

AFTER THE WAR.

From the Fall Mail Gazette. At the present moment it is well to be sparing of political prophecies, but there is no great rashness in adhering to the opinion that the one certain and immediate result of the Prussian victories will be a general eagerness to copy the Prussian military system in its minutest details. We have no reason to withdraw from our assertion that unless this process of literal imitation be checked the burden cast on Europe through the predatory and aggressive habits contracted by nearly all Continental States since the establishment of the second French empire will be fearfully increased. The Prussian system (it cannot be too often stated) involves a standing army, not distinguishable in any material particular from the mercenary army of France, resting on the basis of an armed nation. The instrument thus formed is of prodigious efficiency, and it is possible that the use made of it in 1866 and 1870 will prove to have been an advantage to the world, taking the world as we find it. But it rather adds to than diminishes the permanent evils which the experience of twenty years has ever shown to be inherent in the employment of mercenary armies. As was proved in 1867, the Prussian system is just as much at the disposal of the chief as the army of France, and the large number of citizens in its ranks in no way fetters or limits his discretion as to the cause for which he shall make war or the time at which he shall make it. In 1870 the cause of the King of Prussia is the cause of Germany, and he did not choose his own time for fighting; but the events occurring before our eyes prove to us that one consequence of the vast reserve created by having the nation ready armed at the back of the army is that human life is cheaper than ever, and that blood flows like water. We have not a word to say against this army as a military instrument, or against the purpose for which it is now used; but we do say that if Europe is to remain under that maldy which the poison of vitiated public opinion has generated, and is to alternate between the cold fit of armed peace and the hot fit of war, the universal adoption of the modern Prussian system would make the periodical acute seizure more dreadful than ever. If, indeed, the question to be settled at the peace were a question between mercenary armies and armed nations, there would be much to be said for the latter mode of provision against war. No doubt from the purely economical point of view there are great advantages in mercenary armies, if armies there must be. The fund diverted to them from the encouragement of art and the augmentation of knowledge, wealth, and comfort is utterly wasted, but it is reduced to a minimum. The principle applied to a mercenary army is merely the ordinary principle of the division of labor, securing a given result at the least possible cost of money and morality. But great mercenary armies have one fundamental vice. They are a standing temptation to rulers to employ them. On the other hand, an army which is really the nation in arms is wasteful in the highest degree. It nips industry in the very bud, and takes away from the arts of peace and from the production of wealth the agents which are most valuable just at the time when they are most valuable. But in the existing state of the world it is certainly free from the great mischief of mercenary armies. It is an unready weapon, and the king or chief who would use it has to reckon with the hesitations and the peaceful tastes of the citizens who fill its ranks. From the military point of view this was the fault of the Prussian system as devised with the view of eluding the jealous vigilance of Napoleon after the battle of Jena. To remedy it and to superintend on the trained nation a standing army which could be employed at a moment's notice has been the labor of the present King's life; nor need we deny that in the permanent menace addressed to the continent by France there was a justification for his sustained and ultimately successful efforts. But with France out of the way, all reason for looking with complacency on the double system vanishes. If we have time to come to have wars, and if we must have the means of making war and must submit to the comparative impoverishment which the provision of those means entails, the best fate which could probably befall the men of the present century is that there should be a general return to the plan of training and arming the whole community as was done in Prussia before King William came to the throne. If disarmament in this sense be agreed to at the peace, diplomacy will have at least done something on a par with its pretensions. Anything, at all events, to be preferred to the cruel burden of the double system. It is in such favor at the present moment that all its evils should be pointed out. Let us then ask ourselves whether it is not a system which none but a despotic and semi-barbarous government would keep for long in a state of efficiency. If the present war is succeeded by a prolonged peace, we may be quite sure that nations growing in wealth will not long submit both to paying for an army and to constituting an army. One ingredient in the system will assuredly grow at the expense of the other. But if the Prussian model is universally followed, it seems to us that no nation will carry the imitation further than Russia, and that none is more likely to maintain the double system after other States have allowed it to fall into decay. The transformation of the military institutions of Russia, the most slavishly imitative of nations, seems to us a real danger which the German successes may have behind them, and not one of those bugbears which the journals which are wedded to the interests of France have recently been parading. Those who have been predicting that a policy of collusion between Russia and Prussia will place the destinies of Europe at the mercy of those States seem to be ignorant that the press of a country has displayed such content at the German victories as that of Russia. Nor is this mere fanciful partisanship. It arises from the recently developed but most bitter hostility of the national party in Russia to the last vestiges of independence in the German provinces on the Baltic. It is very far from impossible that the oppression of these provinces may at the conclusion of the war become the popular German grievance, and that we may hear as much of them as we did five years ago of the more prominent injuries inflicted on the Silesian-Holsteiners by the Danes. The addition to the fears which Europe may justly entertain of Russia appears to us to come nearly exclusively from the aptitude she will certainly show in taking home to herself the military lessons of the war, and from the tenacity with which she will probably adhere to a burdensome military system when other communities have found it intolerable. The military discoveries of civilized States have not seldom made the fortune of barbarous neighbors. There is no parallel to the discomfiture of France by the Germans closer or more modern than the victories of the Thebans and the sudden de-

