AMBASSADORS OUT OF WORK What on earth is to become of the ambassadors by-and-by? The world is all at sixes and sevens, so far as those functionaries are concerned. Ambassadors extraordinary, ministers plenipotentlary, envoys extraordinary and ordinary, secretaries of legation, secretaries of embassy, all are asking when their turn will come to be put out of joint. What with nationality and the needle gun, the diplomatic corps is sorely perplexed. The normal state, the etiquette when matters are going on smoothly, is just this-that majesty must be represented wherever other majesty exists. Our queen may not have much to do with the sovereign prince of a State about as large (but nothing near so populous) as the parish of St. Pancras; nevertheless she must have some one to represent her at his court-to look aristocratic; to wear a court suit; to speak the prince's language; to attend levées and birthday receptions; to make a complimentary call of inquiry when the prince has the toothache; to convey an unpleasant message in words so full of polite-ness as to take off the sting; and to open his eyes and ears and shut his mouth whenever policy dictates caution. To a few great powers, such as Austria (dynastically great though sadly bruised), France, Prussia, Russia, and Turkey, we send a very big man indeed, under the title "Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary," and give him from six to ten thousand a year to support his dignity. To States of the second rank, such as Belgium, Denmark, etc., we send an "Envoy Extraordinary and Minister Plenipotentiary," whose diplomatic pay generally varies from three to six thousand per annum. In one, the lately organized embassy to Japan, Sir Harry Parkes has the very long designation "Envoy Extraordinary and Minister Plenipotentiary and Consul-General." Some are simply "Ministers Plenipotentiary;" and one is "Minister Resident and Consul-General." These gold-laced individuals have very exact rules, one among another, and among the diplomatic representatives of other countries, on all matters relating to other countries, on all matters relating to etiquette and comparative rank; and if any one feels his pride offended by the sovereign to whom he is accredited, he makes it to be understood that his sovereign is offended; and then some kind of delicate Court-plaster is applied to heal up the wound. It is among these recipients of favor from the Foreign Office that a good deal of bewilderment is observable just now. Stern facts have been playing a game at nine-pins with royal and grand-ducal crowns, knocking them about the heads of the luckless wearers. Not long ago there was a King of Naples (or of 'the Two Sicilies,' in diplomatic language); and there were Grand Dukes of Tuscany, Parma, and Modena. To all of these, in some form or other, our queen was wont to send envoys or ministers; but now Victor Emanuel has turned them all out, and made their dominions component parts of the mighty kingdom of Italy; one diplomatic rep-resentative, at Florence, suffices for all; and if Italy should stand her ground well, and grow in strength, possibly our minister at that beautiful city will be raised to the dignity of "Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary." Then, in Germany, Prussia has swallowed up Hanover and most of the other component members of the disjointed Germanic Confederation; and although Saxony is not quite snapped up, King William has supplanted King John for all military and diplomatic purposes. It thus arises that our Sir Henry Howard has nothing particular to do at Hanover, Sir Alexander Malet nothing at Frankfort, Mr. Murray nothing at Dresden. When Maximilian became a bran-new Emperor of Mexice, we sent our Envoy Extraordinary and Minister Plenipotentiary to recognize him on the part of Queen Victoria; but if he should become-or if he has already become-a "monarch out of business, we shall have to see how the cards will be shuffled by Juarez, Ortegas, Santa Anna, and the United States, before we can tell whether it is worth while to spend three or four thousand a year upon a representative

in that torn and bewildered country.

And as to the ministers in chief, so to their lientenants, the "Secretaries of Embassy and Legation;" if the one turns out, so must the other, and so must numerous attachés and subordinate secretaries. These berths are eagerly looked for, often by favorites at court, or by the younger sons of the nobility, as easy modes of serving an apprenticeship to courtly and ministerial life.

