LITERATURE.

A HISTORY OF THE PLOTS AND CRIMES OF THE GREAT CONSPIRACY TO OVERTHROW LIBERTY IN AMERICA. By John Smith Dye. Published by the Author: New York.

The work of Mr. Dye, whatever may be its defects, certainly presents to us phases of American history in a new and startling light. "It is the object of the author to give, in a small compass, a complete history of the political crimes originating with or from slavery, and perpetrated by its friends, during the last century." And the field which the author designs to cover he has faithfully succeeded in going over. There appears to be no incident which bears the slightest resemblance to an asseveration, which he has not sifted; and if the leaders of the pro-slavery faction have half the sins upon their souls which he imputes to their account, they will have a load to sink them through all eternity. According to the writer's showing, an attempt was made to assassinate General Jackson, which was instigated by the South. While there can be no doubt but that Lawrence really attempted his murder, yet we cannot see, from the evidence, that any connection between him and the nullifiers can be discovered. We doubt not that the spirit which will support the hideous crime of slavery would willingly remove any obstacle so slight as one human life; yet in the present case the evidence is insufficient. In the case of General Harrison a most clear case is made out. It would seem that, on reviewing the facts, as we can now after the lapse of years, that it is at least not improbable that the President was actually removed by *arsenic*. All the proofs are arranged with great care and nicety, and make out a strong line of circumstantial evidence. We have also all the particulars of the death of General Taylor; but the same line of argument is used in his case as in that of "Tippecanoe," but not so strong an accusation secured. It is shown in the facts in the case of Mr. Buchanan, that not only was it the diabolical design of the murderers to poison, but that a hundred innocent victims were to be also included in the butchery. As it was, thirty-eight died from the poison at the National Hotel, and it was only by superhuman efforts that the life of the President was saved. The assassination of a year ago is given in detail, and the great plea of Judge Advocate Bingham given in full.

From such materials it was impossible that the author could fail to make an interesting work. He has treated the subject in a careful and pirspicuous style, and has succeeded in giving an extremely readable, even if not a very reliable work. As he proceeds he runs along with the history of the political struggle between slavery and freedom, detailing its progress with accuracy and makes a continuous narrative from the Declaration of Independence to the death of the President in April last. He has treated of the subject in a lihgt in which it has not been examined before. It is original, and portions of it appeared strained to secure a verdict of probability more than the facts will allow. Appended to the work proper is a succinct narrative of the various assassinations of history, and the whole book terminates with a picture of President Johnson.

The production possesses merit which recommends it to the popular favor. Rather too prejudiced to be recived with trusting confidence, and all its statements considered as facts, yet at the same time, whenever the issue, is strained it is too clearly evident to cause any misapprehension on the part of the reader. We are assured it has had an immense sale, and it is probable that the demand for it will continue to increase the more its style and character are known.

—The Paris correspondent of the New York *World* writes:—

"Fancy Renan's 'Life of Jesus' being read and annotated by Abdel Kader! Strange though it may appear, it is, nevertheless, true, and Renau has had a personal interview with the Emir, who received him most hospitably—at least so says *L'Evenement*, and we may believe it. I was wrong just now, when I stated that there was no present novelty in London. There are the readers of the Hon. Mrs. Teresa Yelverton—a name so well known in almost every corner of the globe that, in itself, it would be sufficient to fill a room. Arriving early, I could not but remark that the general conversation ran almost exclusively on one topic—*Mrs. Yelverton*—and I was glad to hear that each had a word of sympathy for one so cruelly, shamefully wronged. She was dressed in a pale blue silk, with Benoiton velvets in her hair and round her neck. Her voice is deep, sonorous, and occasionally dramatic, and must have considerably improved since the first reading, for it was distinctly heard from all parts of the room. Whether by design or chance, the pieces selected bore a marked similitude with her own sad fate, and told accordingly. Indeed, all through the reading you could not separate the reader from the suffering woman, whose past is known to all, whose future is blank and comfortless, for not one ray of hope remains that ever her constancy will be rewarded, that ever she can be happy with the man she loves in spite of fortune, time, or fate."

—The next volume of Napoleon's "Vie de Cesar" is announced for May. The Emperor's constant orders are:—"*Don't let any soul see the proofs!*" What do you think of that? The Paris *Union* announces also the appearance of a new Latin journal, under the title of *Apis Romana*. It is a good example, and commences well. Its first number contains some playful lines in praise of tobacco. A letter from Wilna announce a general conversion at Pudbrezie, in Poland, from the Roman Catholic to the Orthodox Church.