thronement of Sparta from the military primacy of Greece. But Philip of Macedonia was a student in the tactical school of Epaminondas, and there he learned the new military arts which made him master of Thebes and every other Grecian State. A plan of common disarmament would be worth any degree of diplomatic exertion if Russia can be induced to do it, she cannot, it will be worth little or nothing. THE PICTURED ROCKS OF SUPERIOR. SCENERY OF THE GREAT LAKE. Among the many resorts about Lake Superior, none are more attractive to the tourist than the Pictured Rocks, situated upon the south shore, some sixty miles eastward from Marquette. From the lake, writes a tourist to the Toledo Blade, and at a distance, the so-called Pictured Rocks appear as a huge sea wall rising abruptly from the lake's margin, extending many miles, and varying in height from fifty to three hundred feet. Approaching nearer, we find all manner of unique formations and fantastic rocky structures, reared by Nature's hand. There are the chimneys—tall, slender columns of rock rising among the trees, and so very like factory chimneys that one expects to see dense columns of smoke issuing therefrom. Then comes the sail rock, composed of gigantic slabs of sandstone, rising seventy-five feet above the water. This is a few rods into the lake, entirely detached from the main cliff, so that when viewed from the east, at a distance, one takes it to be a schooner with sails set. The illusion is complete without the aid of imagination. The so-called miner's castle bears a strong likeness to some ancient structure of knightly days. Loft towers, solid walls, doorways, embrasures, all lend so much the appearance of an old Norman castle that we quite naturally gaze about in quest of a grim, mailed knight who, after the most orthodox story-book pattern, shall be equally ready to welcome us with hearty good cheer, or run his lance through our carcases. But our Aladdin's lamp failed to bring forth even the ghost of a genius loci. So we sail on past mile after mile of this vast sea wall, where new beauties meet the eye at every turn, where hurrying streams dash over the cliff into the lake below, forming beautiful cascades, where fantastic walls of rock, carved, sculptured, and stained in many colors by nature's workmen—frost and storm—all serve to keep us more than interested until we reach the chapel, which is one of the main features of the Pictured Rocks. It is quite appropriately named. A bold promontory jutting forward from the main cliff, a single mass of sandstone about one hundred and seventy by sixty feet, supported from the east side and rear by the cliff and by huge columnar masses in front and on the west side. Such is the chapel. Viewed from the city side, it conveys the idea of some vast and ancient temple in a state of ruin and decay. Dark evergreens, the mingled with column and pillar with picturesque effect. Indeed, all along the cliff from east to west, trees, mostly evergreens, crown the summit, giving a beautiful border to this rocky wall. One may enter the chapel from the rear, but the lake being calm, we may climb the rocks in front, reaching the entrance at a height of thirty or forty feet above the water. Here we are, within a temple not made with hands. So very like a church is this huge vaulted apartment, with its pulpit and altar all complete. But as we enter we almost expect a dapper little usher to offer his services. No wonder the Indians locate a Manitou in the chapel and in their crude way people it with ghostly forms. It only requires Grecian birth, or a location in the Holy Land, with a flimsy tissue of monkish stories thrown about it, to render the place classical. The heavy sea beating against the base of the cliff, singing its majestic, never-ceasing anthem, fills the chapel with solemn music. It is nature's organ rivaling the grandest tones heard within some vast cathedral. The storm king with his winds and waves is the organ of this temple. The strong contrast carries us back in memory to one of the old mission buildings in California. A wild, weird sensation thrilled us throughout the night as we camped by the long-deserted Pacific coast, San Luis Rey, far down the mission starting at us like some giant ghost, the mournful cries of the whippoorwill, the grand Pacific sighing and sobbing upon the beach below as if grieving over the sides of the land which it washed, all spoke more eloquently than did the bigoted priestly fathers who once ruled that land. So we cared not that the Mission is more; upon its walls The golden lizard's slip, or breathless pause, Still as the sunshine brokenly that falls Through crannies of rock and spider webs of gauze; No more the bell in solemn warning tolls—A hollow sibilant thrills and overtures; And the sharp light and shadow of to-day Outline the mission of San Luis Rey. The grand portal is a huge segment of rock protruding into the lake from the main sea wall, with a bold, lofty front, and a passage-way leading out upon either side so that one may row beneath the vast arch. Imagine yourself in a room 400 feet long by 180 wide, and 150 to 200 feet in height from the water to the arched roof. All too hastily must we tell you that to row within this grand amphitheatre where the waves play and dash about, where the ever varying shades of light picture the walls with grotesque forms, the deep emerald of the waters, the never ceasing music of the waves, the strange, unearthly reverberations of one's own voice, altogether afford a pleasure which one must experience in order to fully appreciate the beauties of the place. Green Island lies to seaward, within easy view of the Pictured Rocks. Camping upon a bold cliff, we have before us the Pictured Rocks, tinged with royal colors from the setting sun, and pictured to us as the far-off, shadowy shores of dreamland, where golden hopes are to be realized. A PEOPLE ON STILTS.—The pictures of Rosa Bonheur have made us well acquainted with the singular habits which the shepherds of the Landes south of Bordeaux have adopted of passing the greater part of their lives on stilts. The first time that a group of these people are seen, there is a curious emotion in the mind as of a strange prodigy. Dressed in sheep-skins, worn by time, knitting stockings or spinning thread, they gravely pass over the reeds and furze; the spectators, or buried, as it were, in the bushes, they lifted nearer the sky on the verge of the horizon. The long stick, which they handle with so much address, serving as a balancing pole or a support for the arm, contributes still more to the strangeness of their appearance; they look like gigantic crickets, preparing to spring. In the Landes of Medoc, not only the shepherds but every one uses this style of locomotion; the children have no fear, and the women, who are invariably dressed in black, resemble large ravens

