

EDITORIALS.

THE FRENCH SENSATION.

THE attempt by a revolutionist to assassinate M. Jules Ferry, on Saturday last, in the lobby of the French Chamber of Deputies, has turned the eyes of the whole civilized world toward that distinguished individual. An incident as startling as the one in point creates a natural desire in the public mind to know something concerning the personality and history of the chief figure of the dramatic occurrence.

Jules Ferry was born in April, 1832. He received his early education at Strasbourg and studied law in Paris. His father was a lawyer with republican tendencies. His political career began in 1856. Ferry's house at that time was the meeting place of such men as Ernest Picard, Charles Floquet, Chamogeron, Emile Ollivier, and kindred spirits. In 1858, and subsequent years, Ferry contributed articles to Emile de Girardin's *Presse* and Clement Duvernois' *Courier de Paris*. In 1863 he published a number of pamphlets directed against the government, and became involved in a number of trials on account of them. He also contributed largely to the *Temps*, and the compe fantastiques d'Hausmann are considered his best contributions to that paper.

In 1869 Jules Ferry was elected to the Chamber of Deputies from the sixth Parisian arrondissement and became at once a most dangerous opponent of the government. After the fall of Sedau and the capitulation of Napoleon and his army Jules Ferry was made a member of the provisional government and a secretary of the national defense committee. October 31st, 1870, he succeeded Eugene Arago as Mayor of Paris and was forced to flee at the outbreak of the commune. After the suppression of the commune Ferry was appointed prefect of Paris, but he kept this position only ten days, and was sent to Athens, Greece, as envoy of the French republic, where he remained one year. To the Chamber of Deputies he was elected repeatedly during the presidencies of Thiers, MacMahon, and Grevy. When Grevy was elected president of the French republic Ferry entered Waddington's cabinet as minister of instruction. In 1884 he was called upon to form a new government. The disastrous wars at Tunis and Tonquin which were carried on recklessly by Ferry's government, made him unpopular with the Parisians.

M. Ferry is, in the chamber, a member of what is called the left centre, this being the method adopted for designating the moderate republicans. The radical adherents of that party are known as the extreme left. In the recent election for president he received a large vote, but withdrew from candidacy in favor of Sadi Carnot, being one of the latter's strongest supporters. Latest advices convey the intelligence that the wounds of the distinguished Frenchman are more serious than at first supposed.

The fact that the attempted murder was the result of a genuine revolutionary plot will have a disquieting effect upon the republic of France, and especially upon the nerves of the chief supporters of the present ministry and its head.

Why the bloody conspirators did not begin their sanguinary work on Sadi Carnot, the head of the government, instead of selecting M. Ferry and M. Goblet as shining marks for Aubertine's bullets is a little mysterious, unless it could be explained on the hypothesis that if the props of the president were removed he would fall as a natural consequence. Perhaps President Carnot's taking off was only delayed for a season.

This revolutionary business is a startling development in modern politics. It is a ghastly and terrible subject, and is becoming so common in the civilized world that its murderous outbreaks only create, as a rule, comparatively moderate sensations.

It occurs to us that hand in hand with the highest grade of civilization there presses onward the blackest phase of barbarism. That the latter is of a semi-enlightened character does not modify the hideousness of its nature.

A pertinent query just now among French Statesmen will be, Who is to be the next victim on whose life lots will be cast by the conspiring revolutionists? Of which young Aubertine is a member?

THE RUSH TO SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA.

LETTERS received here from parties who have taken up their residence in Southern California, convey the information, in almost every instance, that the great tide of business which commenced to flow there two years ago is flowing yet, with no sign of an ebb or a diminution. This inflated condition of things has rarely if ever been equalled in our day and land, and it gives rise to the question as to its cause, effect and probable duration. There are no mines of any consequence in the neighborhood of Los Angeles, San Diego, Pasadena or any of the "booming" cities, and yet labor is high, prices are tolerably cheap and buildings cannot be put up fast enough to accommodate the de-

mand for shelter and storage, even hotel accommodations being sometimes out of the question.

A "boom" cannot grow out of newspaper puffing and general advertising altogether, although these are indispensable and freely used adjuncts. This has been tried in a good many places, but was as ineffectual in every instance as wet powder in a gun. There must be something real which at least gives promise of good and early return at the back of all the whooping and hurraing, and then if the first timid capitalist invests, others will speedily follow and a few in number gradually swell to multitudes. So long as the returns are forthcoming, or not too long delayed, so long will the rush hold high carnival; but when it falls for even a moderate period, its failure is final.