Just about ten years ago, the Earl of Clarendon, at that time Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, sought to give a useful turn to the thoughts of these secondary diplomatists, by suggesting to them the collection of information likely to be serviceable, both to themselves and to others. The move was so decidedly in the right direction that good results are sure to flow from it, whether continental kinglings, princelings, and dukelings are knocked about or not. The Earl, writing to the chiefs of all the British embassies at foreign courts, set forth his ideas in the following clear and explicit way: — "Her Majesty's Government, being desirous to encourage the junior members of the diplomatic service to turn to account the opportunities of observation afforded to them by their employment at foreign courts, have determined to assign a specific duty to her Majesty's Secretaries of Embassy and Legation, " which will not only tend to their own improvement in their profession, but which may, if properly performed, be productive of great public advantage."

Then comes the modus operandi. The duties to be thus specifically assigned to the Secretaries of Embassy and Legation are—the collection of information relating to the commercial movements of the country where they reside, and the compilation of periodical reports or the industry, trade, and general statistics of that country. The bearing which those elements of national prosperity in the one country has on its interceurse with foreign nations, and more particularly with her Majesty's dominions, is so important that too much pains cannot be bestowed upon furnishing to her Majesty's Government the means of forming a correct opinion. The earl adverted to the fact that British consuls at foreign ports have long been in the habit of supplying information annually con-cerning the trade of those ports with other places; but such information need not at all shut the door against the proposed ambassa-dorial exertions. "Her Majesty's diplomatic servants, residing at the capitals, have opportunities of arriving at a more general appre

*Where there is an "Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary," the second in command is the "Secretary of the Embassy;" but where the chief is "Envoy Extraordinary and Minister Plenipotentiary," his second is called "Secretary of Legation." Like as with the chiefs, so with the seconds, there are gradations of rank and of emolument; the Secretaries of Embassy receiving from eight hundred to a thousand a year, while the Secretaries of Legation receive from four to eight hundred.

ciation of the commercial progress of the several countries, and of ascertaining the grounds on which legislative interference with the course of trade is resorted to, and the effect the course of trade is resorted to, and the effect which such interfence is calculated to have, not only on local or general interests in the countries themselves, but also on the commercial relations of those countries with foreign nations. Her Majesty's Secretaries of Embassy and Legation, with a view to the same result, might occasionally, and with the sanction of their chiefs, visit the great manufacturing towns, and also, in maritime countries, the outports, and witness the course of business there; and, if necessary, suggest, from personal experience, the adoption of

noses hither and thither without the consent of their master. The chief must sanction everything, and the reports must be made to him in the first instance. On the other hand, each chief is called upon to fulfil his part towards the work. "Her Majesty's Government expect that the heads of missions (embassies, etc.) will give effect to the object which they have in view, by obtaining for their Secretaries access to all sources of information, by encouraging them with their support and advice, and by pointing out to them the matters to which their attention may most usefully be directed." In attention may most usefully be directed." In order to give immediate practical value to these labors, it is requested that the reports shall be presented twice a year from the Secretaries to the chiefs of Embassy, and by the latter, with any necessary observations or explanations, to the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs.

Excellent, all this: making these young diplomatists acquainted with the busy driving world of commerce, as well as with the com mercial world at court. The Earl recapitulated the advantages of the system thus:-"It will benefit the secretaries by giving them habits of attention and observation; it will assist the heads of missions, by affording them additional facilities for arriving at a just knowledge of the resources of the countries in which they reside; and it will place her Majesty's Government, and the public at large, in possession of valuable materials, on which to frame commercial legislation and regulate

The secretaries, all things considered, have done their work very well, collecting a large amount of curious information on the trade, manufactures, and general statistics of the countries in which they reside. They set to work at once; and the first to respond to the instructions of the Earl of Clarendon was Mr. Erskine, Secretary of Legation at Sardinia— before Victor Emanuel had changed his title from King of Sardinia to King of Italy, and his capital from Turin to Florence. This was in the middle of 1857; and ever since that time there have been regular reports from all or nearly all the countries to which we send embassies and envoys. The first year brought forward reports from Sardinia, Belgium, Bavaria, Switzerland, France, Denmark, and the Germanic Confederation (in those days represented at Frankfort). We have thus a double allowance. Every year there are "Abstracts of the Reports of the Trade of various Countries and Places, received by the Board of Trade through the Foreign Office, from her Majesty's Minis-ters and Consuls." And every year, in like manner, we have "Reports by Secretaries of Embassy and Legation on the Manufactures and Commerce of Foreign Countries." Generally speaking, each consul contents himself with about five or six folio pages of matter; and there are such reports from eighty or ninety different places, in all parts of the world. The Secretaries of Embassy and Legation are a little more ambi-tious; they fill ten folio pages of print or so, on an average; and when five-and-thirty of them do this, as was the case in a recent year, the amount of information rendered concerning foreign countries is really very considerable. Practical men sometimes smile a little at some of the reports in regard to generalizations and theorizings which betray the mind of an amateur or dilletanti statistical philosopher; but for the most part the reports are reliable and valuable.

