

nominally under French protection and it seems a little strange that the French war ship *Meteor* took no notice of the arrival of the Russian ships and the landing of the soldiers—I mean missionaries, also that the Italian war ship *Argentino* found it convenient to sail further down the coast as soon as the Russian ships appeared in view. It is true the Russian missionaries (?) had several pieces of artillery with them; but these were only cannon (cannons) of the Russian church.

The excitement of the last few weeks seems to have told severely on King Milan's nervous system. That the King will eventually abdicate the throne of Serbia is generally considered not only possible but also extremely probable. The throne never had much attraction for him. In this age, it is said, the position of mighty monarchs is in no way enviable, owing to the increasing demands of the people. When are added to these annoyances the intrigues of other powers, the throne of a petty prince may be said to be scarcely worth having. The return of a large radical majority must have been a great disappointment to the King, proving, as it did, a deep-rooted popular dissatisfaction. The King's mortification was apparent in his address to the parliamentary deputation that waited on him on New Year's day. It was a symptom of his growing aversion to the throne and consequent irritability. He seems determined to secure the position of his son and prevent Queen Natalie's return. No immediate change is therefore to be anticipated.

Perhaps not everyone is aware that France already possesses a system of canals through which small vessels may pass from the English Channel to the Mediterranean, via Havre, Paris, Lyons and Avignon. As the season of yachting is approaching a large number of these vessels are now on their way to the southern coast of Europe where the owners expect to sport during the spring months, on the waters of the great inland sea. Of these the tiny yacht *Pathfinder* seems to approach the nearest to perfection. Its capacity is only 82 tons and when fully loaded draws only four feet of water. Yet this tiny steamer is fitted up like a fairy palace. The lighting of the rooms as well as the signals is done by means of electricity. The Earl of Powlett is the owner.

The wonderful success which has attended the Paris edition of the New York *Herald* has induced the publishers to commence a London edition, which began on the 2nd inst. These papers are by no means imitations of French or English journalism nor are they copies of the parent *Herald* in New York. They are distinct newspapers, fresh and racy with American methods, American ideas and American sympathies. It is safe to assume that they will have a decided influence on foreign journalism.

J. H. WARD.

EUROPE, February 11, 1889.

Without doubt the highest authority in all that pertains to the

British navy is Lord Charles Beresford; indeed he is also one of the prominent statesmen of the Empire. His presence in the capital of the German Empire during the past week has been the subject of a good deal of conversation among politicians. The Emperor William received and entertained him at luncheon, and likewise invited him to a grand dinner, which was given on the 13th inst., and to which were invited the chief officers of the German navy. Prince Bismarck also expressed a desire to make his acquaintance, and the two were closeted in conference together, during which time it is said they frankly interchanged ideas on several matters. Lord Beresford, being a man of serious purpose, was especially attractive to Prince Bismarck, who is both frank and earnest when speaking upon all that pertains to the welfare of the German people.

Although Lord Beresford is not a cabinet minister, it is evident the conversation was of a national and political character. The German chancellor is bent on the preservation of peace, because he knows how fearful war would be even to the victor. Lord Beresford has only the same object in view when he exposes the inefficiency of the British navy and tries to awaken the people of Great Britain to a sense of their danger. Both of these men are aware that their own countries have everything to fear from war; because, even if successful, nearly a generation would elapse before victorious England or victorious Germany could recover from the drain that such a contest would have made on national prosperity. Many consider that an Anglo-French war is only a little less probable than a Franco-German conflict. A politician in France might seize a favorable moment to excite his country against England on Egyptian matters, for example—the French on these points are very touchy—and the English might resent it. If England once suffered a severe defeat upon the sea, her prestige would be shaken, and with difficulty she would hold her sway over her millions of Indian subjects. Whatever the rivalries or party feeling in England and Germany may be, it is evident there are many statesmen, among them Beresford and Bismarck, who would gladly see an Anglo-German alliance.

The untimely death of the Crown Prince of Austria naturally creates some anxiety with regard to the future of the composite Austrian empire. The late Prince Rudolph was a patron of science and literature, and a well-known sympathizer with the more liberal policy of government which has been founded in Austria on the ruins of the Metternich system.

Although Austria-Hungary is a constitutional monarchy, yet it is one of a peculiar kind, and much depends on the personal character of the Sovereign. Of the present Emperor it may be said that, on the whole, he has been successful in controlling the antagonistic ele-

ments of the empire. What will be the character of the new dynasty or the policy of the heir-presumptive to the throne is entirely unknown. It is a change from the known to the unknown—a leap in the dark. Hence those who wish for the prosperity of Austria wish also that the Emperor Francis Joseph may yet live many years to occupy the throne.

Enormous tact is required to keep Austria and Hungary in harmonious working. Hungary, in particular, is exceedingly jealous of her independence, and is ready to revolt at a moment's notice. For instance, the late commotion in the Hungarian Parliament was due to the introduction of a bill which provided that Hungarian army officers in the future should have a knowledge of the German language, which is already spoken in more than half the empire. The Hungarians imagine that this measure would give the German element too much preponderance, and resented it accordingly. More than one-half the population favor a close alliance with Germany, but a numerous Slav population in the Empire has very pronounced Russian sympathies, probably owing to the fact that it is composed mostly of members of the Greek church, of which the Czar of Russia is the acknowledged head. An Austrian emperor, therefore, is frequently called upon to reconcile the irreconcilable, and to keep the political machine running smoothly. In Austria, at least, kingship is a trade that has to be learned, and personal popularity is an indispensable requirement. The late Prince Rudolph was very popular—unhappily too much so with a portion of his people; and the moral atmosphere of Vienna is not of a kind to be severe on his failings. Unfortunately, some of the ablest rulers of men have not been exemplary sovereigns in private life. What will be the character of the next prince is a question that many in Austria are asking with anxiety.

It has been said with regret that few, if any, really learned or scientific men, have been found in the Congress of the American Republic during the last few years. In earlier times it was different, when such men as Franklin, Witherspoon, Hamilton and Storey gave dignity and wisdom to the councils of the nation. In this respect it is really remarkable how many scientists and profound thinkers are to be discovered among the leading statesmen of Italy. Of this class Signor Bonghi is a noted example. For many years he has been one of the most trusted ministers of the cabinet, and one of the most distinguished deputies in parliament. Yet amid his many labors he has found time for much literary labor. His latest work, "The History of Christ," is a treatise which will well compare with the writings of Archdeacon Farrar on the same subject. The writings of M. Jehrvi, another Italian statesman, are also worthy of note. His last production, "The Underground Treasure of Italy," is as