perched on dead branches. The origin of stilts is unknown, but it is probable that they were not in use before the Middle Ages, as ancient authors make no mention of them. In the patois of the country they are called *chanque*, which would seem to fix their origin in the period of the rule of the English, deriving it from our word shank; probably some inventive British mind gave them this serviceable mode of progression. Perched on these borrowed legs the shepherd watches over his charge concealed in the brushwood, crosses uninjured the marshes and quicksands, fears not to be torn by thorns or dry twigs, and can at any time double the speed at which he ordinarily walks. Whether it has any effect on the character cannot be decided; but certain it is that these people are distinguished by their wild, savage nature. They have a horror of strangers, and when they perceive a traveller coming towards them, they hasten to flee into concealment. —The songs, either of a warlike or patriotic nature, which have been published in various German newspapers since the outbreak of the war, number, according to official accounts, up to August 22, 634. The first appeared on the 16th of July, and 491 owe their origin to the North German Confederation, while 143 have been written by people of the South German States. A collection of all these songs is preparing, and the work will be sold for the benefit of patriotic aid societies. FINANCIAL. A DESIRABLE Safe Home Investment THE Sunbury and Lewistown Railroad Company Offer \$1,200,000 Bonds, bearing 7 Per Cent. Interest in Gold, Secured by a First and Only Mortgage. The Bonds are issued in \$1000s, \$500s and \$200s. The Coupons are payable in the city of Philadelphia on the first days of April and October. Free of State and United States Taxes. The price at present is 90 and Accrued Interest in Currency. Parties purchasing prior to October 1 will make the difference on the GOLD INTEREST. This Road, with its connection with the Pennsylvania Railroad at Lewistown, brings the Anthracite Coal Fields 67 MILES nearer the Western and Southwestern markets. With this advantage it will control that trade. The Lumber Trade, and the immense and valuable deposit of ores in this section, together with the thickly peopled district through which it runs, will secure it a very large and profitable trade. WM. PAINTER & CO., BANKERS, Dealers in Government Securities, No. 36 South THIRD Street, PHILADELPHIA. COUPONS. THE COUPONS OF THE FIRST MORTGAGE BONDS OF THE Wilmington and Reading Railroad, Due October 1, Will be paid, on and after that date, at the Banking House of WM. PAINTER & CO., No. 36 S. THIRD ST., PHILADELPHIA. B. K. JAMISON & CO., SUCCESSORS TO F. F. KELLY & CO., BANKERS AND DEALERS IN Gold, Silver and Government Bonds At Closest Market Rates, N. W. Cor. THIRD and CHESNUT Sts. Special attention given to COMMISSION ORDERS in New York and Philadelphia Stock Boards, etc. GLENDINNING, DAVIS & CO., No. 48 SOUTH THIRD STREET, PHILADELPHIA. GLENDINNING, DAVIS & AMORY, BANKERS AND BROKERS, No. 17 WALL STREET, NEW YORK. Receive deposits subject to check, allow interest on standing and temporary balances, and execute orders promptly for the purchase and sale of STOCKS, BONDS and GOLD, in either city. Direct telegraph communication from Philadelphia house to New York. Edmund D. Randolph, Bankers, 3 Nassau St. N. York. Dealers in U.S. Bonds, Members of Stock and Gold Exchange, and in London, Paris, & Germany, and Letters of Credit, available throughout Europe.

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