

THE FRENCH RADICALS AND THE NEW REPUBLIC.

M. GAMBETTA made a great speech to his constituents at Belleville, on St. George's Day. It filled sixteen columns of his organ, 'La République Française,' and has excited even more attention than the utterances of so prominent a leader usually do in France. It has marked the attitude and sketched out the policy of the Red towards the Conservative Republic, and completely justified the misgivings with which the majority of the Assembly voted in their late momentous division. On the other hand it indicates a change in the views of French Radicals. Their leader has certainly profited by the criticisms and alarm which his unguarded words at the *enterrement civil* of M. Edgar Quinet had excited. The ex-Dictator is no longer aptly described by the epithet which M. Thiers hurled at him in the moment of terror and conflict. If he then deserved to be called *un fou furieux*, he is now a sincere convert, not perhaps to the *Republique sage*, but to the absolute necessity of yielding so far to circumstances as to seek the accomplishment of Radical ends by means exclusively Conservative. It is true that he told the Communists of Belleville, whom he thanked for his first introduction into public life, that he was come among them once more to show himself unchanged as ever—one of themselves, untainted by his long contact with Conservative preponderance in the Assembly; not having been induced, as he phrased it, to "cut off his tail," and as firm as ever against any such base compliance with the prevailing fashion; but it is reassuring to be able to detect the senatorial aims thinly veiled under the conventional claptrap of the demagogue; to find himself stigmatizing "revolutionists" as "a class worthy of execration;" and setting before an audience commonly supposed to be at war with society such political objects as "future social peace, a domestic and foreign policy, education, morality, and order." A party that cares for these things, even in its own acceptance of the terms, is less an object of suspicion and fear to reasonable well-to-do citizens than M. Gambetta's following has been heretofore. We see that their political education has commenced, and they will not be formidable if they cease to slaughter, to plunder, and to burn, and turn to constitutionalism with a sincere heart, though they remain Red still. They were taught on Friday how to view the Conservative checks devised for the safety of the new Republic as so many means for securing the attainment of their cherished ends. By the recent enactments Republicanism is definitely established, at least in name, and no man now dare call himself a partizan of Henry V. or Napoleon III. Those hopes, together with the Septennat, "have withdrawn into darkness." If the President of the Republic is to be chosen by the Chambers, that is a guarantee against the calamity, and disgrace of another *plebiscite*. The Senators are to be chosen not by themselves, not by the Chief of the State, but partly by the National Assembly, and partly by the Communes, that is to say, by the councillors whom the Communes elect. Thus the municipal constituencies will at length develop into political constituencies, and become emancipated from the dictation of the *maires* and *prefets*. What better could a Communist ask? Let not Radicals then be lazily indifferent to the Senatorial elections, nor regard the new institution as a hostile bulwark, or as a Vendome column, marked for abolition at the first gleam of Radical ascendancy, but let them determine to utilize it as an excellent means of attaining the complete realization of the "conquests and principles of '89." In one word, let the Commune of Paris elect one such as Gambetta to the Senate. Then the Monarchists will not be able to turn the new Republic to account; and as for the seventy-five Senators to be elected by the Assembly, the orator assured his hearers that there would not be a single Bonapartist amongst them. In the concluding part of his speech he threw a sop to the German Cerebus by asserting, in terms plagiarized from Dr. Falck, the complete supremacy of the State over "religious matters." French Conservatives may be congratulated on these revelations of the new policy proposed for adoption by their opponents. At all events such outspoken declarations are many times less dangerous than secret plotting.—'Tablet.'

PRUSSIA AND FRANCE.

Much concern is still felt in political circles here about the foreign relations of France. It is remarked that Prussia has been labouring for a long time past to create a fresh dispute with us with a view to a renewal of the conflict on terms disadvantageous to us. With this object in view the Prussian Government is playing a game precisely similar to that she practised in 1866, when the war with Austria was brewing. Then, as now, there was a "reptile press," though not then called by that highly appropriate designation; and the subservient newspapers brought incessant accusations against Austria of making secret preparations for war, and of having troops in readiness for immediate campaign. They asserted with unblushing falsehood that Austria was organizing formidable armaments, that she was enlisting and training soldiers by the hundred thousand, casting cannon innumerable, and procuring her troops to field manoeuvres on the largest scale, in order to take Prussia unprepared and crush her by a coup-demain, and annihilate her military power, and her national independence by one sudden and decisive blow. To-day the Berlin papers are saying just the same things of France, and with the same brazen disregard of facts known to all Europe. Nothing could be more obviously untrue than that France entertains any intention of going to war with Prussia, much less any eagerness for the speedy outbreak of hostilities; and yet the Berlin papers are attributing such projects to us. Especially do they credit us with a mania for the re-capture, at an early date, of Alsace and Lorraine, or, as by Prussian ordinance those fair provinces are now to be called "Elsass and Lothringen." Of course we have a right to get