—The Davenport brothers have announced a few seances in London. But the best anecdote of spiritualism we have heard for some time is the following:—A gentleman was asked if he would like to call a spirit.

"I should," the gentleman replied.

"Whose?" asked the medium.

"*Lindley Murray's!*"

Lindley Murray's ghost appeared erect, right through the table. The gentleman shuddered. All trembled. The medium was visibly affected.

"Are you the spirit of Lindley Murray?" asked the gentleman, astonished at his own courage in thus addressing a visitant of the lower world.

"*Yes, I are!*" boldly responded Lindley Murray's ghost.

Poor Lindley Murray!

A Sale of Rare Autographs.

A large collection of valuable autographs was recently offered for sale in New York, in reference to which the *Tribune* says:—

An autograph sale, boasting, in addition to considerable local interest, something like a world-wide variety of distinguished signatures, is infrequent even where sales of *varia curiosa* are so common as in New York. That at Messrs. Bangs & Merwin's on two evenings past was favored with a very fair attendance, though, remarkably, not with spirited bidding. The autographs were advertised as one of the most important and valuable collections ever offered for sale in this country; and certainly their number, curiosity, and fame, might have justified a larger attendance of purchasers.

The sale so far has disposed of only half the collection, which, it is worth while saying, is "warranted genuine and authentic," is well classed and illustrated, and ranges from Revolutionary Colonels and Congressmen to Major-Generals, Chief Justices, Ambassadors, and Presidents; from Prime Ministers and Generalissimos to Archdukes, Kings, Queens, Emperors, and Popes; through theology, philosophy, and science, with Melancthon, Swedenborg, Leibnitz, D'Alembert, Champollion, Humboldt, Boerhave, and other great names; from Cramer and Lortzing to Bellini, Donizetti, and Mendelssohn, among musicians; and among historians, poets, novelists, and dramatists, such as Hume, Sismondi, Wieland, Jean Paul Richter, Zschokke, Voltaire, Tom Moore, and Wordsworth. The painter autographs are of Godfrey Kneller, Benjamin West, David, Lessing, and Canova. There is a fragment of Spontini, which has marks of genuineness, and is accompanied by a rare engraved portrait of the Empress Josephine's favorite *maestro* in his court dress. The autograph scores of Bellini and Lortzing have also appended interesting contemporaneous portraits which we very seldom see.

A letter scrap of Donizetti, written in a rapid and inky chirography, nicely stroked and dotted, the name of the master easily legible, contrasts curiously with the neat score of Bellini. These autographs were each sold for $1·25. The military lines of writings, sometimes as strategic and puzzling as any lover of the martial art could wish, extend from the simple sign-manual of Colonel Ethan Allen up to Washington, and back to Prince Eugene, Frederick the Great, Wallenstein, Tilley, Charles the Twelfth, and Gustavus Adolphus. Bidding, as we have said, was, upon the whole, tolerably common-place, which may be accounted for most naturally by the exceeding disproportion of titled and famous autographers to the limited and democratic attendance. The low figures at which the death-dealing hands of famous kings and queens went off into possession of unknown collectors might be taken as a fact most mortifying to royalty in these days rather than as showing a want of abstruse historical knowledge on the part of our second-hand dealers. But the prices offered in many instances did not by any means impeach the value of the sale.

The first division of the collection, including some quite rare autographs of American Colonial Governors and pre-Revolutionary notables, sold briskly at prices varying from twenty-five cents to two dollars. Among these was a scarce writing of Robert Hunter, Governor of New York in 1712, and the author of a famous letter on "Enthusiasm," by some attributed to Swift, and by others to Shaftesbury; signatures of Sir George Clinton and the New Jersey proprietors, Berkely and Carteret; and some records and letters of the Colonial Governors of Massachusetts, Maryland, and North Carolina. Autographs of Revolutionary statesmen brought similar sums. A plain and scholarly script of John Jay was laid aside for $2, and a slight, scarce autograph of Patrick Henry brought no more. A long personal letter of Elias Boudinot, President of Congress, in 1782, was bought for $1. Generals in the Revolution commanded growing prices. Colonel Allen's letter, dated during the war of Independence, was secured for $4·25; a page by General Philip Schuyler, dated Moses Creek, 1777, complaining that his reputation suffers unjustly, was valued at $9; a neatly written English letter o the Marquis de Lafayette to John Jacob Astor, and an admirable specimen of Lafayette's autograph, brought easily $15, as high a sum as Washington's letter to General Morgan during the New Jersey campaign. This is a more rapid hand, it seems, than usual, of the calm, precise, and straightforward writing of the Commander-in-Chief. General Anthony Wayne's letter to Major John Armstrong sold for $9, and is a piece of strong and practised chirography.