Sometimes the secretaries pick up information on special subjects, which allow of direct comparison with similar subjects in Thus, in one particular year (1864), Mr. Burnley sent in a special report on the silk industry of Basle in Switzerland; Mr. Ward on railway communication in Holland; Mr. Barnard on the branches of industry in which steam and machinery are employed in Saxony; and (in reference to political organization rather than to industrial pursuits) Mr. Lytton on the election of representatives for the Rigsraad in Denmark. Some of these special reports are curious; such as Mr. Barnard's on fires and fire insurance in Saxony, suggesting means of comparison with our own home system here in England. For instance, we are told, "The value of such building must be taxed before insurance takes place, by persons appointed for that purpose. The part of any building underground is not taken inte-consideration; and the different parts above ground, stone and wood, are valued separately. Every householder must insure the half of the valuation; he can, however, insure the whole." Again:- "Stone and brick are not insured, but only the combustible parts of the building." One remark points to a state of things certainly the reverse of that which exists in England:—"In villages in a manufacturing district the houses are generally less crowded, and stand more apart, and the fires are less considerable, than in agricultural districts, where the houses are closely adjoining, and much more exposed to danger." We are told that "In villages, fires have generally their origin in wilful incendiarism or by lightning." One statement has a very ugly appearance: "No doubt exists of a comparatively large proportion of fires being caused with a view of receiving the amount of insurance; but the difficulty of proving the crime is so great, that in very few

instances can the perpetrator be convicted."

Another special report on the State railways of Belgium, is worth the attention of those who wish our Government to take the railway system under their control. During seventeen years the Chamber of Accounts and the Ministry of Works prepared wholly irreconcilable balance-sheets of the profit and loss on Belgian railways; the only thing certain was, that the net profit did not pay the interest of the borrowed money with which the lines were constructed. Since then matters have improved; but we are, nevertheless, told that "The history of these undertakings is not calculated to encourage other nations to enter upon the same path. 17
So far, then, we have had to speak of a very useful mode of employing the seconds in com-

the other side. Let us mourn over the tribulations of the "Almanach de Gotha," in connection with the stirring events which have resulted in ambassadors being "out of work." It is, in truth, an embarrassing problem to solve. The fat little book will not know how to com-

mand at our several embassies; but now for

port itself. The eleven hundred pages in the edition for 1866, published a year or so ago, was the hundred and third annual publication. For more than a century has this record of royalty appeared. Every person who has the sixteenth part of a drop of imperial, royal, princely, grand-ducal, or archducal blood in his veins, finds his pedigree and heraldic merits here set forth. Would we know what sort of dignity hover round the husband of our Princess Helena, we can ascertain exactly the relative position of the elder branch and the younger branch of the great house of Schleswig-Holstein-Sondercountries, the outports, and with the consent of business there; and, if necessary, suggest, from personal experience, the adoption of measures by which the trade of British subjects might obtain facilities, or be relieved from burdens and obstructions."