Of course there is something tangible and visible to cause the investment in the first instance. This, in the case of the places named, was supplied by the salubrious climate, the abundant and productive soil, the semi-tropical products, the nearness to the seaboard, and the persistent efforts of a few indefatigable workers among those who contemplated forsaking the overcrowded east for the bounding, commodious west. A few investments made in real property were trumpeted abroad in high-sounding words and exaggerated figures, to which performance the investors naturally had no objection; this caused others to turn their attention in that direction, who came but to mingle with the giddy throng and add their voices to the volume of praise which was borne abroad upon every breeze. First they came in tens, then in hundreds, now in thousands, many having no other object in view than the obtaining of a small piece of real property in or near one of the growing cities, to hold it till the constantly growing increase in prices enables them to multiply their money many times, then sell, rent or otherwise speculate, get more land, and so on. But there is plenty of land and everything else a tiller of the soil requires, and everybody can get all he wants. All must be satisfied some time; the faster they come, the sooner the end of the inflated condition will come. Of course everything goes with a whirl and a rush just now, and liveliness in the real estate markets will hold on till, by reason of everybody getting there that intended to and the unfeeling supply, the demand can no longer approach so nearly to it, and the first slight downward movement will be the first few drops of water crawling over an earthen dam. Even now there are more transactions going on between those who are and have been for some time permanently located than otherwise; they are buying and selling to each other just as nearly everybody in Nevada was buying and selling mining stocks in 1862. They don't invest for any other purpose than letting go again the first favorable opportunity, and so long this can be kept going—which is only accomplished by means of fresh supplies from the exterior—the "boom" booms, no longer.

To tell the exact truth about this whole business would not be at all palatable to the short-sighted whose calculations reach out only to the gains and profits of today.

It does not matter how rapidly a town grows if the additions are of a desirable character, the transactions bona fide and it all rests upon a mature, stable and prosperous basis. Each citizen thus added and every dollar so invested, marks so much additional stability and permanent thrift. But the moment the element of gambling, which seems so hard to exclude, enters into it, that moment the malaria of inflation fills the air and the seeds of premature decay are sown within the soil.

PRACTICAL DEMOCRACY.

THOSE of the same political persuasion as the President who were disposed for a long time to find fault with him because of his alleged masterly inactivity in the matter of removing such complaints if they have not already done so. It seems that so far from being a lukewarm partisan, one unwilling to help those along who placed him where he is, he is the most thoroughgoing and complete party man who has achieved the Presidential chair since General Grant's time, and it also appears that but for environment of the civil service law—which he is bound to respect—there would be but few Republicans left in the employ of the Government anywhere. As it is he never fails to strike for cause or to use all practicable expedition in filling places made vacant by death, resignation or expiration of term, a Democrat succeeding to the places thus vacated in each instance.

A telegram received today announces that the President, since the last adjournment of Congress, has appointed 365 postmasters alone; perhaps other appointments by him directly would run up the list high enough to make the average since the 31st of March last about three per diem. This means direct appointments from the hand of the executive; but he has, of course, influenced or at least consented to a great many Cabinet appointments, the grand total being thus swelled out to such proportions as should surely be satisfactory even to the most uncompromising disciple of Andrew Jackson.

AGRICULTURAL REPORT.

THE report of the Department of Agriculture which will be issued about the last of this month, contains estimates of the areas, products and value by states of corn, wheat and oats. It will also be found the average price of farm products throughout the United States, which goes to show that the financial status of the farming community for 1887, is in a remarkably healthy condition as compared with that of previous years. For instance the average value of corn per bushel this year is given as 43.8 cents against 36.8 cents last year and 32.8 cents in 1885. The average value of wheat 69 cents, or three mills higher than the price last year. The average for oats is 37.7 cents against 29.8 cents last year. Buckwheat is 56.1 or 1.7 cents higher than last year. The only depreciation in the price of cereals seems to be in that of barley, which is 62.2 cents, against 63 cents last year. The price of hay has notably risen, being now \$9.34 per ton against \$7.26 for last season, which is mainly due to the drouth in the west.

THE RECENT FRENCH CRISIS.

THE French constitution, and the governmental institutions founded upon it, have lately been subjected to a severe strain, and patriotic journals of France are congratulating the nation on the triumphant manner in which their organic law came out of the test. George Hamlin, Esq., of this city furnishes the News with the following translation and explanatory preface:

"The *Courrier des Etats Unis*, in a leading article of a recent issue, treating on the situation of affairs in the French republic, after reminding its readers in a former editorial discussing the improbabilities of some of the most prominent statesmen being elected to fill the place vacated by M. Jules Grevy, ventures the assertion that the Chamber would settle upon the choice of M. Sadi-Carnot in preference to other candidates, not so much on account of his political acumen, as of the public probity manifested by him in the case of his refusal to betray his trust as minister of finance, and his willingness to vacate his office rather than comply with the unjust demand of M. Wilson. The article concludes with the following remarks:

"M. Sadi-Carnot has triumphed, and with him triumphs the principal of public probity. The example is striking. M. Sadi-Carnot has renounced power in not yielding to the corrupt influences of M. Wilson, who sustained himself upon M. Grevy.

