

SAVONAROLA.

THE Italians have been inaugurating a splendid monument to Savonarola. Their chief object in so doing is of course to insult the Pope indirectly, of whose power they hold Savonarola was the mortal enemy. They seem to forget that this is by no means the first monument erected to the memory of the great Dominican. The Vatican itself contains many pictures of him painted by order of Popes who were nearly his contemporaries. Thus Raphael was commanded by Pope Julius II. to paint Savonarola in the same picture with St. Thomas of Aquinas, and St. Gregory the Great, Paul III., Clement VIII. and Benedict XIV. caused his memory to be observed with great respect. In his "Triumph of the Cross" Savonarola says: "It is certain that the Bishops of Rome are the successors of St. Peter, and also that the Church of Rome is the mistress and teacher of all others, and that all the faithful ought to unite in obeying the Bishop of Rome, because he is the head of the Church. All who refuse him obedience cease to belong to the mystical body of Christ." Is it not amusing, when one knows the truth of history, to observe these foolish Italians erecting a monument to a man who thus emphatically condemns them, for they profess openly to despise the Holy See, and actually call the orthodox Savonarola a predecessor of Luther. The probabilities are that if Fra Savonarola were living now and acting as he acted in his days, the Italian government would shut him up in prison for endeavouring to get up jubilee processions and other public exercises of religion. They would certainly prohibit those famous penitential processions in which he persuaded 50,000 men and women to walk. The truth is, Savonarola was a great missionary, and had nothing in common with the anti-Papal ideas of modern Italy.

PRUSSIA AND GERMANY.

THE New York 'Nation' considers the relations of Russia and Germany not so cordial as formerly. It thus sketches the position of the two Powers since 1855:

"The alliance of Russia and Prussia, which has been since the Crimean war the centre round which Prince Bismarck formed all his plans, is not yet on the point of being dissolved, but it is gradually losing its force. Bismarck felt that Russia had been injured by Europe, harshly treated, outlawed. He knew that Russia would think of nothing but the preservation of her Polish provinces and the revision of the Treaty of Paris. He steadily kept this in view, and if you study by the light of this single idea the history of the Polish insurrection, of the Danish war, of the war with Austria, of the war with France, you will, I believe, hold the thread of German diplomacy. The situation is now different. Russia is now no longer a sort of outlaw in Europe; she is perfectly secured; she has revised the Treaty of Paris, and herself dictated the terms on which she would have the revision made. She is courted not only by Germany, but by all the powers of the Continent. A Russian Princess of great intelligence, the favorite of her father, has entered the English royal family. Russia can choose her friends: and she may find that Germany has perhaps become too dangerous a neighbor. The moderation and the personal feeling of the Russian Czar will, in all probability, keep things as they are, and peace is not likely to be broken for awhile. Yet it is well to study the new directions of the great political forces. Germany has abused her victory; she has done what Napoleon I. did in his time; and the whole world is silently protesting against the despotic temper of the new masters of Europe."

THE ARMIES OF EUROPE.—Europe has five millions of soldiers all ready for fighting, with fifteen thousand cannon and a million and a quarter of horses; its united fleets consist of 2,039 vessels, manned by 280,000 sailors, and carrying fifteen thousand guns. The cost of these immense armaments is five hundred and sixty millions of dollars annually, three-fifths of the amount being consecrated to the armies.

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Branches are established at Invercargill, Lawrence, Dunedin, Naseby, Oamaru, Christchurch, Greymouth, Charleston, Addisons, Brighton, Greenstone, Waimoa, Hokitika, Wellington, Reefton, Onehunga, Otahuhu, Auckland, Napier, Akaroa, Lyttelton, Grahamstown and Nelson.

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