

However, we are a long way yet from the *A Londres!* There is not a school boy but will draw you up a plan for the invasion of England, with the promptitude with which he will draft a brand new constitution for his own country—

Projects created like waves,
And one no sooner touched the shore and died
Than a new follower rose

The tactics of the Chinese commence to peep out. They intend to exhaust the French by a protracted war, which will not suit either the temperament or political necessities of France. A few of the journals make siren overtures to John Chinaman to confess his wrongs; to execute a *mea culpa*, and throw himself on the mercy of a generous enemy that will let him down softly. France is deep in the "marmalade;" she has her old man of the mountains in Tonquin and the Black Flags, and her Mahdi in China proper. And at the moment when England has nerved herself to do her work in Egypt, China, it appears, could bring twenty millions of soldiers into the field—more than the united armies of all Europe. It would take some time to kill off these.

The territorial army of France, the War Minister has officially stated, would be disorganized if more than 6,000 men were dispatched to China. And 30,000 is the number required to march to Peking. Then there is the money grant. The budget is in a deficit of 200,000,000 francs, and a war loan would not be popular for invading China. For Germany that would be another affair; a bold stroke to repossess Alsace would empty all the old stockings of their five-franc pieces in the twinkling of an eye. Hence the astuteness of Bismarck to push France into Mexican expeditions and then let her get out of the mud as she best can.

The feeling of the country is uneasy and feverish, and the opposition is less determined against the calling together of parliament. The Radicals invited M. Grevy to summon the Chambers to consider the Chinese fix and puzzle. He declared that by the Constitution he could not do anything of the kind, but sent the letter on to M. Ferry. It is only a Macmahon could indulge in the luxury of a parliamentary *coup d'etat*, to wit, the celebrated 16th May. For being constitutional, the Radicals remind M. Grevy that Louis XVI was so too, but that did not save his head from the guillotine. That's pretty hot for the venerable President—the most inoffensive of mortals. Then they threaten to abolish the office of President. That was the favorite idea once of M. Grevy, but destiny decided he was himself to illustrate the contradiction. Similarly with Thiers. He advocated surrounding Paris with fortifications to keep out an enemy, and they were utilized in that end against himself.

With serious difficulties on their hands in the far east, where the horizon darkens rather than brightens, the French have had brought home to them the redoubtable might of England. She commands the Red Sea—that key of the commerce of the universe, and so the canal of Suez. Perim, a second Gibraltar, could close in ten minutes the route of the French to the east. And in the Mediterranean, a numerous English fleet would keep the gangways clear, and deter the transport of troops and war material. It is agreed on all hands, that be her iron clads what they may, England should have—at once lay down keels for a supply of swift sailing cruisers.

A shade has been cast over the memory of M. Thiers; a confidential letter from Gambetta has found its way into print, corroborating a cruel expression of the Liberator's at the time of the war, ridiculing the idea, that Alsations and Lorrains were French, or that any pity was to be entertained for their severance, after two centuries of connection with France. That document will be as good for Bismarck, as the absorption of several degrees of latitude territory in Africa—even where a Hottentot could not live.

The 4th September saw very few observing the anniversary of the Third Republic. The anarchists put in an appearance to protest against the continuation of a mockery, a delusion and a snare. The usual remedy was proposed: Abolish all institutions, but above all extinguish the

middle classes. The first revolution annihilated the aristocracy, the good time coming will sweep away their despicable successors—the employers of labor and capitalists. M. Joffrin, though a clever Democrat, is not a ladies' man; at a gathering of feminine stalwarts, he told them to their face that all attempts hitherto made to form females into a guild or corporation failed, owing to their terrible system of backbiting one another. He suggested that the women's rights question be adjourned till the ladies had received a "manly" education.

