THE HELPLESS CONDITION OF FRANCE. From the K. Y. Heraid.

A king sate on the rocky brow Which looks o'er seaborn Salamis, And ships by thousands lay below, And men in nations—all were his. He counted them at break of day, And when the sun set, where were they

This is Byron's graphic summing up of the invasion of Greece by Xerxes, and the defeat and dispersion of his fleets and armies. The picture, however, may be aptly applied to the late advance of the armies of Napoleon upon Germany and their annihilation as a military force. On the 2d of August, at the head of an army infinitely stronger than that of the King of Persia, the French Emperor, at the pretty little German frontier town of Saarbruck, gave the Prince Imperial his "baptism of fire," and then retired with the young lad to his headquarters at Metz to report to the Empress Regent in Paris his first engagement of the campaign for Berlin as a prosperous beginning. His armies on that day, stretching from Metz to and along the German border from Saarbruck up to Strasburg, numbered three hundred and fifty thousand men. The soldiers of that army had the reputation of the best disciplined, armed, and equipped, and the prestige of the finest soldiers in the world. On the 2d of September, nevertheless, after being shattered in many battles, one-half the remainder of that splendid army, with fifty thousand fresh troops as reinforcements, was captured, with the Emperor, at Sedan, and the other half was shut up within the fortifications of

Thus within the brief space of a month the prestige of Napoleon the Third as the arbiter of Europe, and the fame and the name of his armies as the imperial Romans revived, were scattered to the winds, and consternation and chaos eclipsed the gay pleasures of Paris. A month later, and we find, while the late imperial dictator of peace or war is a prisoner amid the mockeries of a royal palace beyond the Rhine, and while the Empress and the poor bewildered little Prince Imperial are eating the bread of exiles beyond the British Channel, Paris itself, with its two millions of people and its two hundred and fifty-two thousand soldiers, is as closely invested by the German legions as was the little city of Jerusalem by Titus eighteen hundred years ago. We find the Provisional Republican Government of France partly in Paris and partly in Tours, over a hundred miles away, and the only mode of communication between these two divisions the hazardous and uncertain balloon.

On Friday they had the news in California, in Cuba, Egypt, and Bengal of the surrender of the strong city of Metz, with an army of one hundred and fifty thousand men, including several marshals of France and the last of the flower of her imperial troops, bronzed and hardened to war in their cam-Crimea. To-day the great and powerful nation of France, with her forty millions of people, is in reality as helpless against the astounding military strength of Germany as was distracted Mexico in the grasp of Bazaine. There is something that appalls us, something that we can hardly realize, and which we cannot comprehend, in the startling facts that the internal defense of the first military nation on the globe is to-day reduced to the guerilla warfare of Mexico against Bazaine, and that Bazaine, with a hundred and fifty thousand of the finest soldiers of France, chassepots and all, has surrendered as ingloriously as Napoleon.

Incredible, however, as these facts may appear, they are before us, and before prostrate, bleeding, and starving France, in all their gloominess, and they must be recognized by France, or she may be utterly destroyed as an independent State. Was not Poland at one time the great central power of Europe, stretching from the Black Sea to the Baltie? Did she not, through Sobieski, in a great crisis of peril to Vienna and to Central and Western Europe, expel the audacious Turk, who, with his splendid army of three hundred thousand men, counted upon a march over the continent? And where is Poland now? What interest, we may next inquire, have the governing feudal aristocracy of England, what interest has the royal house of Austria, or even that of Italy, in interposing a helping hand to the present French republic? They have none of them any more interest in this matter than the Ozar of Russia, save in the maintenance of what they call "the balance of power."

