

Evening Telegraph

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 26, 1871.

AMERICAN AND BRITISH TAXATION.

THE interchange of cable telegrams between the British Chancellor of the Exchequer and the American Commissioner of Internal Revenue, on the light and pleasant topic of "how the tax on friction matches works," is a significant episode in the intercourse between the Governments served by these officials. It is indicative of a much more friendly feeling than that which prevailed a few years ago, when, if telegrams had been interchanged at all, they would have consisted in angry remonstrances on our part against the construction of Alabama to prey upon our commerce; and of threats, on the part of the British Cabinet, that if we did not deliver up Mason and Slidell and submit quietly to any wrongs Great Britain wished to perpetrate, she would aid and abet the Confederacy by her navy, instead of the vessels of war built by her private ship-builders. But, aside from the indications of the establishment of an era of good feeling, the nature of the subject discussed is noticeable. It is the ever-fruitful theme of taxation; and it is refreshing to note that, notwithstanding the extended experience of Great Britain in extorting money in every conceivable way from her people, she should seek further instruction in that delightful art from Young America. In return, we hope that as soon as Congress is again convened, Pleasanton will ask Lowe, by ocean cable, how the income tax has worked in Great Britain; and that he will in reply give a faithful version of the experience of her statesmen, which cannot fail to be to the effect that in practice it is the most odious, unjust, and unequal tax ever invented by English ingenuity. Since a precedent has been established for correspondence on such subjects, it might also be well for the American Secretary of the Treasury to ask, when the tariff comes up for consideration, "For how many years did you protect British manufactures, and how long did you impose prohibitory duties before you became converts to free-trade?"

THE COMING MAN IN FRANCE.

THE burden of all the news that reaches us from the scene of the struggle between the Assembly and the Commune, is the utter incompetency of any man who has thus far risen to the surface to secure the confidence of the people. If Cluseret could make the Parisians forget that he is nothing more nor less than an unprincipled adventurer, he might rally not only Paris but all France around him, and eradicate the last vestige of the Assembly's power. If Thiers could convince despondent France that he is a second Lafayette, or even a second Lamartine, the grand coup de main of which we have had so many predictions would long since have been a thing of the past, and the Red Republic along with it. France suffers, as nearly every great nation has suffered in passing through a grand crisis, for the lack of a man who can inspire the people with confidence, and then prove himself equal to the demands of the situation. The Republic was duly proclaimed on September 4, and the Assembly, in designating M. Thiers the "Executive Chief of the French Republic," ratified the decree of the Paris mob. Suspected of favoring the restoration of the Orleansists, and accused of a desire to betray the Republic, Thiers has taken a solemn oath to do nothing of the kind; but, as long as the Red flag floats in triumph over the Tuilleries and the Hotel de Ville, he fails to convince the masses of the people of his honesty of purpose and his ability to lead the nation through its crowning struggle with anarchy.

Shiftless as he is, however, M. Thiers finds thus far no rival aspirant for the leadership. But the Bonapartists are actively at work, and there are rumors that the Imperial party is steadily gaining accessions throughout the provinces. The great conservative party, which has everything to lose and nothing whatever to gain by a continuance of the present disorder, would be ready to fall into the arms of the ex-Emperor for the sake of saving something from the universal ruin, if his record did not present a series of blunders even more disheartening than his crimes are repulsive. There is, likewise, a show of demoralization in the camp of the Orleansists. A rumor has gained currency to the effect that the Comte de Paris, the head of the House of Orleans in the direct line, although neither the oldest nor the ablest of the descendants of Louis Philippe, has not only recognized the claims of the Comte de Chambord as the head of the old Bourbon line, but that he has acknowledged him to be the rightful King of France. This course, according to the current report, has alienated the other members of the Orleans family from the Comte de Paris, and led to an open rupture with the Duc d'Annamale, one of his uncles. The latter is thus forced to assume the leadership of the Orleansist faction, and recent cable telegrams announce that a number of deputies in the Assembly desire to place the Duke at the head of affairs as provisional President of the French Republic. Recent utterances of the Duc d'Annamale reveal his professed willingness to accept either the Presidency of the Republic or the sceptre of a constitutional monarchy, in case either is tendered him. And now comes a rumor that the Duc d'Annamale, accompanied by his brother, the Prince de Joinville, arrived at Tours in disguise some six weeks ago, and that they have been in secret consultation with some of the leading men of the two monarchical factions, with the view of proclaiming the Duc d'Annamale King of the French. It is reported, finally, that the conference have resulted in the appointment of a committee to solicit the withdrawal of the Comte de Chambord from the field, and the

adherence of his faction to the project entertained by the friends of the Duc d'Annamale. This whole story, however, has a doubtful look, although it is perhaps as deserving of credence as any of the reports which are going the rounds of the European press.

Meanwhile, the chances of the Bourbon and Orleansist rivals are dependent, altogether, upon the struggle between the Assembly and the Commune under the walls of Paris. If M. Thiers does not speedily abandon his policy of forbearance and overcome his professed aversion to blood-letting, distracted France will force some one of his reluctant rivals into the foreground, to conduct the struggle against the Red Republicans on a platform that avowedly crushes out the last hope of a true republic.

THE RED REBELLION bids fair to accomplish at least one desirable result—the reconciliation of the Alsatians to German rule. Whether or not the annexation of Alsace and a portion of Lorraine was justifiable or necessary to the future security of Germany, it has become an accomplished fact, which stands but slight chance of reversal. It is, therefore, exceedingly desirable that the inhabitants of the transferred provinces should become fully reconciled to the change, not less on account of Germany than for their own sake. M. Emile Aubertin, an Alsatian, writing to the London Times, says:—"Paris, horrid Paris, has done as much to make us all cleave to our new allegiance as France did to establish German unity by going to war to prevent it." This is a rational view to take of the matter, and one which is quite likely to secure general prevalence. So long as Paris remains the head and heart of France, so long will every foot of French soil be subject to the vagaries of the Paris mob. Nothing but a strong military despotism like that which collapsed at Sedan will, apparently, suffice to keep this murderous mob in subjection; and the sober-minded Alsatians, who have had their fill of warfare, have good cause to be thankful that they are, temporarily at least, removed from the sphere of French despotism and Parisian anarchy.

THE lower branch of the State Legislature has passed the bill providing for an inspection of coal supplied to city consumers, which requires that 2240 pounds shall constitute a ton, and that any attempts to cheat consumers with short weight shall be punished by fine. The inevitable Smith, who instinctively chooses the wrong side of every question, made strenuous exertions to kill this bill, for he would not have been true to himself if he had not preferred the interests of the innocent and suffering coal-dealers to the interests of the masses of the people; but his best efforts were, fortunately, unavailing; and if too many Senators are not "seen" in time, there is a fair prospect that a big price may occasionally buy a full ton of coal hereafter in this metropolis of the great coal State. It is quite bad enough that, through the strikes of miners, the combinations of operators, and the charges for freight, the nominal price of a ton of coal is twice as much as it ought to be; and after all these charges are defrayed, the purchaser should at least have the consolation of knowing that he actually obtains what he has doubly paid for.

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