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THE EUROPEAN EQUILIBRIUM.

Rumors of war are still floating in the air in Europe, although there is no more definite statement as to the real cause of a probable war than there was a week ago. The most that can be made of the visit of the Russian ships to Toulon and the enthusiastic reception by the French is that the czar openly declares his intention to support France, should that country be assailed. It may particularly be a notice to Germany that William might find his country threatened on two sides, should he choose to make a hostile movement in either direction.

The pending tariff war between Russia and Germany has probably much to do with the present ostentatious demonstrations in the Mediterranean. The agricultural interests of Russia have already suffered a great deal by the loss of the principal foreign market and the government has been compelled to resort to extraordinary expedients to mitigate the situation. This, together with the recent menacing attitude of Italy, backed by the other powers of the triple alliance, is perhaps what led the czar to press the French republic to his troubled heart in a fond embrace.

The rendezvous of the British squadron in Italian waters more than offsets the demonstrations in France, for its political significance is that England, if the necessity should arise, may be counted on by the triple alliance. Thus the European equilibrium would seem to be still maintained and prospects of continued peace be good. The only real danger is the fact that the credit of some of the great powers may become exhausted, a possibility which at least in the case of Italy seems imminent. The maintenance of the military forces is ruinous beyond comprehension, and wars are sometimes declared to cover up the traces that led to the verge of the pit. For this reason those who say that a European war is near at hand and may come unexpectedly any day, have some ground for apprehension. The announcement that the Russian war department has bought two years' grain supply in advance may mean a great deal more than appears on the surface.

THE CAMPAIGN.

In three weeks more a Legislature for and municipal officers in the Territory will be chosen by the people. Soon will discussion by oral and written means of the bounty and tariff questions be rife, the former having a direct and the latter an indirect application

in Utah. The Legislature can deal with one but not with the other; but it is generally understood that the subjects stand as we have placed them—together, the advocates of a tariff being also advocates of a bounty and those against either being against both. This has a tendency to stimulate inquiry, out of inquiry comes information, and thus do we perceive beneficial results flowing from the situation whatever way the tide may turn.

The News has as before a word of advice to the partisans on either side: Remember that those who are unable to see matters and things political as you do may be just as earnest, just as well informed, and stand just as well before their fellow men. That you look upon their views as rank heresy does but argue that different people see different things—frequently the same things—differently. The proper course is not to abuse, or insult, or traduce, or ridicule, but to take the higher ground of genteel conduct which if it cannot convince as to the matter can always command approval as to the manner. Be argumentative as you will; let your statistics be as numerous, your premises as logical and your argument as unanswerable as you can make them; but for the sake of temporary advantage or for any other reason, do not enact the role of pot-house politician by the tactics previously suggested. Politics is, or ought to be, an honored field in which the citizen can labor for the time being without reproach; it would be so if those who engage in it would make it so. Then, as Utah has furnished to the world outside so many excellent examples of the good, the beautiful and the true, let it now go yet a step further and show how to conduct a political campaign on proper lines. It does not need that animation, industry and show beset together to do this. The campaign may be as lively as its participants desire, but it should be free from such liveliness as comes of objectionable procedure and intolerable language. We can do it, and "after the ball" let it be said that we did do it.

HERESY TRIAL.

The Presbyterians have declared another of their ministers, a Dr. Preserved Smith, a heretic. This gentleman is said to have resolved to quit the church instead of carrying his case before the highest tribunal, where, of course, the decisions of the lower courts would be sustained. If he is of the right kind his withdrawal is likely to lead to a schism in the church. Such things have often happened and will happen again. One of the most remarkable instances in later years of what heresy trials sometimes lead to is furnished by the ecclesiastical history of Sweden. Fifty years ago there was hardly a dissenter in that country. But a young Lutheran clergyman, A. Wiberg, was tried by his superiors for preaching heresy and was suspended for six months. He never came back to the church but gathered followers by thousands, and today dissenters in Sweden are numerous enough to threaten the very existence of the established church.

There seems to be neither glory nor profit in the heresy trials that are conducted by the churches now-a-days, and the reason may probably be found in the fact that too little attention is paid to the necessary distinction between doctrines that are essential to Christianity and those which are not looked upon as such. There are a great many questions discussed which belong to a class of which Paul speaks when he asks: "Why dost thou judge thy brother?" as if the account each one has to give for himself before a higher Judge were not sufficient. That a church has a right and even is under obligation to look to its members both as regards their views and morals is not to be denied. It would not be consistent to retain in the church people who do not believe in the resurrection for instance, or the atonement, or who deny that Jesus is the Christ. But when it comes to mere speculative questions and that on subjects not sufficiently explained by the books accepted as the Divine oracles, then heresy declarations are at variance with the spirit of Christianity. And when, as is sometimes the case, the ecclesiastical machinery is set in motion by envy or other low motives, for the purpose of executing alleged Divine justice upon a morally good and honest, although perhaps in some respects mistaken fellow-member, the spectacle presented is one to be viewed only with astonishment and regret.

ILLEGAL VOTING.

It is almost beyond belief that a man of general intelligence, reasonably well informed and living in an atmosphere fairly saturated with law and information could knowingly be guilty of a violation of a statute so familiar to everybody as that relating to elections. It is not an obscure or inaccessible law in any degree and its provisions are so plain that the average school boy would have no trouble in understanding it throughout. Yet we are confronted with a case in which the offending party votes time after time—as he himself naively expresses it, he voted every time he got a chance—without possessing the primary and chief requisite, that of citizenship. The only excuses offered are that the law of the state he came from permitted it and he was ignorant of the local law on the subject. He pleads guilty as to the acts complained of but seeks to justify himself as aforesaid, the justification being of course one that the courts cannot receive.

The plea of ignorance is not a shield but it sometimes, when clearly shown, operates in mitigation of the sentence imposed. The fact that a legal, honest vote, one that should have its full and fair effect, is annulled by any means, is too serious a matter to be passed over casually or dealt with lightly, and the ignorance of the offender must not only be clearly established but appear as the result of some misleading circumstance, to justify a judge in exercising clemency at all. It is a case such as rarely occurs in our midst, and this may have an ameliorating effect too.

In dealing with the matter the politics of the offender do not figure at all.