But the boys must not go poking their makes hither and thither without the consent makes hither and thither without the consent of the conse Paul Charles Louis Alexander de Teck is the son of Duke Alexander Paul Louis Constantine, who was an uncle to the late King of Wurtemberg, who was father to the late King of Wurtemberg, who was father to the present King of Wurtemberg; and that as Prince de Teck's mother, Claudine, Countess of Hohenstein and Rheday, was not quite royal in birth (being a Hungarian lady of noble but not sovereign blood), Prince de Teck and his two sisters can only be made fully royal by the gracious favor of the King. fully royal by the gracious favor of the King of Wurtemberg, which favor has been awarded Would we know what prince or princess in the whole of Europe is blessed with the greatest number of names, we should be enabled to pitch upon a young gentleman just now a year and a half old, who has the honor to be the second son of the King of Portugal. He, the Almanach de Gotha tells us (in French spelling, not Portuguese), is Prince Alphonse Henri Napoléon Marie Louis Pierre-d'Alcantara Charles Herbert Amédée Fernando Affenti Michel Raphael Gabriel Gonzaga Xaviér François-d'Assise Jean Auguste Jules Valfanno Ignace-de-Bragança-Savoie - Bourbon-Saxe-Co-bourg et Gotha. If we had put it in Portuguese, the rigmarole would have been still more sonorous, with its Carlos and Pedro, Francisco and Fernando, Alfonso and Antonio; but even as it is, the small boy has quite enough to carry, and we only marvel in what terms the autor will by-and-by address him —to birch a boy with thirty names is of course not to be thought of. The little boy Don has got a little Donna cousin, too, some four or five years old, who, it seems, cannot be properly addressed in a smaller compass than Donna Marie Anne de Carmel Henrique Thérèse Adelaide Jeanne Caroline Agnes Sophie Kulalie Leopoldine Elizabeth Bernardine Michaele Gabrielle Raphaele Françoise-d'Assise et de

Paul Ignatie Gonzague!
This "Almanach" is the authority to which royalty looks when a marriageable prince or princess is wanted. As royal blood must only wed royal blood, or something like it, it is a matter of great importance to know where that blood is to be found, of the right age and at the right time. Russia, for instance, unless cousins marry (which they do not so much in that country as in Austria), must seek elsewhere for husbands and wives; and as a State, however small, will meet the requisite conditions if the blood is all right, Russia makes alliances with her humbler neighbors. Thus, the late czar married a Prussian princess, the present czar a Hessian princess; his second son (the eldest being dead) has just married the beautiful Princess Dagmar of Denmark; the czar's sister Olga married the Prince Royal of Wurtemberg; and his brother Constantine a princess of Saya Alterburg; and his brother princess of Saxe Altenburg; and his brother Nicholas a princess of Oldenburg; and his Strelitz-and so on. These alliances do not prevent royalty from making war on royalty; the Hesses and Saxes have been more or less devoured by Prussia, notwithstanding their matrimonial connections with Russia; and as to the recent war in Bohemia, Uncle William has so terribly thrashed Nephew Frank, that it is very problematical whether the latter will ever recover.

Certainly the "Almanach de Gotha" ought to put on mourning just now; for it is difficult to see how the break-up of Germany is to be described. Possibly the richness of the blood may be deemed a counter-balance to the political misfortunes of the kings, princes, and serene dukes; and royal match-makers may know where to go, as they have hitherto known. In so far as our own royal family are concerned, the choice is less extensive than for royal families on the Continent, seeing that our young brides and bridegrooms must all be Protestants. Our Alfred is twenty-two, our Louisa is nearly nineteen; we must of course look out for a bride for the one and a husband for the other. We must not, however, look to Spain, France, Portugal, Italy, Austria, Belgium, or the Catholic States of Germany, nor to Russia, nor to any State where the Greek Church prevails; Prussia, the other Protestant States of Germany, Holland, Denmark, and Sweden must supply us; and the far-famed "Almanach" tells us exactly the names and ages of all the lads and lasses whose blood is of the right color and consistency. For, be it remarked, it is only the "première partie" of the Almanach that must be consulted for such a purpose; the second part relates to "Princes not Sovereign;" from which we are taught to believe that the families of the Altieris, Arenbergs, Auerspergs, Belgiojoses, Batthyanys, Bentheisas, Borgheses, Chimays, Colonnas, etc., though possibly very nice people, are not nice enough for royalty to take to the altar, except in those morganatic or left-handed marriages which play such a curious part on the Continent.

The "ambassadors out of work" must get over their difficulty somehow: if Italy and Prussia have swallowed up a dozen States to which we used to send embassies, the young diplomatists must learn to make themselves useful in other capacities .- From London

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