EVENING BULLETIN

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PEACOCK, FETHERSTON & CO.

Monday, September 12, 1870.

THE WAR IN FRANCE.

The situation in France has not changed materially since our advices of Saturday. The advance of the Prussians proceeds steadily, but slowly. The progress of the armies is impeded by heavy rains and by the destruction of roads and bridges by the retiring French forces. In Paris the arrival of the enemy is awaited with a calmness which is surprising; and the government is exhausting its resources to make a sturdy defence. General Trochu announces that if the Prussians attempt to enter the city it will be defended from street to street, and that the enemy will have to pay dearly for its mastery, will be blown up as the enemy advances. Possibly this declaration will be made good if the Prussians undertake to capture the city by assault. But it is said that King William will rather try to compel surrender by surrounding it and starving the people into capitulation. It is of course entirely impossible to conjecture what policy his been determined upon by the Prussians. We can only hope that we may not be called upon to chronicle the sacking of Paris by the victors. We prefer to describe the dreadful scenes which must ensue in such an event. There is little doubt that the responsible citizens of the capital will prefer surrender to such horrors, but they may be overruled by the military authorities.

In the meantime the Provisional government is strengthening itself by forming friendly relations with other powers. It has secured recognition not only from the United States, but from several of the principal States in Europe, and there are rumors of offensive alliances with one or two of them. These we are inclined to discredit, although we may take for granted that the imposition of cruelly severe terms upon France will eventually provoke the forcible interference of other European powers. It is rumored that Prussia and her own government have sent to Prussia energetic protests against prosecution of the war to its bitterest end, and has asked for generous treatment of France and acceptance of the Republican government. If this story is true, the intervention is of course of the most friendly description, and it is offered, not only in behalf of the brave and suffering French people, but for that new Iorn republic which has come into existence in the supreme hour of peril, and has already proved itself capable of defending the honor of France, of preserving order and of commanding the respect of the world. It is just and fitting that we should do what we can, peacefully, to prevent the destruction of the republic, and to strengthen its hands in the present grave crisis. Perhaps our efforts will not avail, but we shall have done what every true American will feel to be an imperative duty. Prussia claims that the present government of France and place a monarch upon the throne of a dismembered country without alienating modes of of American men who are her enthusiastic supporters in her crusade against Napoleon. While it is right that she should dictate terms to France, and secure her self against further assaults from that nation, the universal sentiment of liberal men is, that in the present situation it is her duty to be merciful.

ANTI COOLIE ABSURDITIES.

Some of the gentlemen who conduct the anti-Coolie movements in this country give expression occasionally to very queer ideas. At the meeting held at Eighth and Buttonwood streets on Friday, one of the most protested earnestly against Chinese immigration, for the reason that its inevitable result would be to degrade and destroy the Christian civilization of this nation. But a moment before the speaker admitted that we enjoy "the highest civilization of the earth." His assertion, then, amounts to this: that the "highest civilization" and the purest and strongest religious faith, enjoyed and and protected by forty millions of free, intelligent Christian people, cannot avoid destruction if it is brought into contact with the ignorant semi-barbarism of say, one hundred thousand men who are willing to work for more than we might well deplore the worthlessness of civilization and the untruthfulness of Christianity. If "the highest civilization on the earth" and the purest religion ever given to mankind cannot resist the influence of a few ignorant heathen, and, more than this, cannot elevate them so that they may appreciate the higher system, the sooner both are destroyed and replaced by paganism the better. No intelligent and thoughtful man can accept a theory which compels belief in the inferiority either of civilization or Christianity. The tendency of both is to improve the condition of all who are brought under their influence; and there are those who perceive in this advent of the Chinese to our shores only the promise of a means of giving to the great Chinese empire, with better assurance of acceptance than any we have yet had, the blessings which we enjoy.

Hardly more absurd than the theory we have maintained, is the declaration of another speaker that if Chinese immigration is continued, we shall eventually have the entire population of China transferred to this country. The soul of the orator was filled with painful forebodings when he reflected that as a result of this wholesale immigration which will take 429,000,000 pagans in America, or about nine Chinese to one American. It is not necessary to discuss the possibility of such a consummation, but we may say that if the author of the startling suggestion really apprehends such a calamity, the Cimmerian gloom in which his mind is enveloped is fully justified. Perhaps the sentiment of just men, who are without prejudice in this matter, can be expressed completely in a few of the words used by the secretary of the meeting referred to. He said: "We have no desire to injure any of God's creatures. We believe that every creature on God's earth is entitled to all the comforts enjoyed by us." When the people of this country accept that sentiment sincerely, there will be no further opposition to the immigration of any individual who comes here voluntarily to earn his bread.

THE MAN WHO LAUGHS.

Victor Hugo's Man who Laughs will hereafter be every man who reads the bombastic rhodomontade which the venerable novelist has addressed to the approaching Germans. Says Hugo:

"You find the fortress; you may take the fortress. You find the rampart; you may take the rampart. You will find the barricade; you may take the barricade, and there you will know the resources of patriotism in distress? You will find the sewers mines of power ready to blow the whole streets into the air. This will be the terrible sentence you must accept: To take Paris stone by stone, to slaughter Europe on the spot, to kill France in detail, in each street, in each house. That great light must be extinguished soul by soul.

"Germans, hold back! Paris is formidable. Think awhile before her walls are transformations. All possible for her, her indolence gives you the measure of her energy. She seems to sleep; she will awake; her thought will leap from its scabbard like a sword, and this city, which yesterday was Sybaris, to-morrow may be Saragossa."