Eight records, with signatures of three Dukes of Brunswick, including one of the late eccentric, whose wonderful diamonds were stolen a few years ago, and with signs-manual of five of the Danish kings, did not venture above $1·75 apiece. Gustavus Adolphus' almost undecipherable scrawl, splay-fashioned, light, and cross-cross, reached only $3; a still more imperfect autograph of Charles XII was sold for $1·50. Bernadotte's bold signature could command no more than 50 cents; that of Catharine II, the great and infamous of Russia, went off cheap at $1; but the Swedish Queen Christina, better preserved autograph, brought the fair royal price of $3·75. Maria Theresa's more modish and modern handwriting was rated no higher than a couple of dollars. Philip II, husband of "Bloody Mary," and the Emperor Charles the Fifth of Germany had no better luck.

An autograph of great variety, undoubtedly the handsomest and most characteristic of this part of the collection—that of Prince Alexander Menschikoff—was sold for $1·25. Scraps of Wallenstein and Piccolomini, the perfume of Schiller's great drama about them, were held in no better respect. Frederick the Great, Alexander Farnese, Archduke Charles, and Marshal Blucher, were counted off soon at ignoble prices no higher than $2. Frederick appends to a very small and neat memorandum the curt signature of "Fritz." The graceful and expressive autograph of Prince Metternich, a letter accompanying a portrait of his clear and elegant features, was undoubtedly one of the rarest specimens offered for sale.

Of English autographs, those of Bolingbroke and General George Monk were rated highest at between $1 and $3. Signatures of Palmerston and Peel sold for 40 and 50 cents; a small manuscript of David Brewster, $1·50; a letter of George Craobe to his publisher, $3, and another of Harriet Martineau to Mrs. Hale, were among the best bids. Among all the autographs none is more delicate and refined than Moore's, or so light and airy as Barry Cornwall's, which brought equal sums of $1. Richardson, the author of "Sir Charles Cavendish," etc., was prized at $3·50, and David Hume at $10. A small neat scrap of writing by Wordsworth was put away at $2·75.

The next division of sale, including autographs of several of the Popes, and some handsome specimens of old-fashioned scholastic calligraphic—one of which purports to be a record of Alexander Borgia—was speedily gone through with at figures ranging from $1 to $3. The minute and graceful handwriting of Tiraboschi, a business letter of the celebrated Dr. Scarpa, scrips of the poets, Professor Vincent Monti, and Pindelmonte, and a fragment with the name of Spontini, were each sold for twenty-five cents.

Mendelssohn's autograph is charmingly neat and fantastic. The engraved portrait which accompanies it gives a Jewish expression of feature which is absent from the late presentiments of the ethereal composer. Chevalier Newkomm writes delicately and legibly. A German verse daintily written on tinted paper and undersigned "Henrietta Rossi," is a pretty little memorial of the fascinating Madame Sontag. What would be thought far rarer than all these is a semi-political record of Carlo Broschi, or Farinelli, the celebrated singer, once the favorite and minister of the Spanish King Philip Fifth. Donizetti's hand, of all the musical autographs, apparently wears the most active nerve and character. None of these sold for more than $1·25, and a few—among them Sontag's *billet-doux* and a note of Lortzing's (composer of Czar and Zimmerman)—were obtained for a mere trifle.

The engraved portraits which go with the greater part of the autographs somewhat enhance their value. It is not so often that a good likeness of the polished but unlovely Metternich reaches us, or that we can get a fair idea of the saturnine, grim visages of some of the old German Kaisers, or the high-browed, severe-featured, sad face of Wallenstein, or the cynic and energetic Charles Twelfth. Although these portraits may not be extraordinarily rare, and their like may be found among the spoils of antique volumes at many second-hand booksellers', their presence among the autographs witnesses good taste and considerable research.

