of Gramont: "I have seen Vimercati and have yielded nothing of what was agreed upon between us." Vimercati went to Florence, whither also went Von Beust's agent, Count Vitzthum, and Victor Emmanuel took an active part in preparing the final draft of the treaty. He regretted Austria's slowness, and was inclined to take the field with his army at once in support of France if Austria would agree to let him pass through the Tyrol and enter Bavaria. To this Austria objected that such an act on her part would be equivalent to a declaration of war against Germany, and that from her geographical position between Russia and Prussia she could not possibly do anything to provoke hostilities till she was quite ready to strike the first blow herself. For this military reason Austria insisted on retaining the article

which left the date of action to be fixed by herself and Italy. The article about Rome was abandoned in deference to Napoleon's wishes. But the discussions about it had occupied several days at a time when events were moving faster than diplomacy. And so it came to pass that while the French agents vested with full powers at Florence and Vienna were awaiting the signature of the Austro-Italian treaty the battles of Weissenburg and Woerth were fought and the current of history was changed. "It was with victory still more than with France," says the Duke of Gramont, maliciously, "that Italy and Austria desired an alliance." OVERWORKED MEN. The sudden death of Mr. William Otton has furnished another of those warnings to overworked men which come so often and to which so little heed is given. There can be no doubt about what killed Mr. Otton. He ought to have lived twenty years longer at least, and in any other country than this, or if he had been a mechanic or a small shopkeeper, he might with reason have looked forward to even a longer term of life. He was in robust health and in what most people would consider very comfortable circumstances; he was temperate in his habits, careful in his mode of living, and, so far as is known, he had no domestic or personal cares to worry him. Why should such a man wear out at fifty, going to pieces all at once? Simply because, like nearly every man among us who holds a position of like responsibility, he imposed upon his nervous system too much work and gave it too little play. It is not so much the amount of work that wears out the brain or any other organ as the neglect of the needed rest. A man cannot be thinking about his business all the time any more than he can be hammering at the anvil all the time without exhaustion, and the men who work with their brains are in greater danger than those who work with their hands, for the obvious reason that the limit of muscular exertion is soon reached, beyond which it is impossible to go, while the brain will keep on acting after a fashion until it is altogether used up. The reason that the average life of our public men—among whom we include not only politicians but the managers of our great corporations—is shorter than that of the corresponding classes abroad, is to be found in the hurry and worry to which they are subjected and in the neglect of a wise and systematic division of their time. This latter difficulty is a part of our social organization or want of organization. An English railway president, for example, easily falls into the habit of apportioning the details of his work among subordinates who obey his commands without question, retaining to himself only a general supervision, which can be maintained just as effectively by a few hours' attention each day as by working and worrying through the whole twenty-four. The day's business despatched, it is dismissed from his mind, not because he is indifferent to it, but because it is a part of the system in which he has been educated to work only in working hours. He dines leisurely and goes to the play or to his club; he rides or drives; he runs down in the country to take a turn with the hounds; he makes his recreation as much a matter of duty as his business, and the result is that he is an active man at seventy, whereas in America he probably would have broken down at fifty. It is difficult for a man who is placed in a responsible position in this country to apportion his daily work in this way. Society does not move along so smoothly in well worn channels, and business follows to an exaggerated degree the habits of society. We often hear it said that it is the inordinate desire for wealth or power that wears men out so soon, and in many cases this is true; but not in all. Often enough a man's overwork is caused by a simple and honorable desire to do his whole duty in the station to which he is called, that no interests entrusted to him may suffer from his neglect. He sees that hard work is necessary to success, and he will work as hard as any man. He knows the importance of attention to details, and he will look after everything himself. He finds no recognized division between the world's hours of work and of play, and he dare not be idle lest somebody get ahead of him. If he had only himself to think of he might take the risks; but there are great interests entrusted to him, for which he is responsible and which he dare not divide, and so he works all the time, until some day he finds that he cannot work at all. It is not a matter of choice, but of compulsion; it is not avarice or ambition, but a duty that cannot be escaped. Men like President Otton are as truly overworked as was ever a planation negro, and it is the senseless drive of our unformed and unorganized society that kills them in their prime. It is of very little use to scold these men and tell them that they should not work so hard. They are driven continually by a force which they can neither control nor resist: they must work, and if it kill them, as they know it may, at least they will die in harness. They can help themselves a little sometimes by systematizing their work, by securing as much rest and diversion as they can; but they have had no time in their hard-driven lives to learn how to rest or how to be diverted, and if ever they do learn, the knowledge is commonly come too late. It is in this way that we are killing off our ablest men, just at the time of life when they are worth the most to us. THE ANTECEDENTS OF DISEASE. Among the antecedents of disease are inertness in the circulation of the blood, an unnaturally attenuated condition of the physique, indicating that the life current is deficient in nutritive properties, a wan, haggard look, inability to digest the food, loss of appetite, sleep and strength, and a sensation of unnatural languor. All these may be regarded as among the indices of approaching disease, which will eventually attack the system and overwhelm it, if it is not built up and fortified in advance. Invigorate, then without loss of time, making choice of the greatest vitalizing agent extant, Hostetter's Stomach Bitters, an elixir which has given health and vigor to myriads of the sick and debilitated, which is avouched by physicians and analyzed to be pure as well as effective, which is immensely popular in this country, and extensively used abroad, and which has been for years past one of the leading medicinal staples of America. THE STANDARD BEARER.—Webster's Unabridged Dictionary.—On the whole, we must acknowledge that Webster is the standard bearer of the English language. All the other systems were purged by him, and all that is excellent in the later compilers must acknowledge the standard first given by him to the improvement of our language as the source of its merits. The former editions successively improved upon in ever increasing magnitude, and the present edition, which reached a culminating degree of excellence, the illustrations alone reaching several thousand.—Catholic Record.