If this absurd nonsense, which seems to indicate that Victor Hugo has reached a dreeling dotage before his time,—for he is not yet seventy,—should reach the German armies in time, it is hard to say what will be the effect. French sentiment is so much like French cookery. Everything depends upon high seasoning. But even French taste must revolt at such wild absurdities as these, while Germany will indulge in a broad grin which will be as repulsive to French eyes as was that of Hugo's original Man who Laughed.

There is a singular transposition of tactics in this France-Prussian war. The Germans have waged it with all the tremendous vigor and strategic skill of the first Napoleon, while the French have adopted the Fabian policy of Dutch policy of olden time. Victor Hugo warning off the German armies with his Saragossa proclamation; Jules Favre, counterpart of Wilhelmus Kieft, bitter known as William the Testy, successor to Wouter Van Twill and Governor of the Nieuw-Nederlands, who waged war against the Yankees in 1654. Says the historian:—"He was resolved to conquer the Yankees—by proclamation! For this purpose he had prepared a tremendous instrument of the kind, ordering, commanding, and enjoining the intruders aforesaid, forthwith to remove, depart, and withdraw from the territories, regions and territories aforesaid, under pain of suffering all the penalties, forfeitures, and punishments in such case made and provided. This proclamation, he assured them, would at once exterminate the enemy from the face of the country, and he pledged his valor as a governor, that within two months after it was published, not one stone should remain upon another, in any of the towns which they had built."

France seems to be repeating the history of Diedrich Knickerbocker, of two centuries ago.

THE HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY.

Everybody in Philadelphia remembers the superb display made, last fall, under the auspices of the Pennsylvania Horticultural Society, on the occasion of the National Pomological Congress. This year the Horticultural Society gives its annual exhibition at Horticultural Hall, commencing to-morrow afternoon and closing on Friday evening, and the arrangements that have been made for the annual display of the bountiful fruits of the earth, show that the spirit of enterprise excited last year has not died out. The season is a most propitious one in all respects. The crops of all descriptions of vegetables and fruits are unusually abundant and fine, and the opportunity for a splendid floral display has never been surpassed. Added to this is the glorious autumnal weather which has succeeded the torrid months of the past summer. Nature certainly invites her students and worshippers to a full enjoyment of her loveliest perfections, and Art will contribute the charm of intellectual and moral music to perfect the attractions of the exhibition.

The Horticultural Society deserves the most liberal encouragement from the public in its enterprising efforts for such wholesome entertainment and instruction as are afforded by these exhibitions, and we have no doubt that, on this occasion, it will meet with all the support that it so well deserves.

Mr. W. H. Leeds has published a card which shows that, so far as he is concerned, he has acted in good faith in the matter of the digests in the Second Congressional District. It is evident that Mr. Leeds and his committee have been misled, and that the Executive Committee of the State Central Committee, and believed that the subject under consideration was referred to them. Whether they were right or not will be determined by the State Central Committee, and it will no doubt be found that, so far as this branch of the conspiracy is concerned, it has grown out of some loose method of transacting the business of the Central Committee, resulting in this misunderstanding.

So far as the main question is concerned, the dispute is definitely settled by the final action of the Executive Committee, which declares that the State Committee has no jurisdiction in the premises. This decision is undoubtedly the correct one, and the result will be cheerfully accepted by all concerned, as the proper solution of this unpleasant and unfortunate difficulty, unless there be any who prefer the gratification of their private prejudices to the success of the Republican party.

The violent demonstrations in London, yesterday, in favor of the French Republic, have a two-fold significance: they were the earnest protest of the people against the cowardly policy of the British government in the present crisis; an expression of a feeling of indignation which extends far beyond the participants in these meetings, up through the better classes to the very edge of the aristocracy; and they were, moreover, a ripple of that great wave of sympathies which is now sweeping through Europe. These demonstrations are the evidence of its existence in England. It Italy the proof is found in the terror of Victor Emmanuel and his approach to Rome; in Spain Prim demonstrates its power by meeting it with military force; in Germany it takes the shape of an appeal to the King for popular reform. The immediate results of these agitations may not be important, but they are full of great promise for the future.

DRAMATIC.

Opening of the Arch Street Theatre: The fall season began at the Arch Street Theatre on Saturday night last, with Goldsmith's fine old comedy, *She Stoops to Conquer*. The performance was in all respects excellent. The play, completely good as it is, does not admit of any remarkable elaboration of its characters. None of the personages has any very intense individuality; the interest of the play depends almost entirely upon the absurd mistake of the hero, and the situations which are the consequence. With such good actors as some of those in the company at the Arch, the performance of such a comedy requires simply that easy grace and that naturalness which belong to every artist, and careful attention to the traditional business of the comedy. All the conditions necessary to a successful representation were fulfilled on Saturday night, and the entertainment gave great satisfaction to the audience. Mrs. Drew, and all the old members of the company, were received warmly, and some special enthusiasm was displayed upon the appearance of Mr. Barton Hill, whom we are glad to welcome back to the position to which he has earned great and well-deserved popularity. Mr. Manley, Mr. Craig and Mr. Jamo appeared on Saturday night, each in his old position. Mr. Hemple reappears, and Mr. Wallis has returned. Mrs. Thayer—like the others, indispensable—continues with the company; and so does Mr. Master, in her peculiar line of parts one of the best actresses in the country. Miss Saville and Miss Kichl made their first appearance in this city on Saturday evening, and acquitted themselves in a satisfactory manner. Mr. Chas. McManus, a capital actor, also appeared for the first time at the Arch. The orchestra has been placed under the direction of Mr. Mark Sloman, and we are happy to chronicle the fact that the music is now excellent. This evening Mrs. Drew will produce an adaptation of Sardou's play, *Fernande*.

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