The triple alliance must be very sick when it has become necessary for the Emperor of Russia to venture on his "pleasure" trip, the railway line being guarded en route by picked soldiers. What a life that kind of royalty must be. Not the slightest importance is attached here to that meeting, so far as recasting the affairs of Europe. Austria and Russia are permanently divided over the Balkan regions, and Turkey has sufficient stuff in her yet for some more Pleonas if necessary. Russia is as much occupied looking after Germany as after India, and Bismarck's arm is considered as shortened, his charm broken, since the London Conference.

Despite the painful spectacle of the Emperor of Russia having to be triply guarded against his subjects, there are persons yet who ambition the profession of Sovereign. Orlie-Antoine, the small attorney of Perigord, died ex-King of Araucania. His heir, Achille I., announces he is as lively and as active as a carp, only waiting for Providence to fix the hour of his restoration to the iron crown. The Napoleons, father and son, V¹/₂ and VI¹/₂, have disappeared from the public gaze like a beautiful dream. Their apartments now display the usual bill, "To Let." As for the Count de Paris and the other members of the family, they are only camped in France. The slightest step at practical pretension, and they receive marching orders—the world before them where to choose.

The proprietor of one of the leading hotels in Paris has bolted, as if a defaulting cashier or a money-changer. His debts and defalcations amount to over one million francs. He has gone to his native city of Warsaw. Professor Guyard, who filled the chair of Oriental languages in the College of France, has shot himself—cause, overwork. An intermittent pickpocket has come to grief; he was seated in the Tuileries gardens, when a lady discovered his hand in her pocket; he apologized, said he was afflicted with palsy, and absence of mind. A policeman was called; he threatened that functionary with the thunder and lightning of the British Embassy, solicited to turn his pockets inside out, nine purses were discovered, and a sum of 280 francs. He only left the prison after his eighth incarceration the day before. He, at all events, could not complain of business being slack. A young man having lost his last louis and last hope in gambling at his club, rushed into the street, and calling a vehicle, directed cabby to drive to "eternity, by the Solferino bridge;" on arriving at the latter, he gave cabby his blessing, and his hat for payment of the fare, and plunged into the Seine. The body of another young man was fished up from the river; he held clutched in his hands some tickets for one or two of the lotteries, but resembling the history of Viola's love—a blank. It is time for the Republic to suppress this depravity of authorized lotteries. All the alienists attest that after every drawing, they have an increase of patients in the asylums.

Business is not what it was some years ago. The protectionist policy of the Republic has already run up the price of several necessities of life. Many shopkeepers are vegetating on their capital. Not a week but two or three bubble-banks burst—the only manner many people have learned of their existence. The money-changers will soon be as rare as the dodo; these Good Samaritans have not a good reputation, so very numerous have been the swindlers. You hire the one-eighth of a shop window, and call all the institution a "bank;" then loan, by the day, some scrip, and some moneys to display in the window, as certain restaurants hire legs of mutton, quarters of beef, poultry, game, fruit, &c., to decoy simpletons "to walk into the parlor." You

leave some money on deposit, tempted by high interest paid in advance out of your own cash; then one fine morning you call for a draw, find shutters up, and a police notice—"levanted." Two solid banks now do exchange business, and so protect the public. Madame Bernhardt earns 1000 francs a night; she allocates one third of this to pay her debts.

The crack restaurants charge three sous for the artistic paper of your little bill.

OUR EUROPEAN LETTER.

BRUSSELS, Sept. 12th, 1884.

The first excitement caused by the active measures taken by Admiral Courbet at Foo Chow and Kelung, has subsided and the general opinion is that we are not to have a Franco-Chinese war. The announcement made in the London *Times* that Kelung had been bombarded is not confirmed. The latest authentic information received up to date is that before pushing his operations any farther the Admiral will wait the arrival of the troops that have been sent to his aid from Cochin China and Tonquin. When these arrive he will attack Kelung not as a work of reprisal as at Foo Chow but for the purpose of absolute occupation. Kelung once taken will be retained by France along with its valuable coal mines. It is indeed understood to be probable that the island of Formosa will be seized. This of course really means war, but when I say that a Franco-Chinese war is not expected I mean that these contemplated operations if not interrupted by peace will secure peace.