DIOCESAN LOAN. STATE OF LOUISIANA, DIOCESE OF NEW ORLEANS. LOAN OF \$250,000 Issued by the Board of Administrators of the Roman Catholic Church of the Diocese of New Orleans, at their meeting of the 11th of January, 1878, with the authorization and approval of the Holy See, bearing date November 8th, 1877. SAID LOAN CONSISTS IN AN ISSUE OF 2940 MORTGAGE BONDS, DIVIDED INTO FOUR SERIES, AS FOLLOWS: Series A, 40 Bonds of \$1000 Each. Series B, 1000 " of 200 " Series C, 1000 " of 100 " Series D, 1800 " of 50 " These Bonds, dated January 1st, 1878, are signed by the President, the Treasurer and the Secretary of said Board of Administrators, with the seal of the Society affixed to each, and are paraphrased "as Variator" by Octave de Armas, a Notary Public in this city. They bear an annual interest of 5 per cent from the date of issue to maturity, which interest is payable semi-annually as per Coupons attached, viz: On the 1st of July and on the 1st of January of each succeeding year. The capital is payable at par in twenty years from date, by drawings to be effected annually, commencing January 1st, 1898. The interest and principal are payable in New Orleans, New York, Rome, Paris, and in several other cities of the United States and Europe, which will be hereafter designated. The subscription is opened: — IN NEW ORLEANS — At the Archbishop's Residence, Secretary's Office; At A. Carriere & Sons, Commission Merchants; At the Hibernia Insurance Company's Office At the People's Bank. OBJECT OF THE LOAN. During the crisis which followed the war of secession, and which weighed so heavily on the State of Louisiana, the Administrators of the Diocese of New Orleans assumed liabilities which they have determined to liquidate. In the past year a better state of affairs loomed up in the financial situation of the Diocese. That improvement will increase as the rate of interest claimed by its creditors is lessened. The conventional rate, in Louisiana, is too high for a religious society, the revenues of which, though entirely secure, are nevertheless limited for such a society cannot look for eventual profits in contingent undertakings or in speculations altogether inconsistent with its mission of benevolence and charity. Therefore it is not with a view of creating a new debt that this loan is negotiated, but in order to unify and consolidate anterior liabilities, and obtain their gradual and regular extinction by means of the ordinary revenues of the Diocese, and without endangering the Church property, although affecting it. Such is the plan positively approved by His Holiness, Pius IX, and unanimously adopted by the Board of Administrators of the Roman Catholic Church of the Diocese of New Orleans. SECURITIES. The Diocese of New Orleans, a corporation constituted under the laws of the State of Louisiana, by the name and style of "THE ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH OF THE DIOCESE OF NEW ORLEANS," affords to the creditors securities that are both material and moral. As a corporation legally instituted, it enjoys all the rights and privileges of a civil body. It can contract debts, acquire, borrow, alienate and mortgage its property, whether movable or immovable, under the prescription of its Charter. At their meeting of January 11th, 1878, the Council of said Society unanimously determined, for the reasons above stated, to issue at the rate of 5 per cent, a single loan of \$250,000, secured by a special mortgage on all the mortgagable real estate of the Diocese, and therefore, by a deed dated January 25th, 1878, passed before O. de Armas, Notary Public in New Orleans, the above resolution was carried into effect, by the granting of a special mortgage on all the mortgagable real estate of the Diocese to secure the Bonds thus issued, which said mortgage was duly recorded, as will appear by certificates of the Recorder of Mortgages annexed to said act in the office of said Notary. Besides this solid guarantee, said Corporation pledges its honor and good faith for the faithful discharge of the above obligations. REAL ESTATE OFFERED AS SECURITY. From the official report recently made to the Holy See, the Church property of this Diocese is divided as follows: Independent or nonmortgagable properties, \$1,020,000 Mortgagable properties valued at its minimum rate, 1,920,000 This latter, the only real estate affected by the mortgage aforesaid, and worth double the amount of the loan, include many buildings, lots, fields and other productive properties not dedicated to the worship of God. PAYMENT OF INTEREST—REDEMPTION OF CAPITAL. At their meeting of January 11th, 1878, the Council of the Corporation ascertained that, outside of the usual and irregular receipts, the annual secured revenue of the Diocese, after deduction of the costs of Administration, leaves a surplus of \$30,000 that can be disposed of semi-annually; and it was resolved that— 1st. For the punctual payment of the interests on the loan a sum of \$12,500 shall, from the 1st of January, 1878, and thereafter yearly, be reserved, appropriated and deposited in Bank to meet these interests. 2d. A similar sum of \$12,500 shall also annually, from the 1st of January, 1882, be reserved, appropriated and deposited in Bank for the gradual extinction of the capital, and so on every year until its entire extinction. 3d. That in no case and under no pretext whatsoever these sums, reserved, appropriated and deposited, shall be used for any other purpose than those above expressed. SUMMARY. From what precedes, it follows: That the loan is negotiated with the sole object of liquidating all former debts; That it represents the liabilities of the "Society of the Roman Catholic Church," which are thereby unified and consolidated with a reduced interest; That it is secured by a special mortgage on properties worth five times as much as the amount borrowed and therefore amply sufficient to guarantee both the payment of interest and the redemption of the capital. Consequently the Mortgage Bonds of the Diocese of New Orleans constitute a first-class investment, with moral and material securities but seldom offered to capitalists. N. J. PERCHE, Archbishop. MILLET, V. G., Administrator of Finances.

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