

THE SITUATION IN EUROPE.

Downfall of the Napoleonic Rule and the Reconstruction of Europe—The Treaty of Fontainebleau and the Treaty of Vienna—The Congress of Vienna.

The latest intelligence which reaches us from the theatre of war in Austria and Italy, leaves little doubt as to the ultimate result of a conflict which not only involves the vital interests of three monarchies, but also exercises the fears, and demands the solitude, of all the powers of Europe.

Changes Impending Over Europe.

Since the ratification of the solemn compact which settled the present limits of its various domains, the insolent uprisings of some peoples, and the slow, however, steady, decline, he... to pluck down the milestones of arbitrary rule, and construct a new geography for themselves.

The Defeat of Napoleon.

A period of six months had scarcely elapsed after the ratification of this treaty, when the territory of France was tapped at all points by the combined forces of the rest of Europe.

The Treaty of Fontainebleau.

Betrayed by some of the puppets that he had set up in royal state, abandoned by the very men on whose adulations he had placed so blind a reliance—in the great eclipse of his fortunes, and after the conservative Senate had decreed the lapse of his authority, and the legislative body had sanctioned the decree—his determined last to seek peace through a renunciation, for himself and his heirs, of the thrones of France and Italy.

Princes and Statesmen Present.

On the 1st of October, 1814, two months later than the period assigned by the treaty of Paris of the 30th of May of that year, the Congress was inaugurated by the presence of the Emperors of Russia and Austria; of the Kings of Prussia, of Denmark, of Bavaria, and of Wurtemberg; of the Elector of Hesse and of the Grand Duke of Baden; and of the Duke of Saxe-Coburg.

The German Question.

The first discussions turned on the Prussian, Polish, and Saxon questions. In the Kingdom of Saxony, Prussia found the only possession which, rounding off her territories, could secure her the independence which she coveted.

The Treaty of Paris of 1814.

Two months after the treaty of Paris of the 30th of May, 1814, between Louis XVIII and his allies. Peace was declared among the contracting powers.

his allies. Peace was declared among the contracting powers. France was hemmed within the limits which she had held on the 1st of January, 1792. Her boundaries were rectified, with the concession, however, of certain districts, so neatly delimited that they enlarged her dominions to the extent of some 170,000 square yards, and her population to the amount of 450,000 inhabitants!

Restitution—A General Amnesty.

The ground being thus leveled for a more extended and explicit contract, the contracting powers proceeded to conclude, for a series of restitutions, from one side or another, to another, the like of which had not been witnessed since the treaty of Ryewick.

The Congress of Vienna—A Brilliant Assembly.

The coalition had thus achieved its immediate object, which was proclaimed to be peace, while the means of continuing that peace were committed to the Congress of Vienna. At no period in the history of the world have so many of the nations of Europe met together to discuss a common object, and to deliberate upon the destinies of so many of the nations of Europe.

has been not untriflingly devoted to a more important cause. Portugal, the "mother fish, nor red herring" tower of Europe, which, in mercantile supremacy, world-wide discoveries, and colonial conquests, had once looked down in contempt even on England's efforts of imitation.

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Sardinia.

A secret article in the Treaty of Paris of May, 1814, had annexed the territory of Genoa to the States of Sardinia. This question, which had itself to the attention of the Congress in the opening of its sessions, but it was not resolved until the conclusion of the side treaty of the 20th of October.

Austria and Italy.

Pretermitted, the stipulations touching Switzerland and those relative to the Old United Provinces, which were closely connected with the destinies of Belgium, were not until the general question of Italy was settled.

The Career of Prussia.

Of the two, however, Prussia must have been, as she was, the more ardent in the career of encroachment. She was the more conscious of the moral of the popular mind, in the revolution of 1848, had made into the heart of her power.

The Return of Napoleon from Elba.

As to the rest of Italy proper, the pretensions of Spain to the Duchy of Parma and Piacenza, were rigorously sustained by Austria in claiming his kingdom of Naples—the price of his treachery—greatly disturbed the conferences of the Congress which had them in hand.

The German Question.

In the meantime, formal conferences on the great question of the German Confederacy, opened between the plenipotentiaries of Austria, Prussia, Bavaria, Saxony, Hanover, and the other parties interested, were closed on the 8th of June, ten days before Waterloo, by the signature of the Federal Compact, which, already mentioned, had been drawn up by an over-shadowing brother called Alexander von Humboldt.

Excursions.

DELIGHTFUL EXCURSIONS ON THE SCHUYLKILL.

of the individual States of which it is composed. In the closing act, the Confederate States solemnly bound themselves under no pretext to wage war against any of the members; not to refer their differences to the adjudication of arms; and to submit to the deliberations and decisions of the Diet created September, 1815, which, laying down the organic law of the Confederation, established the rules which were to control their interior, military, and exterior relations and concerns.

The German Confederation.

It is scarcely necessary more pointedly to refer to the force and the tendencies of a compact with which every intelligent reader is conversant. To any one of them familiar with the principles which, at the time, characterized either the relations of States to the relations of individuals, it is needless to say that no more perfect treatise of hypocrites, falsehoods, and lies could be written than that condensed from the compact and treaties concluded on the 8th of June, 1815.

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