In Tonquin, General Briere-de-l'Isle has been confirmed in the command as successor to General Millot but will not like the latter be charged with the political administration of the Protectorate.

There has been a re-organization of the tribunals of justice at Tunis. One of the results of the French Protectorate is the abolishment of Consular Courts, and another court "of first instance" has been established to take up the business heretofore conducted before these tribunals.

The most satisfactory news of the day for Frenchmen comes from Madagascar. A week or two ago a rumor of disaster to French troops was started by a Parisian journal in a most circumstantial way. It was soon discovered from intrinsic evidence that this was a canard intended to discredit the Ministry, and there was an angry scene in the Chamber about it, the proprietor of the paper being himself a member of that body. Authentic news is now received in the form of official despatches which say that Admiral Miot has, without firing a shot, taken possession of the bay of Passandova at the extreme northwest of the island.

German annexations in Africa continue. The commander of the gunboat Wolf has raised the German flag at several points, viz.: Spencer Bay, Sandwich Harbor, Cape Cross, Cape Trio—all on the southwest coast. The territory annexed with these is said to extend eighty miles inland. As was natural these annexations have aroused some conflicts and we hear complaints that the limits of this new addition to the German Empire have been invaded in one place by the servants of English colonists and in another by negroes of the Tongo tribe. The Germans would probably have found it more profitable if less glorious to continue their peaceful conquests of the best part of the commerce of French colonies instead of beginning the work of annexation on their own account.

The relations between Germany and England seem to be rather strained. It is stated that the German Minister at London is recalled. It does not appear who is to be Count Munster's successor, but the reason given for the recall is that Bismarck is dissatisfied with the want of energy which he thinks the Count displayed in enforcing the views of his Government at the last sitting of the London Conference on Egyptian affairs. This is rather significant as to the true state of Bismarck's feelings towards the English Government because in England Count Munster has always been looked upon as rather too energetic and demonstrative. "People there" (says the *Independence Belge*) "will learn with surprise, and perhaps with disquietude, that the Ger-

man Chancellor considers him too little so." No one has yet been appointed to fill the vacant post of English Ambassador at Berlin.

More trouble in Zululand, which seems likely at last to fall under the rule of whites—not the English, but the Dutch. When Cetewayo died, Usibepu, without opposition on the part of the English, took the throne. His title was disputed by Donizulu, the son of Cetewayo, who, with the help of the Boers of the Transvaal, conquered him, and was proclaimed King in his place. The last news is that the Boers have helped themselves to a large share of the country on the Western side, about 12,500 square miles in extent. The new convention between England and the Transvaal Republic precludes the former from interfering between the Boers and the native tribes. The event has caused some disquietude in England and among the English colonists in South Africa. The latter have no desire to see the martial and restless Boers push their territories up to the colonial border.

The insurrection in the Hedjaz, instigated by El Mahdi, has lately acquired large proportions. Yemen with its garrison of 2000 men is besieged by a force of at least four times that number of Arab insurgents. The Governor of Mecca, who was ordered to send relief, says he dare not attempt to lead his troops there because they themselves are ripe for rebellion. Re-enforcements of Turkish troops to the number of 8000 are being dispatched, but it will be some time before they can reach the scene of operations.

There is nothing new from Egypt except a dispute as to the settlement of the claims for damage done to foreign property at Alexandria after the bombardment. The English Commissioners think the valuation of the damages made by the referees are excessive, and propose that Egypt shall pay them in ten year bonds without interest, or if in cash then only three-fourths of the amount. Egyptian finance is a happy thing for England to take under her care. It would be much more simple for her to pay Egypt's debts at once and gain everlasting renown from the creditors.

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