The auction of last evening disposed of fifty or sixty autographs of the most celebrated German scholars and poets. An interesting scientific and literary letter of Alexander Von Humboldt was sold for $2·50; and autographs of Liebig, Neander, and Pestalozzi. For the autograph of the poet and romancer, Baron Foque, the comparatively fair price of $2·50 was given. Mathison, the poet of Beethoven's "Adelaide," signed himself away for 25 cents, and so with Count de Stolberg Zchokke. Handsome specimens of Jean Paul and Wieland went off at $2·75. Among signers of the Declaration, Franklin and Jefferson were complimented with bids of $13 and $8. A record of Louis XIV, royally signed and sealed, brought $2·25, and a holograph letter of the woful Baron Trenck, $5·50. Twenty autographs of Napoleon's Marshals, including Ney and Murat, were talked away at $2·50, and an abbreviated signature of Napoleon the Great, in his usual Imperial cypher, was purchased for $13·50. The rest of the autographs of the Bonaparte family were sold at prices varying between $1 and $3. The fact that foreign autographs cannot be readily identified will explain the cheapness of some of these figures.

The buyers appear to have been guided entirely by the advice of the catalogue in their choice, if not appreciation of manuscript treasures, without, however, knowing exactly whether their acquisitions are of great or small value. It is undeniable that well-written autographs bring the most money—a fact which the great men who will hereafter supply the American market ought to bear in mind.

THE NEW YORK PRESS.

EDITORIAL OPINIONS OF LEADING JOURNALS UPON CURRENT TOPICS.

COMPILED EVERY DAY FOR EVENING TELEGRAPH.

General Sheridan's Testimony.

From the Times.

Although the testimony of Major-General Sheridan communicated to the Secret Committee of Fifteen omits many points in regard to which the country would have been glad to have his views, it is full enough to show that, in the main, he agrees with the other distinguished soldiers whose opinions upon the reconstruction question had been previously reported. The States of which General Sheridan undertakes to speak are Louisiana, Florida, and Texas, and the impression his words produce is quite as favorable as reasonable men could expect it to be. It is evidently discriminating, too, and, therefore, more likely to command confidence in its truthfulness. Thus, as we understand his answers to the queries propounded, the popular sentiment of Florida is more cordial in its loyalty than that of the interior of Louisiana, whilst that of Texas is less favorable. Analyze his statements, however, and the causes of difference become apparent. Louisiana suffered more than Florida during the war, and consequently many of her people labor under the irritation produced by the loss of property. Texas, on the other hand, having made money by the war, is exempt from the depressing influences which are felt in Louisiana. But frontier lawlessness clings to it, and renders necessary the presence of a military force.

Irrespective of the special circumstances adverted to by General Sheridan, what he says concerning the prevailing public feeling in the Southwest tallies with the statements of the special-correspondent who recently represented the *Times* in that section. The General tells the Committee that the ex-Rebels "accept the situation, and have an earnest desire for the restoration of a perfect Union;" that "the feeling and sentiment of those with n the limit of" his command, though not entirely satisfactory, "is as good, perhaps, as could be expected;" that in Louisiana a majority of the people are on the side of the Federal Government, and "earnestly desire to be restored to a perfect Union with the other States;" that in Florida "the tone and sentiment of the people are very fair;" that in Texas, "among the best people, there is a very good feeling towards the Government." For what more, consistently with reason, could we at this moment ask?

So far as the negroes are concerned, General Sherman deemed the maintenance of the Freedmen's Bureau expedient for a time. But he emphatically rejects the radical policy as fraught with mischief to the negro himself. "I believe," declares the General, "that the best thing that Congress or States can do is to legislate as little as possible in reference to the colored man, beyond giving him security in his person and property. His social *status*," he adds, "will be worked out by the logic of the necessity for his labor." Here is a belief founded upon extended observation and experience, and in direct opposition to the theorizing of Messrs. Sumner and Stevens, who, under the pretense of elevatvating the negro, would bring upon him endless disasters. President Johnson was not far astray when he told the colored people of Washington that their worst enemies are the politicians who trade upon a barren philanthropy, and keep up the cry for negro suffrage for their own partisan advantage.

The Consolidated National Debt.

From the Tribune.