back, if we can, what we have lost; nay more, it will become our duty to our country to make the attempt some day or other; but the present time is assuredly not the time to draw the sword, nor will it be for at least the next ten years to come. This is the simple truth, as every intelligent Frenchman knows perfectly well. Bismarck is afraid lest France should recover from her defeats, and he wants a good pretext for war that he may attack her at once, and with more fatal and crushing effect than in 1870, and effect once for all her utter ruin as a nation and as an European Power, and bring about her still further dismemberment. He does not mean to wait until we have reorganised our army before he attacks us, and he thinks the time present the best for commencing the strife. Add to this, that the German Chancellor is known to be constantly telling his friends that France is the stronghold of Catholicism still, even after all that she has suffered; France is still the rendezvous of all the most determined opponents of that infidel revolution which now weighs like an incubus on the civilized world, and of all who are resolute in asserting and maintaining the sacred rights of the Holy See. These are reasons sufficient to keep alive the blind hatred and fury of Prince Bismarck against us. He hopes to annihilate at one blow both France and the Catholic Church. The meeting of the two crowned heads at Venice was also a source of irritation to him, because he took it as a demonstration against his own policy. In fact it is stated on authority, regarded here as authentic, that the two sovereigns concerted together as to the better securing of the guarantees for the safety and independence of the Holy See. Any such counsels would, of course, exasperate Prince Bismarck, and not being at liberty to show his displeasure to Austria and Italy, he turns all the heat of his anger upon France. I happen to know that a very distinguished diplomatist said the other day in a *salon* at Paris that the German Government did not long since address to the French Government certain demands, that were at once rejected as incompatible with the national honour. Hitherto the Duc Decazes, our Minister of Foreign Affairs, has by dint of yielding wherever concession was possible, and perhaps where it was barely excusable, succeeded in warding off the quarrel that Germany has been endeavoring to fasten upon us. But it may well be feared that the time is not far off when no flexibility of opinion will avail to escape from the humiliating demands made upon us by the Prussian Chancellor. Frenchmen see their danger, and are deeply impressed by the turn affairs are taking. For the last few days public securities of all kinds have been rapidly declining in value upon Bourse, and an alarm prevails amounting to little less than a panic. The Radicals of all people, do not very much share in the general anxiety at the prevailing reports. Their organs assert that if they were in power they should know how to quiet Bismarck. We, however, can but too well conjecture how they would purchase peace and curry favour with our enemy. The Radical prescription would be to follow his lead in persecuting the church. At that price France might, perhaps, be allowed to remain unmolested for a time. But France is too Catholic for that; better national ruin than national apostasy! Prince Bismarck is well-informed as to our sentiments.

PRUSSIAN INTRIGUES.

He has therefore sent forth amongst us a whole legion of his spies to take plans of our fortifications, and draw up lists of the inhabitants of every hamlet, to furnish accounts of our resources, and, if required, to send in detailed reports of everything to the headquarters of Count von Moltke. Daily arrests of these gentry are made by the French police. It is, as every one knows, the Prussian system to leave nothing to chance. They will not make war until they have done everything to make success an absolute certainty; for the object now in view is not merely the conquest of France, but the suppression of the Catholic religion.

AUSTRIA, FRANCE, AND THE POPE.

You may be quite sure that our own military authorities cherish no illusions as to the intentions of Prussia. They are doing all that is possible to be ready for the crisis when it comes. Do what we may, however, we cannot hope to be as strong and as well prepared as our opponents; but God will be on our side, and that thought gives us comfort. We hope too to have Austria with us in the approaching struggle, and the hope is confirmed by the letter which the Emperor Francis Joseph has just written to the Pope. His Majesty expresses himself in that letter in terms of filial devotion, and promises the Holy Father his best endeavors on his behalf in case of an attempt being made by German violence or intrigue against the Holy See.—French correspondent of the 'Tablet.'

The news which comes to us from the Brazils is not encouraging. The Rev. Canon Joseph de Audiade has been imprisoned. Having refused to remove the ecclesiastical censures which weigh upon all persons who belong in any way to the Ma-onic lodges, he could not permit Senor Alfredo to stand godfather to the son of Senor Lucena, Governor of Pernambuco, on account of his being a noted Mason. In consequence of this refusal, Father de Audiade has been sent off to the prison of Brum. Pilgrimages are being made to the various shrines and holy places in the city and neighborhood of Pernambuco, in order to demonstrate the sincerity of the Catholics who thereby protest against the outrages perpetrated upon their religion and its ministers. Hundreds of persons daily visit the imprisoned Bishop of Olinda. At Triumphi the population protested so loudly against the removal of Father Onoratti, the last Jesuit left in that city, that the authorities were obliged to grant him permission to remain. He, however, privately left the country a few days later, fearing to create still bitterer feelings against the Church, by remaining in opposition to the Government. An historical watch chain is worn by a *ci-devant* French gendarme, now a Government official in Paris. The chain is of iron, and is made of the handcuffs which the gendarme placed on the wrists of the murderer Troppman, when he arrested the perpetrator of the Pantin butcheries six years ago at Havre.