M. Rouber and M. Emile Cilivier. From the London Salurday Review. M. Rouher must be accustomed by this time to the necessary though invidious office of throwing overboard the Jouah of the minute. In concert with his Imperial master he has a duced the process to a system. The appearance of the Minister of State, whether on the field of discussion or of action, usually beralds the disgrace of a colleague or the abandonment of a policy. There is no conti-nuity between what he says or does and what has been said or done by any other member of the Government. The explanation of his conduct must usually be looked for in the attitude of the Opposition. He has learnt by intuition or practice the extreme point to which resistance can be pushed with safety, and his special function in the Cabinet seemingly is to announce when that point has been reached. Mr. Disraeli played a similar part more than once in the session of 1867, but M. Rouher has to include the country as well as the Legislature in his calculations, and the demands on his acuteness are so much the more serious in consequence. It is hard to say whether the Prefect of the Seine or the Minister of the Iuterior has most cause to smart under the latest exhibition of this useful talent. Baron Haussmann has been disowned, M. de For-cade La Roquette has been ignored. Neither sensation can be altogether pleasant, but per-haps of the two sufferers M. de Forcade La Roquette deserves commiseration most. The Perfect of the Seine may well have been startled at hearing that he, and not the Emperer, is responsible for the reconstruction of Paris. Still, when the first surprise was over, there was an appreciable dignity in the position thus unexpectedly assigned to him. have spent £8,000,000 invests a man with some importance, even when he has been only an agent, and he certainly does not lose in this respect if it is suddenly discovered that he has been laying it out at his own pleasure. But the Minister of the Interior has no such consolation. He was suffered to defend the administration of Paris in the Cerpa Legislatif, in the undisturbed belief that the Emperor had been the real architect of every new street. Acting on this theory, M. de Forcade La Roquette constructed an ingenious and even eloquent apology. He appealed directly to the vanity, and indirectly to the fears, of the French middle class. Under the empire Paris has become the capital of modern society, and the change in its ex-terior aptly symbolizes the exaltation of its position. The gaze of the civilized world is fixed in reverent admiration upon the straight streets and high houses which constitute the Napoleonic ideal of architectural grandeur. To be sure, a good many of them have been constructed in quarters where they are not wanted, but this does but establish the foresight of the government. These now deserted oroughfares will one day be peopled, and if the work had been delayed a few years it would only have been more costly in the end. And then just think of the workmen it employs! What might all these skilled artisans have turned their thoughts to if their strong arms and active brains had been left without proper occupation? Who shall say how many insurrections Baron Haussmann may not have unwittingly suppressed? Take care of the building trade, and society will take care of itself. Nor is it only the men's working hours

that have been thought of. Their own labor

has been made the means of keeping them

contented during their intervals of leisure.

Those "objects of luxury" with which the critics of the Corps Législatif find so much

fault are so many places of recreation for the

artisan when the fatigues of the day are over.

He has been building fer himself as well as for others.

