TAULER.

BY JOHN G. WHITTIER.

Tauler, the preacher, walked, one autumn day,
Without the walls of Strasburg, by the Rhine,
Pondering the solemn Mystery of Pain;
As one who, wandering in a starless night,
Feels, momently, the jar of unseen walls,
And hears the blunder of an unknown sea,
Breaking along an unimagined shore.

And as he walked he prayed. Even the same
Old prayer with which, for half a score of years,
Morning and noon, and evening, lip and heart
Had groaned, "Have pity on me, Father God!
Thou seest, while teaching others, I am blind.
Send me a man who can direct my steps!"

Then, as he mused, he heard along his path
A sound as of an old man's staff among
The dry, dead leaves; and, looking up, he saw
He saw a stranger, weak, and poor, and old.

"Peace be unto thee, father!" Tauler said,
"God give thee a good day!" The old man raised
Slowly his calm blue eyes: "I thank thee, son!
Est ell my days are good, and none are ill!"
Tauler said,
"Wondering therein, the preacher spake again,
"What! has God taken away thy sight?" The old man smiled,
"I never am unhappy."
Tauler said
His hand upon the stranger's coarse gray sleeve,
"Tell me, O father, what thy strange words mean.
Surely, man's days are evil, and his life
Sad as the grass, which fades in the hot sun.
Our times are in God's hands, and all our days
Are as our needs, for shadow or sunshine,
For cold as heat, for want as wealth, alike
Our thanks are due, and to us it is well that it is;
And that which is not, sharing not his life,
Is evil only as death of good is evil,
And so the happiness of which I spake,
I find it in submission to his will,
And calm trust in the holy Trinity
Of Knowledge, Goodness, and Almighty Power."
Tauler said
Silently wondering, for a little space,
Stood the gray preacher; then, as one who wake
Who, suddenly grappling with a haunting thought,
Which long has followed, whispering through the dark,
Strange terrors, drags it, shrieking, into light:
"Was God's will coming then hence to Hell?"

"Then," said the stranger, cheerily, "be it so.
What Hell may be I know not; this I know:
I cannot lose the presence of the Lord:
And, since, Humility takes hold upon
His dear Humanity, the Hell I fear
Glows into Divinity." So he where I go
He goes; and better free-willed Hell with Him
Than polished Paradise without Him.

Turning again into Tauler's eyes, A sudden light,
Like the first ray which fell on chaos, clove
Apart the shadow wherein he had walked
Darkly at noon. And, as the sunrise of man
Went his slow way, until his silver hair
Set like the white moon when over the hills of vine
Slope to the Rhine, he bowed his head and said:
"Of prayer and fasting I had made the man
Long sought, to teach me by his simple trust,
Wisdom the weary schoolmen never found."

So, enriched with the wisdom and cheerful step
The city gates, he saw, far down the street,
A mighty shadow break the light of noon,
Walking toward him. He knew the form at once,
Hardened to stony pilaths, he raised his eyes
Cut broad beside and lofty pinnacles
Of architrave and frieze and sculpted niche,
Up into the noon-day sunlight, shineth the Christ
Even of Stribelach, dizzily up to where
Its three-hooped crosses glitter on Minster's tower,
Jewelled with sunbeams on its mural crown.
Rose like a visible prayer. "Behold!" he said,
"The stranger's faith made plain before mine eyes.
As yonder tower outstretches to the earth
The dark triangle of its shade alone,
When the clear day is shining on its top,
So, darkness in the pathway of Man's life
Is but the shadow of God's providence,
By the great Sun of Wisdom cast thereon;
And what is dark below is light in Heaven."

EUROPEAN AFFAIRS.

LETTER FROM NAPLES.

[Correspondence of the Phila. Evening Bulletin.]

NAPLES, NOV. 30, 1868.—It is difficult to give an idea of the excitement here which the recent excessions in Rome have created here. On this question the whole press is united, though certain organs of it indulge in an intensity of rant which is new even to Naples. "Papal Rome," says the *Avenire*, "has executed justice, but it has exercised justice on Papal Rome; it has killed the temporal sovereignty." "This ferocious and cowardly insult," says the *Pungolo*, "must be avenged. That blood, we all of us feel, has issued from our veins." I shall not give any other extracts to show the indignation which has been created, and these are mild in comparison with what has been said elsewhere; but this is not all. Subscriptions for the relief of those wounded are being opened by most of the chambers of the city, and a subscription for a monument to the two Italian martyrs, Monti and Tognetti, and to transmit it to Rome, is encouraged by many of the priests of Rome. Among the enlightened I find the sense of all classes and every rank among the Liberals. Of many men of literary reputation I have heard mention of the name of Professor Settembrini, one of the most distinguished scholars of Southern Italy, who is at this moment condemned to death after the events of 1848, and was spared by Ferdinand II. Bianco Noli, who was Syndic of Naples two years ago, is another. Many others, of equal fame, are incensed and indignation entertained towards the Papal Government, which were always sufficiently strong, are increasing in intensity from hour to hour. "It was desirable that the Pope himself should unlocrive the destiny," says a moderate journal, "and the Pope has not failed to do it. The decapitation of Monti and Tognetti opens an abyss between him and Italy. All reconciliation has become impossible. The only danger is that some intemperance on our part may compromise the result of the events of Rome. And it is a great danger; but men of thought and foresight will, it is to be hoped, be found in numbers sufficient to prevent the fatal mistake of intemperance and the outbreak of last year, though it is almost too much to be hoped from a people excited to frenzy. "The Neapolitan committee for honoring the memory of Monti and Tognetti is composed of General Avezzana, Count Ricciardi, Professor Settembrini, with others, and the President is Baron Noli.

