

FIRST EDITION

THE WAR IN EUROPE.

The Belgian Question.

King Leopold's Kingdom.

Its Situation and History.

King William's Speeches.

Address to the Parliament.

The Aggressions of France.

His Return to Berlin.

An Enthusiastic Reception.

The Cry of "On to the Rhine!"

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BELGIUM.

The Petty Kingdom of King Leopold II, and its Part in the Present Complications—A Descriptive and Historical Sketch.

The discovery of the secret treaty by which Belgium was to be sacrificed for Napoleon's aggrandizement has directed the attention of the world to that country. As matters now stand, both the French and Prussians have guaranteed the neutrality of Belgium soil, but the secret treaty has created so much uneasiness, especially in England, that the occupation of the country by the latter power, as a guarantee of its integrity, is seriously mooted and by no means improbably before the struggle between France and Prussia is over. The peace establishment of Belgium is 40,000 men, which has been recently increased to 100,000, and placed on a war footing to await contingencies. There has been considerable activity also in the different fortresses of the kingdom, all of which have been overhauled and placed in readiness for defense against assault from unfriendly powers. As Mr. Disraeli said recently, Europe would regard the "absorption" of Belgium by France as a disaster; and hence the anxiety of the English, not less than of the Belgians themselves, to preserve intact the territory and independence of this small but formidable barrier between the two great powers of the Continent.

Belgium was anciently a part of Gallia Belgica. It is situated between latitude 49 deg. 30 min. and 51 deg. 30 min. north, and longitude 2 deg. 35 min. and 6 deg. 7 min. east. It is bounded on the north by Holland, on the northwest by the North Sea or German Ocean, on the west and south by France, and on the east by the duchy of Luxemburg, Rhinish Prussia, and Dutch Limburg. Its greatest length, from northwest to southeast, is 165 miles, its greatest breadth from north to south is 130 miles, and its area is about 11,400 square miles. About one-fifth of the whole surface of the kingdom is occupied by wood, but the distribution is by no means equal. Flanders and Antwerp are below the average, while Luxemburg and Namur are densely wooded. These woods are remains of the ancient forests of Ardenne, which are described by Caesar as stretching far into France from the banks of the Rhine. There are several fine forests in Brabant, among which is that of Solignac, made familiar by the battle of Waterloo. In some provinces little wood is seen except that planted in the form of hedges, which form as well known by means of the landscapes of the ancient Flemish masters.

The population of this comparatively small country is more dense than any in Europe. There are two distinct races, the Flemish, who are Germans, and the Walloons, who are of French ancestry. The former are the most numerous and occupy Flanders and parts of Antwerp, Limburg, and South Brabant. The Walloons occupy Hainault, Liege, Namur, and part of Luxemburg. The language of each race corresponds with its origin. The Flemings speak a dialect of German, and the Walloons a mixture of French, Spanish, and other languages.

The two distinct races, and the changes of masters to which they have been subjected, have been unfavorable to the formation of a national character, but in some leading features there is great uniformity in the population. The position of the country between France, Germany, and England has made it the battle-field of Europe, but yet the inhabitants themselves show but few warlike tendencies, and are unwearied in pursuing the arts of peace. Large hostile armies have again and again met upon its soil to decide the fate of nations, doing terrible damage in every quarter, but no sooner have they withdrawn than the inhabitants have quietly returned to their accustomed avocations, and the labors of the field and workshops have been resumed. The local fortifications, however, are considerable, it having as many as twenty-two fortified places.

The population, in numbers, in the year 1867 was estimated at 4,877,794. According to the official statement of 1868 there were in Belgium 4,928,814 Roman Catholics, 8198 Protestants, 15222 Jews, and 1844 connected with other ecclesiastical denominations. The Roman Catholic clergy received from the State on salaries 3,900,000 francs, the Protestants (German and Anglican) 900,000, and the Rabbin 35,000 francs. The Government is a constitutional monarchy, based on the broadest principles of rational liberty. The crown is hereditary except in case of a failure of male heirs. The Senate and House of Representatives are both elected by the people. The country is first mentioned by Caesar, who describes its inhabitants as peculiarly distinguished for valor. It was under Roman rule until A. D. 469, when it became part of the empire of the Franks under Clovis, and also in the year 860 became part of the empire of Charle-

