GERMANY AND ALSAOE.

From the London Saturday Review Germany has at last got Elsass and as much of Lothringen as she chose to take, and, having got them, she has now to govern them and make them her own. It is one of the most curious and interesting experiments in the art of government that this modern world has seen. Elsass cannot forget the days when it was Alsace. In some unpleasant and unaccountable manner it cares more for France than it does for Germany, and tramples on history, and ignores race, and pro-tests against the results of the war. For a wonder, it actually in the nineteenth century is not on the side of success.

Naturally the French, who have not much to be proud of just now, are very proud of this; for there is no dispute about the fact. Prince Bismarck, who at least has the merit of supreme frankness, allows his countrymen to foster no illusions on the matter. Elsass rejects its historical mother, and clings to its naughty, unfortunate, suffer-ing nurse. But the Germans are not to be bailled easily. They have set themselves so to govern Alsace that the day shall come when its French sympathies will have died away, and it will know and think of nothing but Germany. How this is to be done is a great problem in government, and the mode in which the problem is sought to be practically solved is worth the most attentive study. An excellent description of the German rule in Alsace has been given under the signature of Albert Dumont in the last number of the Revue des Deux Mondes, Of course it is written from the French point of view. The writer exults in the failure which the Germans have hitherto had to encounter. But it does not appear to be an unfair account of what has happened, for the author renders ample justice to the mixture of indulgence and firmness which the Germans have displayed. His triumph would not, in fact, be half what it is if he blackened the character of the conquerors, or spoke of them as men without skill and without a knowledge of the arts of empire. What delights him is that, in spite of all the pains they have taken to apply the most judicious mixture of harshness and lenity, in spite of their knowing everything, foreseeing everything, bearing and forbearing largely and long, Elsass can-not abide them, has not the slightest wish to belong to Germany, and pines for the day when it shall be once more Alsace.

Immediately after the battles of Weissemburg and Woerth, Alsace and German Lorraine were seized on as part of Germany. Every minute detail had been foreseen, and the exact frontier line had been studiously traced long before by German patience and skill. This new part of Germany was at once governed as if it were part of Germany. It was never treated as the districts of France were treated that were occupied by the German armies. Strasburg was indeed bombarded, and M. Dumont represents the Alsatians as resenting the needless cruelty of the bombardment. It was quite certain that Strasburg must yield directly the parallels were pushed far enough, and the French garrison had no means of preventing the besiegers from making their approaches. The bombardment did no good to the enemy, while it inflicted infinite misery on the inhabitants. But however true this may have been, it is not pretended that the people of Strasburg would have looked with any more favor on their conquerors if they had not been bombarded; so that the objection to the bombardment is the general objection that all bombardments s, rather than that the Germans were unwise in adding this to the other causes of the antipathy of Alsace. When Strasburg came into their hands the Germans fixed there the seat of their administration. A regular machinery for governing the pro-vince was instituted, and the new authorities set themselves to the double task of making it understood that the Germans were the true friends of Alsace, and of re-pressing every sign of sympathy for France. The Count of Bismarck-Bohlen was appointed Governor, and although M. Dumont sneers at his piety, he unhesitatingly confesses that the Count showed himself most amiable, considerate, and polite. His subordinates worked in the same spirit. But German politeness is consistent with displays of the utmost rigor when rigor seems necessary, and very harsh measures were taken to inspire a wholesome dread of counteracting the plans of the conquerors. It was declared to be a matter of honor with all functionaries that they should work on behalf of Germany as if they were Germans. They were expected to afford every facility to the military operations of the Germans, and to do everything to baffle the possible military operations of the French. No one was allowed to pass out of the commune without special permission. All arms were sought for and taken away. The local newspapers were entirely sup-pressed; and ladies who dared to sing un-German songs, or play un-German music, were at once arrested. Even the children were not allowed to play at games which gave offense to the authorities. It was discovered that the Alsatians spoke a patois unintelligible to Germans, but they

were at once to be made to speak good Ger-man, and French was utterly forbidden in all

schools and official places as the language to

be employed. On the other hand, there was

an appearance of much kindness and consid-

eration. Some at least of the French officials

who were dispossessed were allowed to retire on a pension of the full amount of their salary,

and the ordinary taxation of Alsace was not

increased beyond what it had been before the

war. Every effort was made to prove that the inhabitants of the province had better accept what was inevitable, and that the Germans meant well by them. In short, as M. Dumont justly says, both on the side of harshness and on the side of leniency,