They may not consent to the absorption of France by Germany, but it is apparent that they will consent to the reduction of France to that last extremity of prostration in which she will be compelled to accept the Government dictated by King William. What government will that be should France be reduced to this kumiliation? Will it be the Bonapartes or the Bourbons? It may be the Bourbons; but there is a mystery about Bazaine which points to the Bonapartes. The present government of France, then, should at once proceed to a treaty of peace with Count Bismarck on the best terms that can be obtained, through such assistance as in their selfishness the neutral powers may be ready to give, to arrest this fearful military power of Germany.
But with part of this French Provisional

Government in Paris and part in Tours and on the move it cannot be got together. Let a shorter method, then, be adopted. Let General Trochu, then, assume the responsibility and organize a new provisional government in Paris and open negotiations for peace, in view of the imperative necessity of saving France from chaos, and the imperative duty of saving the two millions of souls in Paris from starvation, and he may save France and secure the republic. The surrender of Metz will add one hundred thousand men to the army investing Paris, and will furnish one hundred and fifty thousand men for the spoliation of Lyons and Southern France generally. For warlike purposes France after Sedan may be compared to our late Southern Confederacy after the surrender of Lee; and if so, France after Metz may be likened to said confederacy after the surrender of Jo. Johnston. Against Von Moltke and the seven hundred thousand effective soldiers of the German alliance France is practically disarmed. Peace becomes now the first consideration and the first duty of the governing men of France, because it is their first necessity; and, Bazaine being entirely thrown aside, General Trochu, with the Army of Paris at his back, is master of the position. He has the power, in assuming the responsibility, to exalt himself and to make a peace which will end the suf-ferings and military disasters and spoliations of France and secure the republic.

—A reputable citizen of Troy complains that his house has been haunted for some time past by "invisible beings." The other night he was attracted to the dining-room by a noise, and found the table set as if for a grand banquet; but while in search of his wife about the house, to see if she could solve the mystery, the dishes were removed and the chairs collected together In the centre of the room,

WORK VERSUS ALMS.

From the N. Y. Tribune. There is a more individual way of looking at Work and Wealth than that given us in such strong and apt words by Mr. Hughes the other evening, and one which just now comes perhaps more directly home to us. The larger classes of the lowest poor lie outside of and below the reach of the trades unions and co-operative societies; but it is from these classes that the aggregate of want and crime assails us. On the other hand, very few of us are Peter Coopers or Ezra Cornells, but every educated man and woman employs or helps during the year one or two other men and women of this lower, dangerous class. As the cold weather comes on, the lines between them in the cities become more strongly marked; crime increases on the one hand, and charity on the other begins to bestir herself. Now, we would like to suggest before the usual opening of winter aid societies, fairs, and benevolent balls, that charity implies quite as false a relation between the poor and the rich as crime. Soup and coal societies, as everybody knows, are mere plasters to stop the gaping of an incurable wound. They put it out of sight for the time, but never heal it. A long experience in almsgiving is very apt to harden the heart and sharpen the eyesight of the giver, and cause him to doubt whether the quality of mercy blesses either him that gives or him that takes; it is much more likely to beget impatience on one hand and contentment with degradation on the other. In another week or two we shall be ad-

jured from every pulpit to "remember the poor," and the hackneyed appeal will be echoed from every secular press. This is all very praiseworthy, no doubt; but does it reach the root of the evil? If one-half of the money which will be given in New York this winter to supply the immediate needs of the poor was expended (with the same amount of system and earnestness of effort) in providing them with work here, or sending them where they would find it, the amount of relief would be incredibly greater, while the good accomplished would be permanent. Another point worth consideration is the universal habit in this country of underpaying the very class to whom alms are given. The American and his wife are almsgivers from a sort of animal, generous instinct; from instinct also they are over-shrewd in business, fearful of being imposed on. Brown keeps his book-keeper hanging over the verge of starvation or theft on a salary of \$1000, while he subscribes double that amount to the Home for Orphans, which will some day take the fellow's children in as paupers; Mrs. Brown haggles with her laundress over a shilling and throws double the sum to the drunken beggar at the door. Charity would begin at home most effectually if it would spur each man in New York this winter into paying living prices to the two or three people he employs, and if with the surplus which he has hitherto laid aside for purblind, indiscriminate almsgiving, he would heip some other man into the way of honestly earning his own living. Trades unions and co-operative societies achieve great results, but the co-operation of every individual employer with his hands, of every woman with her servant, if genial, hearty, and helpful, would accomplish wider and grander ends. In the first settlement of the country the aid extended by the richer to the poorer class was to educate their bands; the farmer had his apprentices, the housewife her "bound girls," to train into useful, self-helping citizens; now Dives throws Lazarus a meal's victuals or a coat to his back, and is done with him.

