

as a member he soon made his influence to be powerfully felt in the Camera de Deputati, where he soon became the leader of the Extreme Left, till, in April, 1887, he was re-elected minister of the interior, and in July of the same year was appointed president of the Council of Ministers.

It is notorious that Umberto's complexion of politics changes and varies with the succession of each ministry. In spite of the impetuous frankness which characterizes the king's criticisms and remarks, in spite of the fact that his majesty's inclinations are more concurrent with the sentiments of the Radical party, each successive prime minister is received by him as a long lost and sought for brother. But the relations which subsisted between Crispi and his king were more genuinely harmonious than the mere appearances which policy demanded; Crispi's influence was more effective and more powerful with the person of the king, because his majesty himself was more in accord with the dignified policy which his minister instituted both at home and abroad.

If his anti-clerical policy bordered on the appearances of persecution, he sustained the measure against the opposition of Her Majesty Queen Margherita, and found it certainly the most convenient means for raising the taxes necessary in the expenditure which his foreign policy entailed.

His chief aim, his greatest ambition, was the making of Italy a great factor in European politics, and so far, during the last four years of his administration, he had achieved remarkable progress.

At the risk of branding the Italian people with the epithet of "ingrates," he supported and advocated the triple alliance, a combination which is chiefly sustained against any martial attempts of France, who assisted the people in the restoration and emancipation of Italy. He promoted a measure of colonization, and secured for Italy over 300,000 square miles of African territory. And if the expenses were great, if the taxes, which all these measures entailed, were burdensome on the Italian people, the martial pride of the nation willingly sustained it all, as they evinced recently in the large majority with which they returned Crispi to power.

Crispi himself is a man over 40, of military and dignified bearing, and handsome appearance. He is not tall, but symmetrically and firmly built. He carries his head straight and looks boldly if not imperiously when surveying his surroundings. His features are well cut, and comprehensive. They indicate strength of will, resoluteness, quick capacity of conception, unhesitancy in execution, and an indomitable persistency in the pursuit and realization of a preconceived plan. His oratory is rhetorical, his diction is bold, his manner is impressively spirited, his elocution is distinct, and his delivery is enhanced by graceful and animated gesture.

His suave and frank manners recommend him to everybody he comes in contact with, and Umberto seemed, personally, so much attached to him that he refused to take notice of the queen's censure at Crispi's bringing a lady to court with whom he was not supposed to have been legally

married then. This scandal alone, which in other countries might have been sufficient to drive a man from power and public service, had no effect on Crispi's position. The king preferred to regard the value of his patriotic services to the meddling with his private conduct, while Crispi himself is contemptuous of the censures of his enemies, and lives satisfied with the opinion of his friends.

Crispi's present resignation, at the instance of his irritated colleagues, does by no means indicate his fall. The man whose brilliant genius elevated him to the highest position, in spite of virulent and determined opposition, who commanded such authority at home and swayed such influence abroad, will not retire to obscurity because his friends took umbrage at the expression of his sentiments. If the phrase which he employed in the Camera, when he said that the "increase of taxation was necessary in order to rescue Italy from the servile condition" in which she was up to 1876, sounded the note of contempt and arrogance, it nevertheless represented the veracious condition of affairs. And it is more probable that Crispi retired from the cabinet to be returned to it at the next election by the people, with a more ascendant supremacy, and more powerful influence.—*Boston Traveler*.

#### DEGRADATION OF ANIMALS.

While a menagerie is a very amusing and instructive institution, and necessary for the education of the people, there is something inexpressibly sad in the moral degradation which the animals undergo as soon as they are in captivity. Some of the noblest of them will stoop to any indignity in order to secure a peanut. The distributors of peanuts and buns little reckon of the ruin they are working.

Perhaps no animal's character suffers more by this means than that of the elephant. The greatest and strongest of existing animals, the most intelligent and the most dexterous, he will keep his mouth open half an hour for the sake of a bun, and if he cannot obtain it in that way he will go down on his knees. Has he no sense of dignity or self-respect left? Apparently not. Yet he has the feelings of gratitude and revenge very strong in him, and it is said that in India, where he leads a life of useful and honorable labor, he will not stoop to such tricks. The close confinement reduces him to the level of a lapdog. The Indian elephant, it should be remembered, is the only one that has much intelligence, and can be made either to do tricks or to labor.

The work of degradation among the elephants should cease. Perhaps a remedy for the present state of things might be found by allowing them to carry visitors around the park. It is well enough that buns or any other not unwholesome food should be given them, but that they should be made to blow their noses, wag their tails, close one eye or go down on their knees is intolerable.

Then there are the polar bear and the grizzly bear, *ursus horribilis*. They have sunk nearly as low as the elephants. These animals, by the way, are the only ones provided with decent

habitations, from their own point of view. They have a cage about thirty feet high fixed in the rock, in which there are two caves. To these they can retire to sleep, eat or hibernate. The cage is divided into two parts, one being for the black and the grizzly and the other for the polars.

In the middle of the grizzly and black bears' division is a pole, with a platform on top of which every infant knows the purpose. One pathway leads past the front of the cage, and another past the back, thirty feet above, so that a person can go on the top of the cage and the bottom. The bear can do the same, having an iron ladder to help him up the wall of rock which forms one side of his habitation. It only helps him for he will not trust his person entirely to it, but usually keeps the latter and heavier portion of it on the rocks and props himself with his front paws on the rungs of the ladder. It is most entertaining to see him come down backwards from the top of the rock to the ground.

To return to the subject of the bear's moral degradation. In his natural state he will not permit the presence of a man within a circumference of several miles, and will fight with an unmatched ferocity. In this cage he will shuttle in the most undignified manner from the back to the front of it on account of a peanut. Peanuts are the most frequent causes of the bear's degradation, but this fiercest of all American beasts will do such antics for pie.

The polar, the most powerful bear, is remarkable for its parental and domestic affections. The female will protect her cubs as long as she has life, or defend their bodies, if they are killed first. Yet here a polar mother has been known to snatch a giugersnap from her cub. At the menagerie the children often place cakes on the stone just outside the bars, and the maritime plantigrade may be seen in a frantic attempt to hook them in with his immense paw. It is a deplorable spectacle.

The cat animals are not allowed to accept food from visitors, but it is probable that in most instances they would refuse. The lion and the tiger would be highly incensed if sweetmeats or trifles in the way of food were thrown at them. They would, indeed, accept with pleasure a joint of meat, but they would not stoop to antics to obtain it.

It is pleasing to observe, by the way, how calmly the cat animals resign themselves to a state of things they cannot alter. For the supposed good of their health they are made to go without their dinner on Sundays. They make no particular noise about this, although it is certain they object to it strongly.

Their ordinary feeding time during the week is two o'clock in the afternoon. If the butcher should be ten minutes late they sniff, howl, stand upright and try to force their noses between the bars. In the course of an hour, if the butcher still failed to appear, pandemonium would reign in the house. These animals know very well when Sunday is come, and they are very thankful it comes but once a week.—*New York Sun*.

The population of Christiania has reached over 143,000. There are 12,000 more women than men in the city.