

by the union of the people of that race in Austria with their brethren in Russia; and a similar sentiment among Teutonic peoples is to be met in the same manner, by drawing in to the German confederation the Austrian provinces whose people speak German.

If Russia and Germany decide to divide Austria between them, who is to say them nay? Not even Austria herself, with a united voice, for many thousands of Francis Joseph's subjects desire to see this very thing done. Not Italy, for all her interests declare in favor of neutrality. Not England, for she would hardly engage both Russia and Germany at the present stage of the drama. She will wait to see whether the Suez Canal and other maritime and East Indian interests are to be directly jeopardized. France would look on with mingled amazement and bewilderment, but would hardly strike against her friend Russia, even to wound her enemy Germany. The situation is an extraordinary one, in its complications and possibilities; but Bismarck rises to it. A radical change of the map of Europe is a scheme of no small dimensions, and shows that nation is rising against nation, and kingdom against kingdom. Wars and rumors of war are likely to result from this feature of modern statecraft.

More deplorable than even the pictures of war which line the clouds that lower over Europe's near future, is the state of abandonment to all honor which she presents today. Only a few short weeks since, Germany and Austria were sworn friends, brothers in a firm alliance against Russia, the foe of both. Now Germany coolly proposes to unite with Russia in devouring Austria, but is impelled to make this proposal by the perfidy of Austria, who first sought advantage by a league with Russia. The statesmen, who, under Divine Providence, are permitted to carve the destiny of millions of their fellow beings upon the European continent appear to be restrained by no code or sense of honor. They know they cannot trust each other, and that any one of their number may at any time seize an opportunity to gain advantage, regardless of existing pledges and treaty obligations. Evidently self-interest is the motive which actuates them, in international matters, however patriotic and honorable they may be in their relations with their own countrymen.

While England would probably not interfere to prevent the carrying out of Bismarck's proposal to dismember Austria, out of friendship for the latter, it would seem that her vital interests in the East would demand that she do something to prevent exclusive Russian control of the Bosphorus, which the Czar would be in an excellent position to attempt to enforce if once in possession of the Slavonic provinces of Austria. It is therefore doubtful if England could retain a position of non-interference very long after the division of Austria between Russia and Germany.

On the whole the year opens with interesting prospects for Europe. Not only are there international complications that can apparently be solved only by the sword, but home questions of the gravest character confront each of the leading Powers. A few days ago another of the oft repeated attempts upon the Czar's life was made, and it has been followed by the alleged discovery of one of the most extensive Nihilist conspiracies ever formed. Thirty officers of the Czar's army, and many inmates of the royal household had been arrested up to last accounts. Francis Joseph finds it impossible to preserve harmony among the different races embraced in his domain. The Italian government is engaged in a war of diplomacy with the Vatican; Germany is battling at home with socialism, labor troubles and popular discontent; England is confronted with the problem of home rule in a recently enlarged form, and the home politics of France is in a chronic state of instability. Anxiety, unrest and uncertainty prevail over all the continent.

TERRITORIAL OFFICERS' CASES.

At length a point is settled which has for many years been a matter of difference between the Legislature and the Executive of our Territory. It is now finally determined, by the decision of the court of last resort, that the Legislature has not the right to choose certain Territorial officers, among whom are the Auditor and Treasurer, but that those officers are to be nominated by the Executive, subject to the confirmation of the Legislative Council.

The dispute arose in this wise: Section 7 of the Organic Act, which specifies the manner in which township, district and county officers shall be chosen, says: "The Governor shall nominate, and, by and with

the advice and consent of the Legislative Council, appoint all other officers not herein otherwise provided for." This is a sort of omnibus clause, and whether it was meant to include such general and vital officers as Territorial Auditor and Treasurer, which are commonly elective, was, from the first, a question. The earlier governors of the Territory united with the Assembly in holding in the negative, and one of them signed an act making those officers elective by the people.

This act is now held to be invalid; but it has the merit of being in accord with the spirit of popular government, in aiming to preserve power in the hands of the people, as against centralization; and in that respect it does credit to the law-makers who framed it, and to the Executive who signed it. Under it, in 1879, N. W. Clayton and James Jack were elected to the offices in contest.

In 1886 Governor Murray appointed Bolivar Roberts and Arthur Pratt to the offices of Territorial Treasurer and Auditor respectively. The Legislative Council declined to confirm the gentlemen, and, on the strength of a gubernatorial appointment, they instituted a contest in the courts. The Supreme Court of the Territory decided, in effect, that the offices named had never been filled at all under color of a valid law, and that, pending action by the Legislative Council on the governor's nominations, the nominees were entitled to hold the offices. The *de facto* officers appealed to the Supreme Court of the United States, with the result announced in our special from Washington a few days ago, and later in the Associated Press dispatches.

There will next follow, probably, an attempt on the part of the Governor's appointees to secure the salary which has been drawn by the gentlemen who did the work of the offices in question. The people have awaited, with deep interest, the decision upon the question as to whether they or an autocrat had the right to choose certain of the most important officers contemplated or provided for under our system of government; and the lovers of democratic institutions and the spirit of popular liberty will regret to see popular power diminished in favor of centralization.

ANTI-"MORMON" COLD VICTUALS.

THERE is a journal published in Chicago under the ostentatious title of *The Living Church*. A recent