

proven to be engaged in conspiracy against the state, and if it shall not apply to a mere advocacy of socialism in the press or rostrum. It is probable that Bismarck will accept this compromise and the immediate political future will take shape from this as a starting point.

The liberal spirit of the national liberal party, quickened by the Bachler incident, will make it impossible for that party to yield on this expulsion clause. Without this party it cannot be carried. Prince Bismarck will therefore withdraw the bill and dissolve the Reichstag.

AN EXCHANGE OF VIEWS

With the English government regarding the decree of the provisional government of Brazil, concerning naturalization, has caused Prince Bismarck to abandon his intention to take any immediate action. Recent dispatches from Rio Janeiro have influenced England, Germany and Italy to agree in ignoring the naturalization decree and other irregular acts of the revolutionary leaders. The general conviction grows here that the new government is merely a military junta, which is unstable and will be swept away even before the date to which it has postponed the elections.

The fear of a republican rising in Portugal consequent upon the extension there of the ferment originating in Brazil is much less since the character of the movement in Rio Janeiro has been revealed. Advice received here from Lisbon state, in fact, the republican propaganda has been paralyzed by the despotic doings in Rio Janeiro, and that there is a strong popular reaction in favor of the monarchy.

THE EPIDEMIC

is rapidly decreasing here, but is spreading in other places in Germany. The malady has very seriously affected the Christmas trade. Vienna doctors say the disease has reached its climax there.

Only the Prince and Princess Leopold of Prussia, and the Duke and Duchess of Saxe Meiningen are at Potsdam. The illness of the Princess Fedora, their only child, prevented their attending the family party. Each one of the emperor's five sons had a large Christmas tree all for himself placed on a table, the tree of the emperor and empress being on another table in the centre of the hall. The emperor passed the greater part of Christmas evening assisting in the decoration of trees and frolicking with the children, and left the party to go to the theatre for Barry's revival of "Hamlet."

ON CHRISTMAS

day the Emperor and Empress and Grand Duke and Duchess of Baden dined with the Empress Augusta and her family.

Tonight the Empress Augusta gave a special reception to Mr. Phelps, United States Minister, in presence of her full court. The Empress, in the course of a cordial conversation with Mr. Phelps, expressed her life-long interest in

American affairs and her great desire that the people of the United States should use their immense resources always in the interest of the peace of the world.

LETTER FROM EUROPE.

The inclement season has now fairly commenced and the sufferings of the poor are thereby greatly intensified. Thanks to the efforts of such men as John Burns and Cardinal Manning, public opinion is beginning to be aroused in their behalf, especially those who inhabit the City of London. It is now more than thirty-four years since Parliament passed the law enabling the vestries of the parish churches "to abate the over-crowding of houses inhabited by the working classes, to improve or demolish tenements unfit for human habitation, and to enforce the registration and inspection of lodging houses in order that they shall be kept in a clean and wholesome state." The question arises, Why has nothing been done? why have those miserable rookeries been left standing—those relics of a barbaric age—where for untold generations they have been the abode of filth, disease and crime? Is it possible that the clergy and vestries of the Established Church in London have feared to awaken the wrath of the exorbitant and unprincipled landlords? Can it be that the clergy have so far forgotten their vocation as to turn a deaf ear to the cries of the thousands of poor adults and helpless children who, cowering and trembling in misery and fear, are calling for relief from the oppressor's wrong? There are many who believe so; in fact the evils under which the poor are suffering have aroused the sympathies of even those whom the world denominates atheists and infidels, and a pressure has been brought upon the Local Government Board of London that they should see that the clergy of London shall perform the duties assigned by them by the parliamentary act of 1855, or give way to those who will. The world has heard a good deal about "despotism," but it would seem that a little despotism exercised toward the landlords of the east end of London in behalf of suffering humanity would not be amiss just now. It is a little more than eighty years since Napoleon I. ran the plowshare of progress through the darkest and dirtiest slums of Paris, transforming them into such places as the *Champs Elysee*, *Place de l'Etoile*, *Rue de La Fayette*, etc. No one now doubts the wisdom of Napoleon's measures in this regard. A similar process in London would bring comparative comfort to untold thousands, as well as add beauty and wealth to England's great metropolis.

December 2nd was the anniversary of the *coup d'etat* of Napoleon III.—the day which commemorates the overthrow of the second republic in 1851, when, with an adroitness worthy of his great an-

cestor, he seized the reins of power and proclaimed himself "Napoleon III, Emperor of France." This year the anniversary has attracted more attention than usual, perhaps owing to the new light thrown upon that event by the just published reminiscences of Gen. Fleury. It seems now to be generally conceded that Fleury was in reality the person who planned the whole scheme. As is well known, France established a republic in 1848, but Frenchmen had not yet learned sufficient moderation to be self-governing, and the republic was fast falling to pieces. It was at this juncture that Louis Napoleon—perhaps with true patriotism—was anxious concerning the future. One day Gen. Fleury said to him, "Why not save our country by making yourself Emperor?" "But how," said Louis Napoleon, "can this be done? Nothing can be accomplished without a minister of war who is willing to make great sacrifices and take great risks for the support of this measure." Fleury recommended Saint-Arnaud, then an obscure brigadier general in Africa, to be made minister of war. Accordingly the exploits of Saint-Arnaud were loudly heralded in the Paris papers through the influence of General Fleury, and when a few weeks later Saint-Arnaud was appointed minister of war, he was one of the most popular men in France.

The *coup d'etat* had been fixed for the 17th of September, but at that time of the year the deputies were mostly at their homes in the country and would surely have inaugurated an insurrection. Saint-Arnaud's wife was the first to perceive this, and advised postponement. Saint-Arnaud, thus forewarned, and perceiving the dangerous game he was about to play, asked leave of absence to see his mother—for the last time probably. General Fleury at length became impatient and urged the new Minister of War, Saint-Arnaud, to make greater speed. The answer of Saint-Arnaud was characteristic. He replied: "I think when you ask a man to be good enough to fling himself from the top of a five-story dwelling, you should be good enough to allow him to select the hour for his performance." Louis Napoleon saw the wisdom of this answer, and placed the whole management in the hands of Saint-Arnaud.

On the evening of December 1st there was a brilliant assemblage at the Palais d'Elysee; most of the leading statesmen of France were there. After the guests had departed, Napoleon, Fleury and Saint-Arnaud held a brief consultation. The next morning with the dawning light the astonished people read the proclamation of Napoleon and the Second Empire. All opposition was prevented by the artillery and cavalry drawn up at every commanding position. Presently Napoleon, Fleury and Saint-Arnaud, surrounded by a military escort, dashed through the streets on horseback and were acclaimed by the people. At one place there were shouts of "Vive la Republique!" but Fleury and Saint-Arnaud replied