

to condemn in the departures from actual facts which occur with such painful frequency. The defenders of our practical political system claim that it tends to better government because it inculcates individuality of thought and expression while impressing one with a more profound sense of his duties and responsibilities under the government; this is true as far as it goes, but when the methods adopted teach us to gloss over falsehood and smile at malignity they are not good for any class of people. Let those who oppose them unite to reduce such evils to the lowest possible proportions if they cannot be extirpated altogether.

IS FRANCE PREPARED FOR WAR?

The periodical rumors of impending war in Europe are again revived, this time in dispatches from Paris. Next spring, it is thought, will witness the assembling of French armies on the same plains where, a few days ago, the magnificent maneuvers took place, but then engaged in operations against a real, not a sham foe.

The fate of Europe lies at present, it is claimed, entirely in the hands of the young czar. General Dragonoff was sent as a special military representative of Russia to witness the French maneuvers. The soldiers were, of course, presented to him at their best and everything was done to create a favorable impression. The result is that the Russian general is prepared to return to his imperial master with the report, that France is ready for the fray, and that the word may be given at any moment. And when it comes, the attack, it is supposed, will be directed against Germany.

War predictions in Europe have been so often made, that they almost fail to create any interest. Still, everybody feels that some time the storm must break loose in all its violence. If the czar, however, or his advisers, look deeper than on the surface of things, they will feel convinced that France, with all her military displays, is not much better able to cope with Germany today than she was a quarter of a century ago, when the enthusiastic war cry rose from the depths of the nation and lured her on to humiliation. Military force is not all that is needed for success in a combat where the opponent is equally well equipped. Stronger than a well armed host is the moral character of a people rising in defense of a just cause. In this respect France has not advanced much beyond her position during the last Napoleon.

A Paris correspondent writing on the subject states that France is receiving shocking proofs of the moral degeneracy and morbid passions that rule a large proportion of her people. An epidemic of dreadful murder is passing over the country. Brother is killing brother; case after case is reported where aged peasants have been butchered for the trifles they owned; men are killing their mistresses or are killed by the women they abandon. The other day a woman of good position at Grenoble hired half a dozen wretches to throw vitriol

in the face of the wife of her lover. At Rheims a young erotomaniac folly gave himself up after cutting a little boy to pieces, and explained that he had been impelled to the shocking act by the desire to kill.

Another symptom is a series of suicides of children, apparently for no other reason than that they were tired of life. A harness-maker named Voignier is now in the shadow of the guillotine accused of several murders of boys and girls. His chief accuser is a young vagabond whom he hired to bring him victims, and who has been blackmailing him for years. This vagabond, who is only a lad, manifests extraordinary cynicism. He fell into the hands of the police in the course of a raid on a resort of tramps, and sought to curry favor with his captors by revealing the fact that Voignier was the author of an unsolved murder mystery. Since then he has been calmly telling one shocking story after another.

But the corruption of morals is discernible in the highest ranks as well as among the lower strata. The minister of justice is openly accused of using his office to protect various politicians and contractors who are charged with corruption. The fugitive Senator Magnier was his colleague and friend, and it is asserted that M. Travioux not only permitted but actually forced him to flee to avoid arrest. The theory seems to have been that it is better that one guilty man should escape than that he should be driven by trial and conviction to tell on 100 other guilty men. A public prosecutor has been removed from office, it is alleged, for too great zeal in prosecuting those implicated in the bribery, connected with legislation for the Chemin de fer du Sud.

A people thus infested with the germs of moral disease cannot be counted on in a mortal combat for supremacy. It may keep on existing, but its vital force is impaired and the result will be fatal unless a remedy is found.

THE IRISH ALLIANCE.

As near as can be judged from the proceedings of the present meeting in Chicago of supporters of the Irish cause, the opinion is unanimous that home rule for Ireland cannot be obtained by parliamentary action in the lines followed by the Parnellites, and that the only alternative left is an appeal to arms at some future time. In the resolutions adopted, the conviction is expressed that the point has now been reached when it is justifiable, both by God's and man's laws, to strike England in her "hour of difficulty" and, if possible, to create such a difficulty—which in plain words means, that if England should be involved in war, it would be Ireland's duty to side with the enemy.

In England the Chicago gathering is regarded as a great farce, if newspaper comments be taken as an expression of public sentiment, but notwithstanding this, it is probable that the formation of the Irish Alliance will mark one of the more important steps in the struggle for Ireland's independence, and that it will attract at-

tention abroad as well as in this country. The Irish people of all political branches have been keenly disappointed at seeing what they regard their patriotic efforts crushed so near the goal. In their present predicament, with the prospect of a long tory rule, they will naturally unite and endeavor to arouse public sentiment in behalf of their cause in some other way. Whether they will succeed depends entirely on their ability to preserve unity, and on their prudence and conservatism.

It is not improbable that the formation in this country of an Irish "Alliance" for the very apparent purpose of hostilities against England will raise the question, how far its existence can be tolerated within the boundaries of the United States. The purpose is to create a standing army to be held in readiness for the opportune moment. Most of the members of this armed organization will be naturalized citizens of the United States. Can our government consistently remain passive after their intentions have been made known? Will not England demand their suppression and intimate that a refusal to comply with this demand must be regarded as unfriendly towards Great Britain? These questions naturally arise. Switzerland at one time was compelled to expel conspirators against foreign countries from her boundaries, and a refusal to comply with the demands of the powers would probably have cost that country her independence. If this be regarded as a precedent, undoubtedly some lively diplomatic correspondence between Washington and London can be expected in a near future.

THE REGISTRATION.

Monday, September 30th, is the opening of the week for final revision of the registration lists, prior to the election on the 5th of November next. During that time every voter should ascertain definitely that his name is on both the Territorial and State registration lists, if he is qualified therefor. To know that his name is on one is not sufficient, if it should be on the other also. Notwithstanding the efforts that have been made with the house to house canvass and by keeping open the registration office in Salt Lake City, and the urging that has been done here, there are still many, the number being reported as reaching into the thousands in the city, whose names are not on the registration lists but who are entitled to have them there. This condition here is typical to some extent of that which exists elsewhere, hence the necessity of some stirring up on this subject.

The Salt Lake county registrar, Mr. E. W. Wilson, suggests that the News make a statement of the qualifications of voters on each of the registration lists, that the matter may be thoroughly understood, and every one be given full opportunity to know and exercise his rights in the premises. In making this statement it may be remarked that the qualifications of voters for officers under the Territorial laws and of those for State officers are wholly