ACCOUNT OF THE PROPERTY OF THE

THE PRINCIPLE OF NATIONALITIES. From the N. Y. Tribum

The commonest phrase for the last year or two in the slang of European Cabinets has been that of respect for the principle of nationalities. It is a vague phrase which may mean anything a strong power chooses, and nothing that a weak one claims. It was first announced and sent out by that great master of shams, the late Emperor of the French. He used it in his indefinite way to sustain the Crimean war, by which the power of the Turk over the Greek was sustained and confirmed. He never grew tired of affirming the same principle in those words of pompous inanity by which he heralded and expounded his action in the Italian war. In behalf of a historic nationality he promised that Italy should be free from the Alps to the Adriatic; but he sold the Italian cause at the first victory, and afterwards exacted as the price of his assistance the two Italian provinces of Nice and Savoy.

He found how little he had gained by that adventure when the army of Victor Emanuel refused to recognize the cession of Venetia by Austria to France; and he was afterwards forced by circumstances into trampling that principle under foot when Italy was following Garibaldi to Rome, and nothing but the chassepots of De Failly stopped her. But it was only when he saw the portentous growth of the German nation after the catastrophe of Sadowa that he began thoroughly to comprehend what a Frankenstein monster he had been shaping during all the years of his reign. The principle of nationalities he had so petted and patronized now threatened his very existence. The creation of his own policy would destroy him, it appeared, unless, like the fabled Chronos, he seized the dangerous birth and devoured it. The result of his attempt to swallow the new-born nationality is sufficiently notorious.

Now that I rance is conquered, and it rests with Germany to dictate the terms of peace, it seems impossible for the European mind to escape from the absurd rut in which it has been travelling for years. The provinces of Alsace and Lorraine are to be seized and annexed to Germany, for the valid and suffi-cient reasons that this fortified frontier is needed as a defense for the future; that the territory will serve as compensation for the expenses of the war: that if France had conquered, she would have exacted the Rhenish provinces. But not content with this, all the professors in Deutschland grow red in the face with demonstrating that these are German provinces, and therefore should be annexed. They make it a point of honor and conscience to talk about Wasgrau, Lothringen, and Elsass, and to speak always of restoring, and never a word of incorporating, the conquered territory.

So fully has this new and fantastic idea of the aggregation of nationalities taken possession of the ordinary European mind, that it has utterly superseded the notion of the necessity of consent as a condition of annexation. Not only do the apostles of this crude ethnological theory assert that men of the same race must form the same nation, but they also virtually insist that the stronger people shall expound the scientific merits of the case, and then proceed to annex all those in whom they have discovered kindred blood. If the smaller nations object to the evidence presented, and prefer not to be adopted into the growing family, they are denounced as and traitors, and persuaded into the national unity about as gently as Hood's butcher "conciliated" a refractory sheep, neck and erop, into the slaughter-pen. This was gro-tesquely shown at the Pan-Slavic Congress held some time ago in Russia at the invita-tion of the Czar. It was largely attended by Bohemian scholars and professors from Prague who clamored for liberation from the mild and debonnair despotism of Austria, and yet denounced as monstrous and unnatural the movement towards freedom on the part of the trampled and agonizing Poles. The utterly unjustifiable sgitation in Austrian Poland, where an almost complete autonomy prevails. is considered noble and heroic by these purblind theorists, because it is directed against a German prince; while the long and desperate protest of the chivalrous people of Warsaw is regarded as a crime against ethnology, because in this case the tyrant is a Sclave. The very midsummer madness of this pedantic dream is seen on the Lower Danube, where a few professors, intoxicated with thin draughts of the Pierian spring, have begun a Pan-Dacian movement, to fuse into one nationality all the peoples inhabiting the territory of ancient Dacia at the time of Trajan's conquest.

There is no doubt that many of the nearsighted gentlemen who search the libraries for muniments of title take their fancy serionsly and really believe in it. But it is equally certain that the statesmen who pull the wires to which these earnest puppets dance regard the whole comedy as very ridiculous. The Russian politicians who keep this Pan-Slavic agitation on foot in Austria and along the Danube are nearly all Germans by birth and race. The Emperor himself has scarcely a drop of Tartar blood left in his veins after all the Teutonic alliances of his family. Louis Napoleon himself, the patentee of the theory, spurned it whenever it came in his way. He did not stop to consider if Nice were more Provencal or Italian. When he attempted to found a Latin empire in America under the lieutenancy of a Hapsburg, he was not in-fluenced by the fact that an aboriginal President was the chosen ruler of the native-born people of Mexico. When Bismarck adds to the Prussian crown a Schleswig-Holstein, a Luxemburg, or a Lorraine, he will not trouble himself to prove that the inhabitants are pure-blooded Aryans of the Teutonic family. He will make up his mind that the absorption is wholesome and digestible for the monarchy, and he will let Herr von Teufelsdroeck and Mr. Carlyle amuse themselves over the historical argument.

ERNEST RENAN ON PARIS.-No one admires and loves more than I that extraordinary centre of life and thought which is called Paris. A disease, if you will, but a disease like that of the pearl-a precious and exquisite hypertrophy. Paris is the reason for there being a France. Focus of light and warmth; call it also, if you will, hot-bed of moral corruption, provided you admit that from this dung-heap there spring charming flowers, some of them of the first rarity. It is the glory of France to be able to maintain this wonderful, permanent exhibition of her most excellent products; but we must not hide from ourselves at what cost this marvellous result is obtained. Capitals consume—they do not produce. We must not by pushing the evil to extremes, run the risk of making France, alternately, a head without a body and a label without a body and a label without a body and a label without a bead. The political estimates body without a head. The political action of Paris should cease to have a preponderating influence. Of the two things which the provinces have hitherto received from Parisrevolutions and government-the provinces are beginning to accept both with equal anti-pathy. Alone the democracy of Paris will never establish anything solid. Unless it take care it will bring upon itself periodical exterminations sad for France, since the Pa-

risian democracy is, from another point of view, a necessary ferment, an excitant without which the national life would languish. The public meetings held during the last election in Paris showed an entire want of political talent. Masters of the field, the democracy made it the order of the day to vie with each other in the way of paradoxes; the candidates allowed themselves to be guided by the exigencies of the mob, and were scarcely appreciated except in proportion to their declamatory vigor; those holding moderate opinions were unable to make themselves heard, or were obliged to strain their voices. Paris ignores the two chief virtues of political life, patience and oblivion of the past. Hers is not the policy of the patriarch Jacob, who ordered the pace of his whole tribe when on the march to be regulated by that of the new-born lambs.

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known artists

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11.TON, IMPORTER.
On Thursday Afternoon,
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