Alsace and German Lorraine were treated

neither better nor worse than Hanover was treated during and immediately after the war

of 1866. German government, with its many

forms of unpleasantness, was brought to bear

on them, but still they were treated as part of Germany. Nevertheless, Alsace was neither to be terrified nor per-snaded. It remained absolutely French. In

had to be adjourned, and German teachers had to be imported. The women persisted

in dressing in mouraing, and no German offi-

cer was received in private society. M. Du-

mont even informs us that the common peo-

ple were suddenly seized with a passion for

secretly learning and speaking French. Every

subterfuge was resorted to in order to escape

the payment of taxes and lessen the receipts

of the German exchequer. At last came the elec-

without exception either local patriots devoted to France, or national celebrities like Gambetta or Jules Fayre. The Germans, although they did not interfere with the voting, prohibited all canvassing or any publication of lists of candidates; so that it was impossible to regard the result of the elec-tions as the work of an active French clique. It was the expression of the intense desire of Alsatians to be French, and of their reso-

lution to make their real wishes known to all

the world at the very moment when it was obvious they were about finally to cease to be French. One of the deputies they elected, a popular provincial, who had been Mayor of Strasburg at the time of the siers havened to dis of the siege, happened to die at Bordeaux. His remains were brought to Strasburg, and his funeral afforded the Alsatians a last oppor tunity of showing their persistent sympathy with a man who had never faltered in his attachment to France. He is recorded to have declared shortly before his death that although he saw how great would be the material advantages to Alsace in becoming German, and although he recognized the consummate skill of the Germans in administration, yet there was to his mind something in France which was more to him than all that Germany had to offer. It is perfectly legiti-mate that Frenchmen should glory in such utterances. France, impoverished, humiliated, torn by civil war, has still an undefinable charm, and can still appeal to the hearts and imagination of men. In order to estimate rightly the place of France in Europe, it is as necessary to bear this in mind as to dwell on gigantic blunders it has recently committed, and on the national short-comings indicated by the events of the war, and by the sad story of the reign and the suppression of the Commune. No one knows better than Prince Bismarck how great are the difficulties which the love of Alsace for France throws in the way of German statesmen; and no one can be more anxious that what he sees all Germans should see also. He has recently strained his great personal influence and authority to the utmost, in order to induce the German Parliament to abstain from subjecting the new provinces too quickly and vigorously to a German Government of the usual type. He has obtained liberty to manage them exactly as he pleases until the beginning of 1873. He has begun by accepting the payment of a portion of the first instalment of the French indemnity in notes of the Bank of France, in order that he may have immediate funds for the wants of Elsass and Lorraine, where these notes are familiar to the people. On the other hand, an edict has been issued enforcing universal compulsory education, after the German pattern, on every child above the age of six years. The two instruments of government to which he trusts are the bestowal of material advantages on this generation and the training of the next generation. Above all, he looks to the working of the conviction that the fate of Elsass is fixed, and that nothing that can be said or done will make it anything but German. How far he may succeed no one can say as yet, but it is evident that, unless a success almost beyond hope attends his efforts, Elsass and Lothringen will long be

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land as the Poles of Posen are from Prussia.

or the Czechs of Bohemia from Austria.

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spite of the severe decrees directed not only against those who joined the French armies, but against their families, 17,000 Alsatians managed to enroll themselves in the new NOS. 398 AND 831 SOUTH STREET, levies of France. The judges of the high courts, the professors of the upper schools, preferred destitution to compliance with the wishes of their new masters. All civil causes FANCY AND MOURNING MILLINERY, CRAPE VEILS.

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tions in February to the French Assembly, and the Germans, under the direction of Prince Bismarck, abstained from all inter-MADUSACTURES OF FINE FURNITURE, UPHOLSTERINGS, AND IN-TERIOR HOUSE DECORATIONS, No. 249 SOUTH THIRD Street, Manufactory, Nos. 215 and 217 LEVART Street ference in them. The true sentiments of Alsace were freely manifested, and they chose

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