magne. By the marriage of Mary, heiress of Charles the Bold, it passed, in 1477, from the house of Burgundy, to which it then belonged, to Austria, and became part of the realm of Charles V. It was afterwards part of the Spanish monarchy, was again ceded to Austria, and was swallowed up in the republic of France, and on the downfall of Napoleon was united with Holland as the Netherlands. By a revolt it obtained its release from this union. They have since enjoyed great prosperity under the government of their own king Leopold I, who was the widower of the Princess Charlotte of England, aunt of Queen Victoria, who but for her death would have been reigning queen in place of the present ruler of Britain. Leopold II succeeded his father, Leopold I, in 1865.

The import and export trade of Belgium between the years of 1860 and 1870 reached an annual average of 3,000,000,000 francs, or about \$600,000,000. The commerce in 1867 with the United States was equal to \$7,302,000 in imports and \$1,770,000 in exports, making a total of \$9,072,000.

The Geography and Influence of the Kingdom. London Daily News, July 19, says: "The advice received from Belgium, and even more, the advice from Paris concerning Belgium, deserve, and will continue to deserve, the best attention. The French Government has expected it to keep up a force sufficient to protect its neutrality, and to employ it for that purpose without fear or favor. This is a reasonable demand. To-day the kingdom of Belgium may serve to impede the movements of the armies and fleets of the belligerent powers; hence or later the case may be reversed; and it is only while Belgium is impartially neutral—if the pleonasm may be forgiven—that she can demand that her nationality shall be respected. But as long as she fulfills her difficult duties, it is not forerunnerly to assume that she has become unable to do so, and to act on her suspicions. The French find it necessary to protest against the language of the French respecting Belgium, because it tends to make England unfriendly; and the Prussians forward to discredit rumors that 'the King of the Belgians and his ministers manifest tendencies inconsistent with perfect neutrality.' As our neighbors value their reputation for a disinterested adherence to international engagements, it would be better not to depart from the simple rule of judging every Government by its acts."

BERLIN.

King William's Capital—Its Wonderful Development During the Present Century—The Population at Present.

The last census of the Prussian capital—that of 1867—shows that the city had 703,387 inhabitants. The development of the city commenced in the thirteenth century; before that time it was little more than a fishing village. In the middle of that century the population was 100,000. At the commencement of the eighteenth century the population was 150,000; at the end of that period, 6000. At the close of the great Elector's reign the number had again increased to 17,000, of which 5000 were French. At the commencement of the nineteenth century, Berlin, with its suburbs, had 50,000 inhabitants. When Frederick the Great ascended the Prussian throne Berlin had 5700 houses and 90,000 inhabitants (including 31,000 soldiers). The seven years' war reduced the population from over 100,000 in 1765 to 82,000 in 1778. The war times from 1806 to 1813 reduced the Berlin population from 182,000 in 1804 to 145,941 in 1808. After that period a new life was awakened in Berlin, and the city has since enjoyed an uninterrupted growth. From 1783 to 1823, sixty years, the population doubled. The first hundred thousand of the population had cost at least two and a half centuries; the second, eighty years; the third, only sixteen years; and the fourth, eight years. In 1848 the fourth hundred thousand of the population had been added; therefore, in nine years. The second period of doubling the population had been reached in twenty-five years; the third doubling period, from four hundred thousand to eight hundred thousand, had not yet been reached, but this number will probably be recorded before the close of 1870, unless, indeed, the war should prove a check to its prosperity.

The religion of the inhabitants, the census of 1867 showed 630,371 evangelical Protestants, 49,923 Roman Catholics, 37,665 Jews, 1026 dissenters, and 197 belonging to other religions. A comparison with the figures for 1848 shows that the Protestants have a winning ground at the cost of the Evangelical Union. Ueber tells explains this phenomenon in the increasing tolerance of the times; though undoubtedly the attractions offered by chances of work to the lower classes, and, in regard to the Jews, the business advantages of a large city, have a great deal to do with it. Judaism has a strong foothold in Berlin, and the Jews belong to the wealthiest, healthiest, and best educated classes there. The Berliners are not considered good church-goers. It has been estimated that on an average only twelve thousand persons attend divine worship in the Berlin churches on Sundays.

ON TO THE RHINE!