"There is not a French heart that does not beat stronger when informed of this solemn manifestation, which will remain one of the grand facts of republican France. We do not exaggerate anything in sustaining this judgment, for the reason that this movement is particularly characteristic. It is significant above all because it closes pacifically, legally and constitutionally, the interior crisis the most dangerous that the republic ever had to traverse, and perhaps that it ever will be necessitated to go through.

"We specially insist upon this point, because ever since the commencement of the double crisis, ministerial and presidential, we are compelled ourselves to attest the strict legality in the movement of all the wheels of the political machinery on the part of ministers, of legislators, or of the people; and of the same we hold that even in the last act upon which the curtain has fallen, everything has passed off on the part of everybody concerned without any digression from the letter and spirit of the organic law. Mr. Grevy has said in his letter of resignation, that it should be 'his right and his duty to resist.' If he judged that it was his duty to resist, he was wrong in not so doing whatever might be the outcome. Affairs of conscience as to his right, in point of view strictly constitutional, there is not, in effect, in the constitution a single word which ordains him to retire himself before the expiration of his commission. He had the right to remain if it was his good will and pleasure, and he could not be discarded, but by a revolution. But not any more is there in the constitution a single word which ordains to statesmen to accept the position of ministers if they do not wish it; neither to a parliament to sustain a ministry instituted on the conditions that it repudiates. Now M. Grevy found it utterly impossible himself to constitutionally form a ministry that would be acceptable to the parliament, and comprehending that he could not govern without ministers he has found it 'wise and patriotic' to resign. Upon the whole, the elasticity of the constitution has permitted the pacific solution of a situation which might have easily turned into violence. This is not a mediocre commendation, and the example is much more precious than it teaches to the French people that, under the republican government, the confidence in the law is a much lighter lever than revolutionary violence.

"We state in conclusion, that a grand act of justice has been accomplished by the French nation. Justice here could not be contested, notwithstanding certain conditions which to indolent eyes, might pass for extenuating circumstances. One can, if one wish-

es, admit that Mr. Grevy has been misled by family sentiments and interest. Still at the last moment, when M. Grevy had resolved to quit the Elysee palace, it is reported that Madame Wilson prostrated herself at the feet of her father, in imploring him to not offer his resignation because that her husband would be ruined. This is very affecting as a 'scene d'interieur,' but this has nothing to do in the government of the Republic, and it is this precisely which distinguishes the republic from a monarchy. Where should be the difference otherwise? Interest of family or interest of dynasty and political interest are absolutely one and the same thing."

ENGLISH FREE TRADE.

THE decline of the financial prosperity of England during the last two decades has been marvellous, and yet it remains in a sense probably the wealthiest nation on the globe. It has enormous riches, and yet from the standpoint of political economy it is steeped in poverty, as every nation must be that is deficient in the ability or disposition to furnish the masses of its people with employment, and consequently with the means of subsistence. The distress of the working people has been so great within the Kingdom that committees of investigation have at different times been appointed to ascertain the cause of the unparalleled depression and, if possible, suggest a remedy.

It has been broadly stated in Parliament that free trade has been the chief cause of the rapid decline. The slightest intimation in that direction has invariably brought John Bright to his feet, who has, on various occasions, denounced those who have offered this view with tiger-like ferocity. Free trade is that statesman's tender point, he and the late Richard Cobden having been its chief champions in the days when it was struggling for prominence. The fierceness of Mr. Bright's denunciations of those who have sought to lay England's commercial depression to the introduction of free trade has been so vivid and passionate as to lead to the presumption that the old gentleman himself had a lurking suspicion that there was ground for the impeachment.

We have always held to the view that England's trade decline has been largely due to that cause. It is an opinion held by a number of the foremost political economists of that country. The reasons for entertaining it seem clear. Free trade must necessarily be disastrous to the nation that adopts it except on the basis of reciprocity on the part of other nations. England adopted the policy, but there has been but little reciprocation from the rest of the world. That should have been secured in the first place to the greatest practicable extent; although it is questionable whether the balance of the world could have been induced to enter in a permanent compact upon the question, and if it had circumstances would have arisen that would have formed excuses for the abrogation of reciprocal commercial treaties.