We trust the Finance Committee of the Senate will lose no time in considering Mr. Sherman's bill for consolidating the debt, and reporting it to Congress. The country needs a thorough financial plan, and we know of none that would be more generally acceptable than this. An objection is made to the fourth section of the bill on the ground that it takes an undue advantage of holders of Seven-thirties, by compelling them to decide six months before maturity whether they will accept another form of loan or national currency for their securities. We think it bad policy for a Government to take a course which by any means could be construed into an attempt to drive a sharp bargain. But, at the same time, the Government must adopt a measure of self protection. Time will be necessary to provide the means to meet these Seven-thirty notes as they mature. There are over $800,000,000 of Seven-thirty notes to be redeemed in some way, and in a very short time. We cannot raise this money by any system of direct taxation without creating heavy burdens; and the necessity of providing $800,000,000 in currency, and at the same time in Five-twenties, to be ready upon the day the Seven-Thirties mature, so as to be prepared for any decision the holders may make, is to place upon the Treasury a burden of enormous magnitude. The money market cannot but suffer from the ignorance of the Department and the indecision of note holders. If the money value of the Seven-thirty loan is thrown upon the market in currency, we shall have a period of inflation more extended, and, in the end, more disastrous than at any time of the war. If we confine ourselves to Five-twenties as the only loan to be taken by those who returned the Seven-thirties, and hold an abundance of money, we merely assume a new six per cent. gold-bearing loan for at least five years succeeding the maturity of the Seven-thirties without taking advantage of the increased national prosperity, the abundance of money that national prosperity will bring, and the opportunity we shall have of reducing the rate of interest, and creating a sinking fund for the payment of the national debt.

By the plan of Mr. Sherman, the Government, like any prudent money-dealer, will know six months in advance what it will be called upon to do—the amount of money and of bonds it will have to provide. There will be no chance to create a panic or to demoralize the business of the country. At the same time, this fourth section is merely a matter of convenience, and not an essential part of the bill, and we are not anxious about its fate. We wish to see the Government reduce the rate of interest, and thus save 16⅔ of the amount of the interest to be paid annually; and, in the second place, apply the money thus saved to the payment of the National debt. As we showed yesterday, by negotiating $2,000,000,000 of a five per cent. loan, and applying one per cent. of that amount with compound interest for forty years, we shall be able to pay off $2,000,000,000 of the national debt about the end of the present century. For this reason, we were willing to accept a thirty or forty year loan. To provide against any contingencies, however, and to make the job of paying our debt as easy as possible to our children, we should be willing to accept a longer loan than that provided by Mr. Sherman's bill—fifty years, for instance. The main points upon which we feel like insisting are:—

I. That the six per cent. and seven and three-tenths per cent. loans shall be converted into five per cent loans so soon as the terms of their creation will permit.

II. That the Government shall not pay more than five per cent. for money, when other countries, without one-half of our resources, can obtain it at a lower rate.

III. That the loan shall be for as brief a period as prudence will permit.

IV. That a sinking fund shall be created, to show that we are sincerely anxious to pay our debt in time, and that, as an earnest of our faith, we provide means for doing it.

The fear that we cannot negotiate this loan at five per cent. is unfounded. If we could borrow $687,984,000 at six per cent., and $198,241,100 at five per cent. in time of war, we can certainly reduce the rate to five per cent. in time of peace, with the country rapidly increasing in wealth, and a fair plan of taxation. Those who hold a contrary opinion do injustice to the spirit of the American people and the genius of our financiers. We venture to say that Jay Cooke, for instance, our faithful agent in the days of trouble, could be induced to do this same work for us in a time of peace. The Five-twenty loan was as low as 92 during the war. The Seven-thirty could have been bought for 96 not many months ago. The Ten-forties, a five per cent. loan, sold at 95½ yesterday—about as much as the Seven-thirties commanded at Christmas. If this five per cent. loan is worth as much now as a Seven-thirty was six months ago, it requires very little calculation to show that it may be made par before the Seven-thirties begin to mature. Let Congress pass Mr. Sherman's bill, and the Secretary of the Treasury put a five per cent. forty or fifty-year consolidated loan on the market, in the hands of a capable and patriotic agent and we venture to say that it will be at par before many weeks. The plan seems to be so full of common sense that we wonder any sagacious banker should oppose it.

Reconstruction—The President and the Committee of Fifteen.

From the Herald.