When M. Rouher rose, all this pretty theory speech about the advantages which Paris has lerived from Baron Hanssmann's administration. The most pronounced member of the opposition could not have shown a more icy difference to those sentimental considerations on which the Minister of the Interior has rested his case. Instead of defending what the Emperor had done, he boldly denied that he had done it. To make the Sovereign responsible for the administration of the city of Paris "is to commit a deplorable error."
The idea of a regenerated Paris may have been the Emperor's; but it is the execution of the idea that is now subjected to attack, and the responsibility of this lies with those who undertook the work. Having thus shifted the possible blame from the Emperor's shoulders to those of Baron Haussmann, M. Rouher could afford to say a word or two in extenuation of his scapegoat's conduct. The impression left by his speech is that, in his opinion, the Prefect has rather muddled away money than otherwise, but that his intentions have been honest all along. The prerogatives of the Legislature have been too often disregarded, "but the mistake will not occur again." Perhaps the present is not the right time for contracting a fresh loan, and it is natural that the Corps Législatif should be indisposed to leave it to Baron Baussmann to determine when that time has arrived. The necessities of the case will be best met by allowing the Government to authorize the loan when it shall seem expedient. M. Ollivier has said, with some truth, that it is essential to the success of M. Rouher's method that he should have the last word; and, if his speech had not come, as it usually does, at the close of the debate, the result could hardly have been claimed as a triumph by the opposition. The real concession offered by M. Rouher was extremely small. It was invested with some importance by the fact that it was made in the teeth of a fellow-Minister, but when viewed apart from this accidental circumstance it scarcely amounts to anything. It is well that the prerogative of the Chamber should be respected for the future, but the value of the promise is a good deal lessened by its being virtually dependent on the willingness of the Deputies to leave the hands of the Government wholly untied. Indeed, a little reflection seems to have convinced the Opposition that M. Rouher's surrender was only one in appearance. Three days later, when the report of the committee again came before the Chamber, the Left supported an amendment in favor of a direct and immediate loan rather than one to be contracted through the medium of the Credit foucier and under the control of the Government. A division was insisted of the large majority, yet the A division was insisted on, and though minority were able to command 97 votes.

It certainly looks as if M. Rouher's position the Cabinet, of which he is the moving principle, was on the eve of being seriously compromised. The publication of M. Ollivier's pariative of his negotiations with the Emperor in connection with the famous letter of the 19th of January helps to make it clearer what this position really is. In the beginning of 1867 the Emperor was halting between two opinions, and this is probably a fairly accurate description of him in the beginning of 1869. At one time he inclines to the "crowning of the edifice;" at another he fears that if he loses his hold on the country, he may not be able to get it again if he wants it. When he made his overtures to M. Ollivier, the of these feelings was uppermost, his desire to secure the

implied an intention of dismissing M. Rouher, who represents the opposite idea. But the influence of the Minister of State proved too great to be overthrown, and the leading object of the Government during the two years which have since elapsed has been to maintain the status quo. The means which M. Rouher profers for the attainment of this end are eminently elastic. He showed the utmost civility to M. Ollivier when it was on the cards that he might supplant him any day, and he will dismiss with equal composure a colleague whose only offense has been a too strict execution of his own instructions. Why he has opposed himself so unreservedly—remembering some of his recent displays, one might almost add, so passionately-to any reconciliation of the empire with liberty cannot be said with certainty. It may be that he distrusts his own aptitude for a new system, and fears that its adoption would throw the Emperor irrecoverably into the hands of some parliamentary politician. It may be that he distrusts his countrymen, and is genuinely convinced that the empire cannot dispense with the safeguards to which it has been accus-tomed for seventeen years. Whatever may be his motive, there seems to be little doubt that he has identified himself too closely with repressive legislation to be chosen as the instrument for carrying out any other. If the Emperor wishes to change his policy he must change his instruments also. That His Majesty feels this himself is rendered extremely probable by M. Ollivier's revelations. The letter of the 19th of January showed how strongly the Emperor's mind was leaning in the direction of liberal reforms; the extent to which it has remained a dead letter ever since proves his unwillingness to dispense with M. Rouher. But to play such a part as the Minister of State has chosen for himself requires something more than a succession of doubtful victories. A constitutional minister may be content with a working majority, however small; the minister of an absolute sovereign must annihilate as well as defeat opposition. It is his failure to do this consistently that constitutes the danger of M. Rouher's potition, and M. Maupas' recent crusade in favor of a responsible ministry is sufficient evidence that M. Ollivier will not want successors among Bonapartists as well as among democrats.

FOREIGN ITEMS.

-The French papers attribute a mot to Lamartine, for which, had he been still alive, they would scarcely, we should think, have liked to make him responsible. Some one asked the poet whether he was not spending too much money in advertising his publica-tions. "Ne," he is reported to have answered, "advertisements are absolutely necessary.
Even Divine worship" (in the original, le bon
Dieu) "needs advertising. Otherwise what is
the meaning of church bells?"