England was near the zenith of her prosperity when the policy was adopted, and she was as united as any nation could be to inaugurate it. It created for that country what is termed a "boom" in the first place, because it cheapened commodities of common consumption to the masses without any apparent diminutions in wages. For a time it kindled the fires of business prosperity, but the material ignited was mere shavings, doomed to extinguishment by as rapid a process as the flames flashed out. The movement lighted the fires of home industry in other countries, and goods were manufactured in various parts of the world in lines in which Great Britain had hitherto enjoyed a monopoly. Thus while she was taking a course to impoverish herself, she was conferring substantial benefits upon the rest of the world. Her own impoverishment resulted, as a natural consequence, in other countries supplying themselves with articles of immense consumption that she had heretofore supplied. To render the disaster still more complete she found competitors in other nations whose markets had been the main outlets for her productions; hence the curtailment of her exportation of manufactures has been enormous. In this regard England need never expect to regain the ground she has lost, because she is under the necessity of obtaining much of her raw material from those very countries which she formerly supplied with manufactured goods, giving them an insurmountable advantage in the process of made up articles, as well as the revenue on material in the rough.

It goes without saying that England's home market is necessarily a mere speck compared with the necessity for outside outlet for her wares, and even that is invaded by exterior competition. As an instance, when the writer was in England nine years ago American manufacturers of cotton puts were laying down in Manchester, the great mart for that commodity, goods in that line one-half of a cent per yard cheaper than the English makers could afford to sell it. This difference was partly offset, however, by a slight difference in quality in favor of the British article, but

there, as elsewhere, the cheaper product generally commands the market.

It will not be astonishing to those familiar with this subject to learn of the hundreds of thousands of cold spindlers, iron-workers, cutlers and other operatives being out of employment in the great cities of the "Little Isle," at a time. The immense demonstrations of myriads of starving work-people on Trafalgar Square, London, and in other populous parts of the Kingdom, are the natural results of the consequent depression of trade. The cry goes up from the throats of starving hosts, "We want bread or work." But one step further and the frightful threat of "bread or blood" will go up from the distressed poor, driven to desperation by want, and to frenzy at beholding the pomp and circumstance of affluence among the more favored of the people, the glittering ostentation being a mockery of their destitution.

There is no party or class desiring to precipitate upon this country a policy that would have such effects or anything approaching them as have fallen upon Great Britain. What is aimed at is a revision of the tariff, with a view to equalization and modification, to strike the medium line midway between two extremes, a conservative public financial policy being conducive to the prosperity of the commonwealth.

The battle cry of free trade raised by ultra republicans against their political opponents is decidedly disingenuous. It is untrue.

THE SPIRIT IN THE KNIGHTS OF LABOR.

THE organization of the Knights of Labor is troubled with a dissension within itself amounting to a schism. It is a colossal body altogether, embracing several hundred thousand members, and during the few years it has been in existence has shown symptoms of longevity and strength hardly to be expected from a society whose aim is and was keeping capital at bay and the wolf from their own doors, and having no creative resources except the direct contributions of those who belong to it. It has been a rather remarkable not to say incongruous blending of brains and brawn, the members being all practical tradesmen with little if any legislative experience, and the officers being shrewd and capable managers. It is this capability that lays the foundation for trouble, for such qualifications being rare are correspondingly high-priced, and thus the lauds subscribed by little are disbursed in great amounts, with nothing immediately tangible to show for the outlay. The members are not without sense and learning, if they are slow in the higher ranges of intellectual performance, and a costly leadership which produces no corresponding present or promised results is a cause for their proper and capable investigation.

Recently a movement was begun having for its object the two-fold purpose of a practical rebuke to those who controlled the Minneapolis convention a short time ago for shunting out the socialist element, and the bringing of the internal affairs of the organization to an accounting. The movement gathered head, and grows steadily day by day. Mr. Powderly, who is rapidly acquiring the distinction of being a theorist and not sufficiently practical in his learning or methods to properly lead a body of men who are all practical, has vainly endeavored to "check the conspiracy," and it seems as though he would soon find himself at the head of some of the Knights of Labor. He is a scholarly gentleman, full of logic and reasoning, quite rhetorical and argumentative, and he used his utmost endeavors and employed his best talents to convince the bolters that their policy was short-sighted and his the only one likely to take root and flourish. He pointed out to them how vain is the hope of acquiring recognition among the influential people of the world, or of having a respectable social standing anywhere or achieving permanent and healthful advancement if anarchy and its offshoots are to be received and assimilated by the order; and how impossible it is to have perfect organization with the consequent desiderata of prosperity, harmony and perpetuity without leaders whose task it is to devote their whole time to the welfare of the organization and look constantly after the routine of its business—all requiring vast sums of money which cannot in every instance be expended with such due reference to a strict accounting as would enable them to make an exorbitant short notice. All this goes for naught. The malcontents reply that they are not seeking social recognition or political influence; that their standing can only be determined by their possessions, and without a steady reliance upon the capitalist class that these are likely to be as they have all along been—just what they could get. In a word, they want less "style" and more provender, fewer words and more work. As to the expenditures, they are unable to see any resultant good from the enormous outlay of half a million dollars, and argue, not without some appearance of reason, that if such vast expenditure is to bring them in nothing of a substantially beneficial character, they