Congress made war on the President as one who had gone against the true interests of the country. Prominent men in the Republican party denounced the President as a traitor, and the chosen phrasemonger of that party declared that Andrew Johnson had given up to the South the fruits of the Northern victory; that he had shorn our triumph of all that made it valuable. On the floor of Congress he was anathematized as an "executive usurper and despot." He was charged with an intention to destroy the Constitution by substituting for its equable distribution of political forces a "one man power." He was habitually called, in entire disregard of public decorum, "the man at the other end of the avenue," and in the Senate a member blasphemously thanked God for the visitation of illness that kept from their seats men who would, if present, have voted to sustain the President.

Judging from all the obloquy thus heaped upon the President, the country naturally thought that he had been guilty of some heinous act. The people, it is true did not know what his crime was. So far as they could see, the President had been engaged only in one great labor—that of restoring the Southern States to their relations with the Union. But this the people thought was carrying to its ultimate result the great purpose for which the country had gone to war, and therefore they thought his efforts at reconstruction entitled only to praise, and to the more praise as they were evidently successful. However, trusting their party leaders, many of them accepted the fact that the President had committed some great crime, and hoped to learn what the crime was by-and-by. They waited patiently. It was known that a committee of Congress, appointed on reconstruction, was busy bottling and labeling the radical wrath soon to be poured on the devoted head of Mr. Johnson. This committee was to see, weigh, argue, inquire, judge, and report. No one could say what horrors, what wonders of political villany that report might reveal. Impeachment of the President was vaguely whispered as one of the less considerable of its possible results. Its propositions for reconstruction would, at least, show, by their direct contrariness to what had been done by the President, that he had defied Congress, common sense, and the country. Congress could not, for very shame, show less than that, after all it had said.

This Congressional committee of fifteen has reported. Shut up in a dark room for nearly five months, it had abundant time to frame, mature, and elaborate that report that was to include the great radical plan, and has finally laid its labors before the world. And the first and most obvious fact in relation to this radical programme is that it not only does not object to any single act of the President in the matter of reconstruction, but absolutely accepts all that he has done, and indorses his course in the strongest possible terms. "It is expedient," says the committee, "that the States lately in insurrection should at the earliest day consistent with the future peace and safety of the Union be restored to participation in all political rights." These words embrace the whole basis of the President's course; they express the very spirit of his policy. Not one word against the acts of Andrew Johnson. Not even a little clause to involve or imply a rebuke for, or to point out to the people the acts that made him a "usurper and a despot."

By this report of the Reconstruction Committee Congress swallows its words—almost swallows itself. It tells the country in the most emphatic way that the President was right all the time, and that its reconstruction committee, after a patient search of five months, cannot put its finger on a point in the President's plan to justify its abuse. What must be the result? Simply that the whole mass of the party arrayed against the President must go over or go under; simply that the party must perceive immediately the great error it fell into in following the lead of the insane Stevens, and rectify that error. Already this is begun. Mr. Stanton adheres to the President. Finding that nothing can be said against his policy, that there is no other course to take, he gives in his allegiance to the great practical reconstructionist, and thus signalizes the commencing disintegration of the radical faction.

The German Problem.

From the Daily News.

Our accomplished and well-informed Paris correspondent, writing from one of the centres of political opinion just now in Europe, gives us to believe that the lull in the stormy controversy between Austria and Prussia is but the calm that presages the storm. The rumors current at the sailing of the last steamer that Austria had proposed, in answer to Herr Bismark's note of the 15th ultimo, that a simultaneous reduction of the armaments of the two powers should take place, and which was considered as a probable means of avoiding hostilities, possess too little of authenticity, in the shape in which they come to us, to warrant a conclusive opinion based upon the information that they give. This course on the part of Austria, following upon Bismark's note of the 15th of April, would tend rather to strengthen Prussia, already arrogant and aggressive, in the evidence that it would give of Austria's dislike to risk a war, upon the questions at issue, with her antogonist.

In his note of the 15th ult., Bismark, who is, as usual, peremptory and imperative, says:—"Let it (the Imperial Government) re-establish the *statu quo ante* if it desire that reciprocity in declarations should pass into the domain of fact." The peremptory tone of this condition to a re-establishment of the old order of things cannot escape notice. In making the concession imputed to her, Austria would tacitly acknowledge that her military preparations have been hasty, and that, instead of seeking to guard against the possible danger arising from Prussia's threatening attitude, she has been giving cause for offense by those preparations.