The reception of the Prince and Princess of Piedmont has been undoubtedly cordial, though more speak of the enthusiasm displayed as being merely official. Yesterday night, the youth and grace and simplicity of the Princess have been appreciated. On Tuesday night, a serenade was offered the royal couple in the Palace square, and a nocturnal evening, when they presented themselves at San Carlos, the grand theatre were a brilliant spectacle. On another occasion at half-past 8 o'clock they were received with three rounds of applause, and so they left their lodge. Some say this week their royal Highnesses will leave for Palermo, where they will remain for about twenty days, returning to Naples to celebrate Christmas. Preparations are making for a grand funeral ceremony in the Church of Santa Clara, in honor of Rosalli. The remains with the name of this great man are to be assembled there on Friday and Dominoli. The mass to be sung on this occasion, it is said, will be that which was composed by Donnetti for the funeral of Bellini. Vesuvius, after having accumulated thousands of spectators, and after having destroyed much property, is now comparatively quiet. A few days ago, I was received by the white appearance of the crater, and believed it to be covered with snow; it turns out, however, to have been nothing more than an efflorescence of salt glittering under the rays of the sun. "The cure is in the Aide-de-Camp," writes Palmieri in his last bulletin, "after having thrown out in a few days about six millions of cubic metres of lava, ere almost spent, and the activity of the volcanoes is beginning to concentrate itself towards the summit of the great cone. If there are not any new phenomena I shall not publish any further announcement." The last eruption commenced an eruption which began on the 15th of November, 1867, which has continued with greater or less activity during the whole of the year, and which finally had a week ago, the richest ground about Resina, ruined cottages and villa, and, what is worse than all, many fields.

THE EASTERN QUESTION.

PARIS, Dec. 23.—The *Moniteur* of to-day, in a leading editorial, says the active movements of the great Powers give a hope that diplomacy, by the exercise of moderation, will allay the Eastern troubles.

VIENNA, Dec. 23.—The public newspapers say Russia approves the proposition of Prussia to invite England, France and Austria to a conference on the Turco-Greek difficulties.

LONDON, Dec. 23.—The report of a proposed conference on the Eastern question is fully confirmed. The *Vienna Press*, the government organ, says semi-officially that the plan originated with Russia, backed by Prussia, and that the scheme is favored by Austria and Italy. The efforts to settle the question, without conference, will undoubtedly be successful.

ATHENS, Dec. 23.—The ministry are still engaged in the discussion of means of defence of the country. The general impression is that war is in that direction.

VIENNA, Dec. 23.—The government has asked the chambers a credit of one hundred million florins. The ports of Fiume and Patras are to be fortified.

CONSTANTINOPLE, Dec. 23.—It is officially announced that the Turkish Admiral Hobart Pasha informed the authorities on the Island of Syra that his instructions from Commodore Jones are peaceful; and he had only asked that the Greeks should be taken to the Piræus by French and Austrian steamers to await a trial by Greek naval officers.

The *Provincial Correspondente*, semi-official newspaper, says the Great Powers have united in an effort to dissuade the Sublime Porte from expelling the Greeks from Turkey. The intended expulsion includes those in Servia and Roumania.

The Explosive Bullet Treaty.

The following, is the text of the Explosive Bullet Treaty just signed at St. Petersburg by the representatives of Bavaria, Belgium, Denmark, England, Germany, Greece, Holland, Italy, Persia, Portugal, Austria, Prussia, Russia, Sweden, Switzerland, Turkey and Wurtemberg:

Considering that the progress of civilization ought to result in diminishing as much as possible the calamities inseparable from war; that the only legitimate object which states should propose to themselves during war is to weaken the military forces of the enemy; that it is sufficient for this purpose to put out of combat the greatest number possible of men; that this object would be exceeded by the employment of projectiles which would aggravate the sufferings of men put out of combat or render their death inevitable; that the employment of such projectiles would therefore be contrary to the laws of humanity; the Contracting Parties engage themselves to renounce, in case of war with the European civilized nations, the employment, in their military or naval armies, of any projectile which weighs less than 400 grammes, and which is explosive or charged with fulminating or inflammable substances.

It is the object of war this engagement to be observed only towards the contracting parties, or towards all civilized nations, in case of war between two of the contracting parties, and which are not signatories to the above stipulations.

It is also agreed between the contracting parties that the use of such projectiles cannot be a matter of doubt if it shows that the war proceed illegitimate ones to be used, and that the use of such projectiles would be a violation of the laws of humanity.

The Commission of Experts, charged to reduce to well defined propositions the results of the discussions on this question, has recognized that, for the present, there would be no reason to propose to the Contracting Powers to renounce the use of projectiles of war, the fabrication of which has been regulated by the agreements of the Brussels Conference, and which, in the ordinary course of war, do not entail on the combatants any superfluous suffering, or make their death inevitable, and that, in the future, there would be no reason to modify the stipulations of the Brussels Conference, except in the case