Practically, we must return to this old idea of charity before the problem of what is to be done with the dangerous classes can be solved. Only when the pauper is made a self-supporting worker in the body politic is society safe from him. We commend the theme to both press and pulpit for the opening winter. There are emigration societies and educational asylums already; but there is room for more. Certain men are only charitable in concert; let them work in concert here, rid New York of incipient thieves, and fill the waiting fields of the West with honest men. Certain women are only able to work in private; they can find any day at their backgates children who can be made into helpers instead of hinderers in the world. "If thine enemy hunger, feed him," is the old Divine command. To teach him to feed himself is more difficult, perhaps, but much more effectual.

CABINET-MAKING.

From Every Saturday, Nov. 5. The history of President Grant's Cablnet thus far is curious and interesting enough, but we refer to it at this time because it is instructive. Of course, as soon as the result of the election of 1868 was known, if not before, public speculation was rife as to whom the new President would select for his constitutional advisers. Each section put forth its most prominent representatives, and whatever preferences might be expressed, it was generally agreed be-forehand that the mind which had so invariably designated the right subordinates in the war would be equally unerring in the forma-tion of the new Cabinet. Even when it became known that the President-elect was not taking into his confidence any of the tried and trusted leaders of the Republican party, his admirers regarded this as only another proof of the selfreliance that could not go astray; although, as in the Scripture times, "some doubted," After the nation had been piqued by an imperetrable secrecy on the subject, lasting up to the very day of inauguration, the Cabinet was announced as follows:—E. B. Washburne, Secretary of State; Adolph E. Borie, Secretary of the Navy; A. T. Stewart, Secretary of the Treasury; J. D. Cox, Secretary of the Interior; J. A. J. Creswell, Postmaster-General; E. R. Hoar, Attorney-

It is a very mild statement to say that the people were taken by surprise. The thoroughgoing partisan Republican press maintained, of course, that each man in the list was the very best man that could have been chosen for his department—particularly Borie. Light-hearted citizens were amused, the judicious grieved. It was not merely that the ablest exponents of the party had been overlooked, but it was difficult to see on what principle the selections had been made. Mr. Washburne was the warm per-sonal friend of the President, and that had to be taken as the sole reason for putting him at the head of the State Department—a place for which neither the health of his body nor the habits of his mind in the least fitted him. He lived, however, a merry official life, if it was a short one. He went in on the 4th of March and out on the 10th, and yet within that time he filled all the subordinate places of consequence with his friends, who are remaining there to this day. It was on this account that Mr Wilson, of lows, an able and upright gentleman, very properly declined to become the successor of Mr. Washburne, when the latter, on the wings of friendship and love, was

borne away to the French mission.

The case of Mr. Stewart, nominated for the Treasury Department, is well remembered. If there had been no law in the way, he never ought to have been nominated for a position the discharge of whose duties directly affected his own business interests to the extent of millions of dollars; but there was a law which expressly probibited the appointment. When the President discovered this, he sent a message to the Senate, not withdrawing the nomination. but asking the repeal of the law! When this is tend in history, men will say that the imper-turbable hero of the war clearly lost his

presence of mind, and the instance will excite the same wonder now raised by Frederick the 's one exhibition of cowardice.

Stewart's name, however, was withdrawn st, and he was left to the management of colossal dry-goods business which had so pressed the Presidential mind with his fitness the place of Hamilton, Gallatin, and Chase. Mr. Boutwell succeeded him; Mr. Fish took the Department of State; and General Rawlins became Secretary of War. In less than three months the naval wonder, Mr. Borie, retired, and was succeeded by Mr. Robeson, who knew as much about the navy as most country lawyers do. The death of Secretary Rawlins brought General Belknap into the War Department. Circumstances not known, but very generally believed to be connected with Attorney-General Hoar's want of obsequiousness to political interference with his department, caused his retirement. Within a short time the impending withdrawal of Secretary Cox from the Interior Department has been announced. He has been a most faithful and energetic officer, against whom the breath of suspicion has never been raised—excepting political suspicion. He has been accused of disregarding outside dictation as to the management of his department; he has preferred to make appointments and advancements among his subordinates with more reference to merit than partisan influences; he has broken up rings and combinations which preyed upon Government, and has instituted many valuable reforms. He ought, therefore, to have been sustained, instead of being dismissed with the polite formula of having his resignation accepted. Thus it happens that of all the original members of President Grant's Cabinet, only one-Postmaster-General Creswell-re-