The proposal to disarm simultaneously—if it have been made—cannot fail to add to the importance of Prussia in the future consultations of the Germanic Confederation. And that this patched-up evasion of war on the part of Austria will tend to a settlement of the fate of the Duchies of Schleswig and Holstein on a basis satisfactory to her is not so apparent. Rather would it seem that, in suffering herself to be driven from her position by Bismark, she will proportionately lose that audacity which is as requisite to supporting the influence of a legitimate Government in so jarring a political system as that of Germany as to conducting a successful revolution. Having once yielded to the obstinate attitude of Prussia, she will naturally not choose to provoke a repetition of those snarling interchanges of diplomatic acerbities which have recently characterized the notes exchanged between the two Governments: and with her antagonist master of the situation, she will give a reluctant consent to the plan of territorial aggrandizement so persistently followed up by the Prussian Minister.

It is in a consideration of the consequent outlined above, that the doubts in connection with the latest rumored purpose of Austria gain strength. Should such a proposition have been made, there is every likelihood of Prussia's accepting it. That power, it is reasonable to suppose, is not seeking war merely for the pastime. The possession of the disputed domain of Schleswig-Holstein is her end. With her, war is only the means; and could she achieve her purpose through the agency of a bloodless victory, so much the better for her, and so much the better for Bismark. The Government of the King cannot be ignorant of the temper of the Prussian people. Even did war enter the ambitious calculations of Bismark, the decided hostility shown by the people to that measure might serve to check him, or, at least, to induce him to exhaust the arts of diplomacy in the fulfilment of his purpose in connection with Schleswig-Holstein.

A termination of the pending controversy, favorable to Prussia, would place the Prussian Minister upon a level with the great masters of diplomatic strategy—provided that favorable termination be secured without the shedding of blood. He could, then, fittingly be likened to Richelieu, and whatever opposition now obtains against him among his people, would be changed to the plaudits awarded to the successful diplomat and statesman. It is a laurel worth striving for, and one to be gained, perhaps, with less of bluster and more of suavity. But Bismark appears to have adopted the revolutionary cry of *audace!* in the conduct of his foreign relations; and, if it should succeed, in the end, in aiding him to wrest the duchies of Schleswig-Holstein from their present anomalous condition, and to trans them to the crown of Prussia, without involving the family of States in war, the possession of that attribute would not operate against him in the minds of his countrymen.

The question of hostilities among members of the Germanic Confederation is at present fraught with possible peril to the entire system of monarchy in Central Europe. A mistake in the prosecution of war, or a violent disposition to affront the popular sentiment, if it should be in favor of peace, may lead to complications wherein a new element may appear upon the field, prompt to avail itself of the mistakes of its rulers. That element, brooding in the minds of the disaffected under every flag of the Old World, is found everywhere. Suppressed at intervals by the military police, it breaks out again to be again suppressed. But for all that suppression it lives, and awaits the day of deliverance. And it takes the shape of the action suggested by its high priest, Garibaldi, last summer, to Herr Blind, the Progressist, that the German people shake down their Thirty Tyrants; and its name is Revolution.

The Radicals Meditating a Retreat—Manifesto from Forney.

From the World.

In Thursday's Philadelphia *Press*, there was a swaggering letter from "Occasional" (Forney), defiant, double-leaded, filling two columns, the burden of which seemed to be, at first blush, a vere confident and exultingly insolent prediction of the complete triumph of the reconstruction policy of the radicals over that of the President. By "the knowing ones" in the Republican party, this cascade of frothy insolence will be interpreted "by the rule of contraries." The radicals begin to feel that they cannot safely go before the country with the most offensive feature of their plan—the disfranchisement of the whole South till 1870. As preparatory to backing out of that part of it, they make, through Forney, a vainglorious parade of their strength, as a general who finds himself in an unsafe position makes a bold demonstration with his rear-guard, to cover the retreat of his main body.

The radicals were distrustful as to how their plan would take, in the very act of broaching it. Instead of bringing it to immediate decision in Congress, they postponed action till the eleventh day after its publication, in order that they might gather indications of its acceptance with the public. The disfranchisement section so overshoots the mark, it makes the whole plan seem so dishonest, so self-annihilating, that it has been received with little favor even by the Republican journals. In this city, besides the Democratic journals, the *Times*, *Evening Post*, and *Commercial Advertiser* have opposed it with more or less vigor and decision, while the *Tribune*, the only abettor of the report, accompanied its publication with a short article in which the plan was discredited by presenting one which that paper thought preferable, and it has since had little to say on the subject. The indecent absurdity of the disfranchisement section was immediately made so glaring, that Forney, who is an observing politician, sees that it will never do. Before further describing his letter we will quote the passage for the sake of which the whole must have been written:—

