

fere officially in the matter. It is true that the Suez Canal on three occasions underwent similar crises; but the conditions today are quite different. The Suez Canal was constructed with the active support of the Khedive of Egypt, and under the regime of the all-powerful empire. In addition, the amount of money engaged was much less, and the sources of revenue when completed much more apparent. The Panama Canal has at present \$500,000,000 invested, and much of this money has been obtained at a ruinous rate of interest.

France is the country in Europe which possesses the greatest amount of natural riches and productions; but France cannot well afford to lose this vast amount. The present check to the Panama Canal Company will probably be overcome. Mr. Slaven, the noted contractor, has already arrived in Paris to tender his aid to M. DeLesseps, if necessary. Mr. Slaven is the president of the "American Contracting and Dredging Company," of which the Hon. Mr. Morton, Vice-President-elect, is also vice-president. Mr. Slaven finished the first section of the Panama Canal, and offers to finish the second section within twelve months. He says that there are now 15,000 men at work on the canal, that their health is good, that the whole will be completed within two and a half years, and that \$15,000,000 are sufficient to bring the work to completion.

Ludwig Boerne, the German writer, once said that sausages were a food fit for the gods, for the gods only knew what was in them! The same holds good of most of the bits of diplomatic scandal that float through the social atmosphere, and it would be easy to fill columns with literary trash—nay, with veritable falsehoods.

At present it would seem that Russia warmly reciprocates the action of French capitalists in responding to the Russian loan. A leading Russian journal says: "A country containing 40,000,000 inhabitants, and maintaining an army of 8,000,000 bayonets, is a country that must be taken into consideration in the political calculations of European nations. It is an advantage for Russia that a state of such power is not in the ranks of her enemies. In case of war between Russia and her frontier neighbors the neutrality of France would keep away from the Russian frontier a large mass of the enemies' forces and make victory certain." As

nothing is published in Russia without permission of the Censors, and as this journal has warmly espoused the cause of the French Exposition, we may expect to see Russian official recognition and warm support of the coming Exposition.

It will be recollected that a few months ago the Russian Minister of Public Worship published a formidable allocution, in which he claimed for Russia the position of the most tolerant nation in Europe in regard to religious matters. Not long ago the minister of the English Church at St. Petersburg was temporarily arrested on the charge of attempting to make converts from the Russian Church. Since then a pastor of the German Evangelical Church has been arrested on a similar charge, and in this case it seems that the act can be distinctly proven. The punishment for proselytism is deportation to Siberia. Only a year ago General Prince Barclay de Tolly was relieved of his command for permitting one of his sons to become a convert to the Lutheran Church. The Russian Minister of Public Worship has, to say the least, peculiar ideas of toleration.

The Servian elections show an enormous Radical or Russophile majority. Out of all the members which the "Skuptehina" or parliament contains, 450 are Radicals. The question of King Milan's abdication, and the appointment of Queen Natalie as regent during her son's minority, is already openly discussed. Should the new constitution be rejected the king may dissolve it, or abdicate in favor of his son and Queen Natalie.

J. H. WARD.

EUROPE, December 31, 1888.

UNWITTING WITNESSES.

v.

In speaking of the Jaredites, the Book of Mormon states that while the land south (of the Isthmus of Panama), called a wilderness, was preserved for hunting game, "the whole face of the land northward was covered with inhabitants, and they were exceedingly industrious; and they did buy and sell and traffic with one another. And they did work in all manner of ores, and they did work gold and silver, and iron and brass, and all manner of metals. And they did dig it out of the earth, and cast up mighty heaps of earth, to get ore of gold, and of silver, and of copper. And they did work all manner of fine work. And thus did they have silks, and fine twined

linen. And they did work all manner of cloth, that they might clothe themselves from their nakedness. And they did work all manner of tools to till the earth, both to plow and to sow, to reap and to hoe, and also to thrash. And they did make all manner of tools with which to work their beasts. And they did make all manner of weapons of war. And they did work all manner of work of exceeding curious workmanship." Page 594.

Here we discover, in a peculiarly succinct and comprehensive form, all the concomitants and possibilities of a mighty, brilliant, and permanent civilization; including hunting; hence furs, leather, and bone ornaments and utensils; commerce, with all its active enterprises, improvements, discoveries, and exchange of wealth; mining, with all its glittering hoards of splendor and magnificence; the forge, with all its output of iron sinews and mechanical energies; agriculture, that life and soul of national greatness; rich apparel, and jewelry, with all other needful products of industry, and the result and fruits of prosperity and elegant affluence.

The plain and simple statement concerning the Jaredite miners, "casting up mighty heaps of earth" in their extensive mining operations, will serve to explain a deep mystery which has sorely perplexed the antiquarian delver, namely, the origin and purpose of at least a portion of the numerous earth mounds scattered so extensively throughout vast areas of the American continent.

Many of these plain and inartistic elevations are, undoubtedly, adjuncts to, and mementoes of their incessant wars; earthly mausoleums in which were inhumed the remains of the mighty hosts that fell in battle. The ghastly remnants of strife and carnage were collected from the blood-soaked plain, piled in heaps, and the adjacent soil thrown over them. There is reference made in the Book of Mormon to a certain prophecy—"That their bones should become as heaps of earth upon the face of the land." Page 595.

Some of these mounds have been opened, and masses of mouldering bones and other debris of war have been discovered in them; and even the black mould has been analyzed and found to contain elements of carnage; and when placed upon heated iron it has emitted a foetid odor. Arrow-heads, both of stone and metal; lance-points, hatchets, broken sword-blades, belts, and fragments of other weapons, have