France In a Ferment

The Government Likely To Be Overturned By A Coup d'Etat.

1899.

GENERAL EURLINDEN.

1798. Copyright, 1899.

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ANOTHER coup d'etat in France? An hour may give the answer. The handwriting is on the wall, the spirit of revolution is abroad in Paris, and all France, eager and excited, heads ear to catch the echo of the hoof beats of the Man on Horseback.

History has the strange habit of repeating itself.

When Voltaire rose in his last wrath and said all Frenchmen were one half monkey and one half hare, he foreshadowed in his epigram the hysteria and the reprisals that were to mark the approaching Reign of Terror.

On the 1st day of November, 1899, when the Liberal Premier announced that a certain Jewish staff officer named Dreyfus had been cast into the cells of Cherche-Midi prison, there came a sudden burst of hysterical passion that startled with its intensity all the moral and religious society that hinges over Paris at the present time. Paris, the gay, the frivolous, the impulsive, groped blindly into the year 1899 with the saddest forebodings of revolution in the air, and what to fill on the morrow it did throughout the month of May for since the days of the French revolution Paris has been France.

It is not the mere abstract question of law governing out of Dreyfus case that has so convulsed the French capital. A sitting or two of the supreme court could readily solve that sort problem. The truth is that France is on the throes of a social revolution which is about to strike the republic to its very foundation.

At the present moment the actual power in France lies wholly in the hands of the reckless and aggressive Zoulinder, the military governor of Paris. "The Little White Horse," the Parisian soldiery have nicknamed M. de Freycinet, the minister of war. It is with the support of this Zoulinder, as it is the passive minded chief of the general staff, General Boisdeffre. The people are well nigh at their wits' end. They realize that a crisis is at hand and that unfortunate event which, long anticipated, cannot avoided. Every minute, now, some outburst takes place. French news will stop into the breach, and the world will see once more an upstart as the master of France.

The French were never a republican nation at heart, although they have had three republics in one century. The plebiscite chosen by the French government whenever the monarchical question has been raised and the strongest measures adopted to oppose any revolted move bear testimony to the feeling of apathy that for years past has existed that the disorganization of the Royalist party had taken place, and although a certain number of electoral patriots still dominated imperialist districts it was protested that the imperialist party was melting away. But Europe in her hour of doubt always turns to her old friend Paris. A crisis of some kind is the one great want of the mysterious capital. Luxury in Paris is a necessity, for the Parisian lives by luxury, from which depend on the halves of a court and an aristocracy. When the Parisian cabal scents the paraphrase of his court, he seeks it of any one who will spend his gold with lavish enough hand, a conclusion that does not always tend to bring about social Parisian tranquillity.

Even in the time that Napoleon the Great and his cuirassiers Thousand left Elba and, with patriots rallying to the red banner at every step, marched triumphantly into the capital, there was still a decided faction near the heart of France, one might say, but here a history of revolution. Since that hour the history of monarchy has ever been near the people of France. The French throne rises there but always but to disappear, and the Royalist party is ever ready to the College and ready to assist in the present financial situation is the minister of finances for the time being.

Some time ago it was announced that Prince Victor Napoleon, son of "Plon Plon," the late Prince Jerome Napoleon, and at the time chief of the French imperialists, had declared in favor of his nephew brother, Prince Louis. The rebellious, it was said, was brought to his side by family pressure. It was now the Prince Louis was a friend of Emperor William. Great interest was created in imperial circles to this phase of the Dreyfus troubles and in the general staff. General Boisdeffre, the people are well nigh at their wits' end over news of the impending revolution. They realize that a crisis is at hand and that unfortunate event which, long anticipated, cannot be