-It is well known that a strong desire prevails among the more liberal and progressive members of the universities to shake off the exclusive clerical ascendancy which has hitherto cramped their energies and diminished their natural influence. A step has just been taken in this direction by the fellows of Oriel College, Oxford, which will probably be followed by other colleges. There is at present no express rule against the provestship being held by a layman, but certain clerical benefices which go with it practically amount to a prohibition. The object of the bill which has just been introduced into the House of Lords is first to disannex those benefices from the provostship, then to exchange them for livings, and to apply part of the proceeds of the latter to make up the income of the provostship, which would then be open equally to laymen and clergymen. Ore of the benefices in question is a canonry in Rochester Cathedral, involving, of course, the usual three months' residence; and the other is the rectorship of an important parish (Burleigh, in Essex) of 3,000 or 4,000 acres, with an income of £1800. It is, of course, obviously impossible for the provost of an Oxford college even to pretend te discharge the duties of a distant canonry and rectory in

a proper manner. -Complaints are louder than ever in the theatrical world of Paris against that impost for the benefit of the poor which presses so hard on the theatres, and to which more than one of the recent bankruptcies has been attributed. The tax owes its origin to a decree of Louis XIV, dated February 25, 1699, which, on the ground that plays and operas ought to contribute a portion of their "considerable profits" to works of charity, directed that a sixth part of the receipts should be appropriated to the poor. To any reasoning that may be based on this decree the opponents of the tax object, that it was made at a time when there were but two or three theatres in Paris, and on the assumption that these enterprises were large profitable. In 1713 the tax was extended to the dramatic performances at the then fashionable fairs of St. Germain and St. Laurent. In 1718, by a decree of the Regent, a ninth was added to the sixth for the especial advantage of the Hotel Dieu, and in 1744 the amount was fixed at one quarter. This enormous burden continued for several years, but in 1791 the tax was suppressed al together. However, on the 11th Nivose of the year IV (January 1, 1796), a decree appeared which invited all the managers of Paris and the departments to give a monthly performance, the profits of which, after payment of all expenses, were to be given to the poor, and authorizing them to treble their prices on such occasions. This decree was followed by another of the 7th Frimaire V (November 27, 1796), which ordered that for the following six months the directors of public entertainments should receive, in addition to the price of admission paid by every spectator, a premium of "2 sols per livre" (10 per cent.), to be applied to charitable purposes. Then the authorities evicently wished to impress the public with the notion that they were shifting the burden from one pair of shoulders to another, though in reality it remained where it was, though less oppressive than in early days. Renewed from time to time, for successive terms of six months, the 10 per cent. tax was rendered permanent by an imperial decree of December 29, 1809. Then, however, it is remarked that about two years previously the theatres, which had been in number, had been suddenly reduced by the imperial flat to eight, four of which were liberally "subventioned." Thus, the burden was counterbalanced by an incalculable advantage. In 1848 an attempt was made to reduce the tax to 5 per cent., but it was not carried out, and though by the decree of January 5, 1864, the "Liberty of the Theatres" was declared, the principles of the year V are maintained in all their rigor. In England scarcely a person would be found to defend this monstrous tax, which consists in making one small branch of industry contribute exceptionally towards the benefit of the

entire community. -The Vicksburg Times says that mint juleps and gin-cocktails were drunk in Natchez in the year 1808. A copy of the Nat-chez Gazette of that year indirectly refers to

-A Memphis jury having convicted a pritoner of murdering a man who is still alive, found themselves in a quandary whether to deputy as a Minister probably his man and justify it.

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200,000 State of Pennsylvania Six Per Cent. Loan (Loan, Loan, Loan, Loan, Loan, Loan, Loan, Experimental Company of Pennsylvania Six Per Cent. Loan (exempt from fax).
20,000 State of New Jersey Six Per Cent. Loan, 20,000 Penn, Rail, First Mortgage Six Per Cent. Bonds.
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[4736]
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