The Prussian Plan of Campaign. By the arrival at New York of the steamship Hammonia, of the Hamburg line, which left Hamburg on July 20, and crossed the ocean without the mishap of encountering a French man-of-war, we have the following mail advices. The Berlin correspondent of the London Daily News writes: "The plan of the campaign is openly spoken of, even by such as really ought to know something of it. But this is always the case here, and can hardly be otherwise where the voluntary co-operation of the whole people is expected, and the address was covered with many thousand signatures. There were similar demonstrations at Coblenz, Cassel, Göttingen, and other cities through which the King passed on his way home."

The Enthusiastic Welcome of the King on His Return, After the Declaration of War by France.

An American student writes from Berlin, under date of July 16, a lively account of the excitement in that city when the declaration of war by France was received, and King William made his entrance into the capital on his return from Ems. He says: "From the Brandenburger Gate, almost directly east to the palace of the King and the University of Berlin, stretches the street 'Unter den Linden,' one of the very finest streets in Europe, nearly a mile in length, being in fact two streets with a broad mall (fifty feet) in the middle, shaded by lime trees, from which it derives its name. Upon this street are situated the residences of the King and Crown Prince, the university, the Academy of Arts and Sciences, the residences of the Russian and French embassies, and many other important and imposing structures, besides the fashionable shops of the city. The mall is the popular promenade of the idle hours, and the principal resort in case of public excitement. As the evening drew on yesterday vast crowds of people began pouring from all the adjacent streets into this, the focus of all-absorbing interest. Long before 6 o'clock about every inch of standing room within easy sight of the King's residence (I say residence, because he does not live in the great royal palace) was occupied by a human foot, and those who were not fortunate enough to come within this magic distance kept beyond the assembled mass to buy the little extra sheets which had just been issued from the press. This vending of the public news in subdued tones was so strange to my ears! and in those same little sheets stood the declaration of war by France!"

I am recalled from my wandering thoughts by a distant, low, and indescribable roar, as of the approach of a mighty wind through a forest of noble oaks, the jokes and laughs in my vicinity are hushed, and with earnest faces this vast throng awaits its turn to join in that most inspiring of all public emotions—the greeting of monarch returning in triumph—his is not yet the triumph of arms, but this soulful demonstration is filled both with thanks to the beloved chief for his noble bearing towards the French bully and with thorough determination to make it in the end a triumph of arms. To give this last assurance its full weight you must remember that every man in Prussia of proper age is a soldier, and must bear his share in the struggle which is so encouraged. The wave of cheers approaches as if it were bearing upon its very crest the object of its devotion; it comes very slowly, must have been a mile away when I first heard it, now the restless crowd in which your correspondent is waded back to shout in unison, and now I see the bare and nearly bald head of William, the first King of Prussia, as he rises above the crowd on the inclined approach to the palace. To describe to you the manner in which this great manifestation of his emotion is quite beyond my power; the huge mass of human beings seemed merged into one great heart which could only give vent to itself in shouts and cries, not exactly cheers, but a speech which sought to mark and performed its office. Now the King, with his handsome, honorable face in full view, an earnest, thoughtful expression rather bordering upon sadness is turned towards his people; no instant of pause ensues in the shouting and cheering, and the wave of cheers above all rise the inspiring strains of the national songs—'Bei dir im Siegerkranz, and Ich bin ein Preusse. I cannot say how long this unequalled enthusiasm kept itself in motion, but the presence of the monarch from the lower end of the street began to render it a little dangerous in the vicinity of the palace, and the crowd sought escape through University street, thus thinning itself a little, and giving room to new and endless numbers of people which poured restlessly up from Frederick and Charlotten streets. Four times the King appeared upon the balcony in front of his residence to speak, and four times returned without uttering a word—the people were too excited to do all the talking this time and they did it, either in the shape of cheering or singing. For several hours the crowd in front of the palace remained almost without change in the half hope of something—I could not say what—but always in great nature and always singing as only a German crowd can sing. After describing the scene in other localities, the correspondent continues:—But here comes a crowd from the direction of Wilhelm street, with cries and cheers, and the universal German singing. Who are the people who are to do all the talking this time and they did it, either in the shape of cheering or singing. For several hours the crowd in front of the palace remained almost without change in the half hope of something—I could not say what—but always in great nature and always singing as only a German crowd can sing. 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