Now, why do we rehearse this history? It is not for the purpose of making or exciting any reflections on the President. He passed from the army to the Chief Magistracy with such a total want of civil experience, such an exposure to wily influences, that nothing but his own natural rectitude could have kept him from making more and worse mistakes than he has made. It is the system to which he is subjected -that evil system which throws a Motley out of the great position to which the public opinion of two continents had assigned him, and which is not above ruining tide-waiters and pensioners -that has been the whole trouble in the Cabinet. Let the nation study the lesson, and strike for civil service reform.

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WILLIAM P. CLYDE & CO.,

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HYDE & TYLER, Agent at Georgetown; I

SHIPPING. SPECIAL NOTICE TO SHIPPERS

VIA SAVANNAH, GA.

FREIGHT WILL BE FORWARDED with our usual despatch to all points on the WESTERN AND ATLANTA, MEMPHIS AND CHARLESTON, ALABAMA AND CHAT-TANOOGA, ROME, SELMA, ROME AND DAL-

ERN RAHROADS, all Landings on the COOSA RIVER. Through Bills of Lading given, and rates guarantied to all points in the South and Southwest. WILLIAM L. JAMES,

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ORLEANS, JACKSON AND GREAT NORTH-

No. 130 South THIRD Street 10 17 tf NOTICE - QUARANTINE RESTRICTIONS having been removed, freight will be received for Galveston, as heretofore, by the PHILADEL-PHIA AND SOUTHERN MAIL STEAMSHIP COMPANY. Shippers will please notice that all boxed goods for Mobile, Galveston, and points on

the Mississippi river must be well strapped.

The steamship YAZOO will sail for New Orleans, via Havana, on TUESDAY next, THE REGULAR STEAMSHIPS ON THE PHI-LADELPHIA AND CHARLESTON STEAM-SHIP LINE are ALONE authorized to issue through bills of lading to interior points South and West in connection with South Carolina Railroad Company. ALFRED L. TYLER, Vice-President So. C. RR. Co.

PHILADELPHIA AND SOUTHERN

MAIL STEAMSHIP COMPANY'S REGUL

LAR SEMI-MONTHLY LINE TO NEW OR.

LEANS, La.

The YAZOO will sail for New Orleans, via Havana, on

Tuesday, November 1, at 8 a. M.

The JUNIATA will sail from New Orleans, via Havana, on Friday, October 28.

THROUGH BILLS OF LADING at as low rates as by

any other route given to Mobile, Galveston, INDIAN.

OLA, ROCK PORT, LAVACCA, and BRAZOS, and to all

points on the Mississippi river between New Orleans and

St. Louis. Red River freights reshipped at New Orleans

without charge of commissions.

WEEKLY LINE TO SAVANNAH, GA.
The TONAWANDA will sail for Savannah on Saturday, November 5 at 8 A. M.
The WYOMING will sail from Savannah on Saturday, November 5. day, November 5.

The ROUGH BILLS OF LADING given to all the principal towns in Georgia, Alabama, Florida, Mississippi, Louisiana, Arkansas, and Tennessee in connection with the Central Hailroad of Georgia, Atlantic and Guif Railroad, and Florida steamers, at as low rates as by competing lines.

SEMI-MONTHLY LINE TO WILMINGTON, N. C. The PIONEER will sail for Wilmington on Saturday, November 19, at 6 A. M. Returning, will leave Wilmington Saturday, November 5. Connects with the Cape Fear River Steamboat Company, the Wilmington and Weldon and North Carolina Railroads, and the Wilmington and Manchester Railroad to all interior points. to all interior points.

Freights for Columbia, S. C., and Augusta, Ga., taken via Wilmington, at aslow rates as by any other route.

Insurance effected when requested by shippers. Bills of lading signed at Queen street wharf on or before day of sailing.

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