

he resigned. This started the agitation, and the National Liberals raised such a storm that William did actually try to effect a compromise. This is where he stranded. The tolerated sects are Moravians, Quakers, Greeks, Anglicans, Jews and Old Lutherans. The Roman Catholics and Lutherans are, of course, the great State religions, but in their benign spirituality they extend protection to these sects, but ignore Methodists, Old Catholics, Unitarians, Deists and Free-thinkers, all of whom must be educated in one of the above sects, or leave the empire.

The situation in the German empire is really anomalous. Despotism is sustained by militarism exists side by side with the greatest intellectual progress and advanced enlightenment of the age. The cry for political disenfranchisement is intense and earnest. The Emperor is erratic, impulsive and precipitate. The clergy are treacherous, intriguing and thirsty for power. The politicians are urging a system of State socialism which is gaining recognition.

There are 24,000 miles of railroad in Germany. The State owns and operates 87 per cent. of the mileage. Germany has a socialistic system of insurance. Sick benefits were paid in 1888-9 in over 1,000,000 cases. In 1890 13,000,000 workmen were enjoying State insurance for accident, and the sum paid to widows and orphans under the law was \$3,500,000. There is also an old-age insurance law which went into effect January 1st, 1891, and \$17,000,000 was paid out last year by the State to superannuated laborers.

In 1863 the Socialists cast 4000 votes. This vote has steadily increased since, and in 1890 it cast 1,487,323 votes, one-fifth of the total voting strength of the empire. The clergy make political capital of this, and are hastening the crisis.

Victor Hugo said of Waterloo that it was not a French defeat, but a change of front in the universe. Something similar may be said of Germany today. It is not a mere party broil that is in process, it is a complete revolution in German national systems that is being inaugurated.

### "MORMON" BUILDINGS.

THE following, clipped from the *Nauvoo, Illinois, Independent*, may be of interest to some of our readers, particularly the former residents of the whilom city of the Saints:

"The Mormons had many peculiar and original ideas about architecture, and as a general rule they were very practical. The houses they built in Nauvoo were durable and plain on the exterior, but in the interior in most cases they were finished beautifully. The old residences of Brigham Young, John Taylor, Willford Woodruff, Parley P. Pratt, Heber C. Kimball, the Mansion house and other buildings, which are still standing, are models of Mormon architecture, being nice, plain and solid buildings. We believe there is not a cracked brick in either house. The Mormons tested every brick before putting it in a building by thrusting it in hot water, which greatly accounts for the well-preserved houses up to this day. The Mormon temple was a fine structure and was built on the most advanced modern ideas. The same originality marks

their architecture at Salt Lake City. The Mormon Temple at Salt Lake City is built in the shape of a true ellipse and, although it is of enormous dimensions, it is so well constructed as regards acoustics that a person standing in the focus at one end can carry on a conversation in a whisper with any one in the focus at the other end."

### RATHER UNCERTAIN.

THE other day it was reported in the press dispatches that Premier Caprivi, of Germany, had resigned. Then followed another statement to the effect that the report had been confirmed as correct. Then came a third, stating that not only had he not taken such action, but that he had no intention in that direction. The newspapers went off wrong, as they accepted the confirmation of the alleged fact as true, and commented accordingly. Now, it is stated that the resignation of Caprivi was tendered, but that it is doubtful if it will be insisted upon, owing to the Kaiser's unwillingness to accept it. This is but another evidence of the necessity for editors being guarded in making comments upon allegations of fact, as they come through the press dispatches, until they have been several times contradicted and confirmed. In perusing the press telegrams the general reader ought also to have on hand, while looking over his newspaper, a quantity of salt.

### AN ENGLISH VIEW OF THE AMERICAN DIVORCE SYSTEM.

MRS. LYNN LINTON, the well-known English novelist and magazine essayist, has an article in the *New Review*, a London periodical, in which she says of American divorce:

"With divorce made as easy as it is in certain American States, the marriage bond has no sanctity, and the good of the family no valid influence. Love is degraded into animal instinct or whittled away to temporary caprice; but the magistrate gives a clean bill for future endorsement, and the whole relation becomes one of legalized and very slightly veiled promiscuity. Held by no tie stronger than desire, a transient weariness which a little self control would overcome takes the dimensions of unconquerable aversion; and the present association is broken with no more sense of solmuity than two players cut as fresh for partners at the end of the rubber. Infidelity has lost its sin, inconstancy its shame, because marriage has lost both honor and stability. The children generally remain with the mother, perhaps to grow accustomed to a succession of step-fathers, which must somewhat bewilder their ideas of continuity. But, like the lady whose three divorced husbands were her constant card table companions, women under this loose system are hardened to the situation, and its piquancy is lost in its familiarity."

### A HAM BONE IN HISTORY.

MR. ARCHIBALD FORBES, the noted war correspondent and lecturer, is a cold blooded historic idol-smasher. The *Springfield Republican* relates an instance of his having lately performed a piece of work of that character. Mr.

Forbes was present at the surrender of Louis Napoleon at Sedan, and occupied the house, the room and the bed which were used by the Emperor the night before he was removed, a prisoner, to Wilhelmshöhe. In this house, the chateau Bellevue, the King of Prussia and the French Emperor had their memorable meeting, and the surrender was finally arranged. In one of the rooms of the chateau was a great oak table at which Mr. Forbes sat to write one of the letters to the *London Daily News*. As he sat writing his companion stood near him and "disconsolately gnawed at a ham bone, the miserable remnant of our store of provisions." The bone was well-nigh bare, and with a grumble it was thrown upon the table, upsetting Mr. Forbes' inkstand and making a great ink spot on the polished surface.

A few months afterward, when Mr. Forbes revisited the chateau, he was shown the same room and table. "It was at this table," he was informed, "that the capitulation of Sedan was signed. Hot words ensued over its terms, and General Wimpffen overturned the ink-bottle in the midst of his excitement, with a hasty motion of his hand." This ink-spot, the evidence of the regret and shame of a courageous soldier, was treasured highly as a relic of the memorable day. Now comes Mr. Forbes and wipes out this touching and poetic story by substituting a meatless ham bone for the distress and wrath of a defeated soldier. If there had been more ham and less bone the spot would never have been made on that table. Some people are so particular about facts that they will not permit the romantic features of history to go unchallenged. Mr. Forbes is one of that class of persons. Imaginative people have no use for him.

### FAMINE STRICKEN RUSSIA.

THE empire of Russia and the republic of the United States are opposite extremes of political organization. At the present time, by the hand of charity and generosity, they are brought into fraternal relations. Food from our prosperous and beautiful clime is being conveyed to the starving millions of Russia. This will form an object lesson that cannot but be instructive to the autocratic Czar as well as to the crushed and trampled peasant.

On the 16th inst. the United States ship "Indiana," laden with provisions, steamed into the harbor of Liban, on the Baltic. She left Philadelphia on the 22nd of February, Washington's birthday. Her arrival at the Russian port was an event of marked moment. A Russian man-of-war band played the "Star Spangled Banner" as the "Indiana" drew near.

Another steamship, the "Missouri," left New York on the 16th inst. laden with 2500 tons of flour and meal for the famine sufferers of Russia. She, too, will make Liban her destination. It is true Congress has done nothing in this affair. The "Indiana" cargo was contributed by benevolent citizens of Philadelphia and other eastern cities. The "Missouri" cargo was contributed by the flour merchants of the Northwest. The governors of Minnesota, Iowa and Nebraska took up the matter