THE EVENING NEWS.

Wednesday, - - - January 25, 1871.

[Pen to Mode.] THE GROWTH OF PRUSSIA.

[CONCLUDED.]

More fully, at the present time the size of Prussia is as follows: Her extent of territory is 135,808 square miles, and her population numbers a little over 24,000,000, so that she is somewhat larger than the three States, New York, Pennsylvania, and Ohio, with a population somewhat greater than the white population of all the States east of the Mississippi River, according to the census of 1860. She stands at the head of the "North German Confederation," which comprises herself and twenty-one other states and free cities. All these together are but little more than one-sixth her size in area, with a little less than one-fourth her population; and of these, the single kingdom of Saxony is two-fifths as large as the remaining twenty. Most of them are small affairs, cutting the surface of Prussia like little islands, and quite at her mercy when ever she may think best to "annex" them. The whole Confederation is smaller in area than California, but comprises a population only nine millions less than the whole population of the United States at the present time. And, for military purposes, even this deficiency is made up by the four South German States, Bavaria, Wurtemburg, Baden, and Hesse-Darmstadt, whose population is in the aggregate about 9,000,000 (In area they are together about the size of Pennsylvania). So that in the war now waged with France, Prussia has at her disposal a population almost exactly equal to that of the United States.

Thus has Prussia risen step by step during the last one hundred and seventy years, from a little kingdom to one of the mightiest nations in the world, with whom no single power in Europe can cope. But the measure of her ambition is not yet full. Wherever the responsibility for the present may lie, it is certain that Prussia was thoroughly prepared for it, and by means of it hoped to induce the South German States to join the North German Confederation. This doubtless was one great end which she looked forward to as a result of the war. She has already partially succeeded, for the Southern states have consented to unite with her, but on terms with which she is not quite pleased. There is reason to believe that her ambition will not be satisfied until she has re-established the great German Empire, with herself at the head, and her King as Emperor. Whether she will yet gain this pinnacle of glory the future only can reveal. In one sense, however, her present position in political power and influence is one of which any nation may well be proud. But while we wonder at her suddenly acquired greatness, and admire the steady intelligent pursuance of a single end by which it has been secured, we must not overlook the unscrupulous ambition which from first to last has so largely characterized her policy.

C. H. S.

—*Mount Auburn Index.*

A PUZZLED DUNKARD.

One who does not believe in immersion for baptism was holding a protracted meeting, and one night preached on the subject of baptism. In the course of his remarks he said: Some believe it necessary to go down into the water, and come up out of it, to be baptized. But this is claimed to be a fallacy, for the preposition "into" of the Scriptures should be rendered differently; for it does not mean "into" at all times. "Moses," said he, "we are told, went up into the mountain, and the Saviour was taken into a high mountain, etc. Now we do not suppose that either went *into* a mountain, but *unto* it. So with going down into the water; it means simply going down *close by* or *near* the water, and being baptized in the ordinary way by sprinkling or pouring."

He carried this idea out fully, and in due season and style closed his discourse, when an invitation was given for any so disposed to arise and express his thoughts. Quite a number of the brethren arose and said that they were glad that they had been present on this occasion; that they were pleased with the sound sermon they had just heard, and felt their souls greatly blessed. Finally a corpulent gentleman of Teutonic extraction, a stranger to all, arose and broke the silence, that was almost painful, as follows:

"Mister Breacher, I ish so glad I vash here to-night, for I has had exblained to my mint some dings dat I never could pelief pefore. Oh! I am so glad dat *into* does not mean *into* at all, but shust close py or near to, for now I can pelief manish dings vot I could not pelief pefore. We read, Mister Breacher, vat Tautel was cast into de ten of lions and came out alive! Now I never could pelief dat, for de vild beasts would shust eat him right up, but now it ish very clear t my mint. He vas shust close py or near to, and did not get into de ten at all. Oh! I ish so glad I vash here to-night!

"Again we read dat te Heprew children vash cast into de fery furnish—unt dat air alwish lookt like a peeg story, too, for they would have peen purnt up; put it ish all plain to my mint now, for they were shust cast near py or close to the fery furnish. Oh! I ish so glad I vash here to-night!

"And den, Mister Breacher, it ish said dat Jonah vas cast into de sea and taken into de walsh pelly. Now I never could peelef dat. It alwash seemed to me to be a peeg fresh story, put it ish all plain to my mint now. He vash not into in de walsh pelly at all, but shust shumpt onto his pack unt rote ashore. Oh! I vash so glad I vash here to-night!

"And now, Mr. Breacher, if you vill shust exblain two more passages of Scriptures, I shall be, oh! so happy dat I vas here to-night! One of them ish vere it salsh de wicked shall be cast into a pit dat burns mit fire unt primstone alzety. Oh! Mister Breacher, shall I be castinto dat lake if I am vicked? praters close py or near to, shust near enough to be comfortable? Oh! I hopes you dell me I shall be cast only shust py a goot way off, unt I vill be so glad I vash here to-night! De other passage ish dat vich salsh, blessed are dey who do dese commandments, dat dey may reech to de dree of life and enter in through de gates of de city; shust dell me, Mister Breacher, dat dis means into de city unt not shust close py or near to, shust near enough to see vat I have lost, unt I shall be so glad I vash here to-night!"

CHANGING HIS IDENTITY.—An amusing incident is related as having occurred on the steamer *Dexter* on her last trip down the river. Just below Vicksburg a family got on board, en route for Texas. During the afternoon the *pater familias* concluded he would enjoy the luxury of a good shave, shampooing, etc., and for this purpose applied to the tonsorial artist of the steamer. The luxury was speedily supplied him; and, at his request, hair, eyebrows, and whiskers were converted from a fiery red to raven blackness, by the use of the artist's dye. The traveler was hugely pleased at the idea of surprising his wife at the transformation, and hurried to demand the price. Imagine his indignation when he was called upon to forfeit $10. He swore he never would pay it, and hurried to his state-room to buckle on his defensive armor. But he was met at the door by his spouse, outraged by the intrusion of a stranger, as she supposed, and emphatically refused. He called himself her husband—she said he was an imposter. He attempted to explain. It was useless. A crowd gathered around, and the laugh became general. At last, in his perplexity the Hoosier exclaimed: "Sallie, look at my feet!" One glance at the pedal appendages assured her. "Yes, John," she said, "I know them feet. They can come in; but keep that head out of my sight."—*N. O. Picayune*, Dec 27th.

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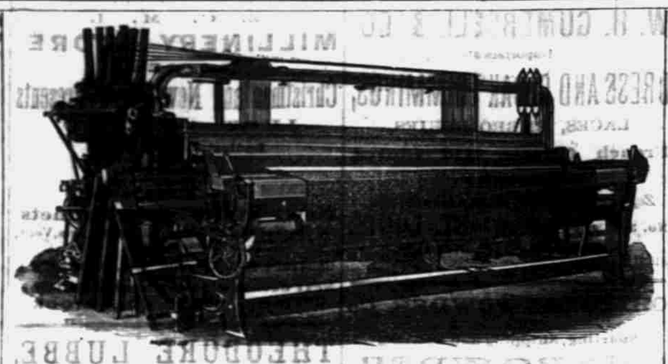

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