"Nothing more triumphantly proves that the friends of 'my policy' are conscious of these facts, than their attempt to rekindle the fire of hatred in the South, by dwelling upon that portion of the report of the joint committee which prevents certain enumerated classes from voting until 1870. Suppose, however, the Congress, satisfied that the Southern people are willing, in good faith, to accept the other portion of this comprehensive programme, should consent to allow these classes to vote, and should follow this by granting every Southern State that ratifies the new article of the Constitution immediate representation, what then becomes of a crusade which, as the experience of the country since the meeting of Congress has too sadly shown, has had no other object but the gratification of a selfish ambition on the one hand, and an inconceivable spirit of revenge against a generous and confiding people on the other?"

Considering how egregious a blunder the disfranchisement section is, the radicals would no doubt do a discreet thing if they withdrew it before they get their party fully committed. But in politics, as in war, a retreat in the face of the enemy is a dangerous operation. Forney is managing with considerable address to conceal the true character of the contemplated retreat. His long letter moves with the exultant tread of an army marching to victory. He puts over it, in huge staring capitals, "Harmony." Then follows, as preliminary flourish number two, these headlines, in large showy letters:—"The Report of the Committee on Reconstruction sure to be adopted by Congress and ratified by the State Legislatures." Then, after another break, still in staring type, these:—"It guarantees Freedom and Equality to all our citizens, and Magnanimity and Generosity to the recent enemies of the Republic." After this prelusory waving of banners, Forney goes on to brag how certain it is that the Committee's plan will be triumphantly adopted by two-thirds of both Houses, to the great consternation of the President; how the Northern State Governors will call extra sessions of the State Legislatures; how, before autumn, it will receive twenty-two of the twenty-eight (twenty-eight since Colorado is admitted) needed ratifications; how the Southern people will then see that it is President Johnson and the Copperheads that are keeping them out of the Union; how the Southern States will fill the President with dismay by their alacrity in accepting the plan of the Committee; and how Stevens, Sumner, and the radicals will immediately thereafter be, both in fact and in Southern estimation, the South's dearest, kindest friends.

This is shallow and ridiculous enough; but it probably foretokens a considerable modification of the plan reported by the committee, and a change of tactics by the radicals. They are deliberating on the expediency of playing the part of melting, gushing sympathy for the South. All the tears, of course, lie in an onion which they will really shed over the sufferings of our Southern brethren; but there is little doubt that they are rehearsing a comedy of tears. Forney says that the radical Governors, "stimulated by the forlorn condition of the Southern people, and moved by the appeals," etc., will make haste to call extra sessions of the State Legislatures to ratify the radical amendment. The pretense of magnanimous generosity, which the radicals are about to assume, is heralded in the closing paragraph of Forney's letter, as follows:—

"It will, therefore appear that the obstructionists are to be found among the President's friends. That the Southern States are to be held out of the Union by the man who has utterly professed to be their exclusive champion, and that simply because Congress will not permit him to decide the question which is exclusively its own, he has attempted a new experiment that will prove to be the most fatal of all his enterprises. The Southern people will soon be convinced that the radicals, as they are called, are, in fact, 'their best friends.' Speaking for the millions who conquered the Rebellion, they will, I predict, now that the chief guarantees have been secured, need everything that can be honorably and fairly expected or demanded. The great business interests, North or South, already appreciate the justice of this prediction, and are preparing for the consequences of its realization. There is not a 'radical' in either branch of Congress, beginning with Mr. Sumner in the Senate and Mr. Stevens in the House, who will not outbid all the professing friends of the Southern people in acts of practical benevolence and substantial forgiveness, if these people, after due reflection, accept the generous conditions tendered by the Joint Committee on Reconstruction. He who most bitterly doubts the sincerity and the justice of this deliberate declaration will be most completely deceived."

Neither such twaddle as this, nor the melodramatic hypocrisy it foreshadows, will produce any effect on the South; nor are the radicals such idiots as to suppose it will. They are reduced to put on this hypocritical mask to keep their party together in the North. It—no matter under what false pretenses—they can carry next fall's Congressional elections, their ascendancy in the Government will last till after the Presidential election, and they will use that ascendancy without scruple to prevent the Southern votes from being counted.

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