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IN THE GARDEN.

When the night comes down
Over field and town,
And hides all the flowers and meadow daisies,
I turn my eyes to the blossoming skies,
To the far-off gardens of Paradise,
The mistletoe boughs in the starry mazes,
The daisy borders, white and dense,
And the nebulous meadows of innocence;
To the radiant spots
Of forget-me nots,
The jasmine Harp; and twinkling down,
The anemones in the Northern Crown;
To the tiger-lily that nods and glows
In the crescent bed of the larger Lion,
The stars of Bethlehem and Sharon's rose,
And the great white river that heavenward goes,
And waters each plant and flower, then flows
Right on to the beautiful city of Zion;
And my heart is so filled with the wondrous view,
That it overflows in reverent praises,
And mourns no more for the violets blue,
For the roses sweet and the meadow daisies.

O. M. DICKINSON.

RUSSIA BEFORE EUROPE.

The success of the French Exhibition, which was lately closed, amounted to a sort of intoxication, and created a kind of indifference to the incidents of politics in Europe. Some of these incidents, however, have been such as to attract attention, and even to create a feeling of uneasiness amounting almost to anxiety. The Emperor of Russia lately spoke of the Prince of Montenegro as "his only faithful ally." These words had the effect of a thunderbolt in a blue sky. To speak of a chieftain who, in his mountains, can arm from ten to twenty thousand men only, as his sole ally, is to say that Russia needs no allies—that she is strong enough to resist all the forces of the triple alliance of Germany, Austria and Italy. Russia repeats now what Charles Albert once said: "*L'Italia fara da se.*" It is of no use denying the fact—the tension between Russia and Germany is daily increasing. Immediately after his father's death the young Emperor II. made a visit to Cronstadt and Peterhof, and when the question of returning this visit

came up, the Czar absolutely refused to make it with any pomp at Berlin; all he was willing to do was to see the German Emperor somewhere on his way to make his usual visit to the Danish royal family. His counselors, however, persuaded him to go to Berlin, and he went. The result of his visit to the German capital established that the advances made by William to Alexander have had no influence whatever. The Emperor of Russia is immovable in his determination to enter into no combinations, no alliances, no political arrangements with Prince Bismarck. He considers that his father made too many sacrifices to the ambition of Prussia, and was never rewarded for it; that the treaty of Berlin robbed Prussia of all she could expect in the East, after she had conducted her armies to the very gates of Constantinople. He is biding his time. Pacific and determined not to engage in any war, he believes that time works for him, and that he has no need of entering into direct hostilities with Austria nor with Prussia; that Pan Slavism is gradually doing the work of Russia, not only in the Balkan peninsula and the new-born principalities of Roumania, Bulgaria, and Servia, but even in the Slavic provinces of the Austrian empire. His policy has become a sort of masterly inactivity, which helps him better than any direct interference. It is a curious fact that whenever there have been Russian delegates and generals in Bulgaria and Servia there has been an outcry against Russia. As soon as the Russians leave these provinces Russian influence again becomes uppermost. It at present predominates in Servia, though the Regents are apparently completely independent.

Pan Slavism is a mysterious force. It addresses itself sometimes to reactionary, sometimes to revolutionary passion. Its chief support is the Greek religion. The metropolitans are everywhere the most powerful instruments of Russian ambition. Last September an incident occurred in Slavonia which made a great noise. The Emperor Francis Joseph of Austria reproved in strong terms, at the Castle of Bellovar, Bishop

Strossmeyer of Diakover, who had addressed a telegram to Kiew, on the day of the anniversary of Saint Vladimir, by whom Christianity was introduced into Russia. Bishop Strossmeyer spoke in his telegram of the destinies of Russia and of her great mission in the world. The opposition to Prince Ferdinand in Bulgaria is headed by the Metropolitan. The metropolitan of Servia was the chief adversary to King Milan, who represented the Austrian influence. The struggle between Austria and Russia in the Balkans is in reality a struggle between Catholicism and the great orthodox church. This rivalry underlies all the small incidents of daily politics.

The Emperor of Austria has found it necessary to make an indirect answer to the speech in which the Emperor of Russia asserted his friendship for the Prince of Montenegro. He has given a warning to all the Powers, in saying that "The situation of Europe continues to be little reassuring." While hoping that peace can still be long preserved, notwithstanding the great armaments which are continually increasing, he regrets that the resignation of King Milan of Servia has placed the power in the hands of a Regency during the minority of the young king. He expresses a hope that the prudence and patriotism of the Servians will preserve their country from grave dangers, and has some words of encouragement for Bulgaria, where order continues to reign, and where great progress is making, notwithstanding the difficult situation of the principality.

Nothing could be clearer than this language, guarded as it is. It is evident that all the dangers to which the Emperor of Austria alludes, the difficulties he speaks of have their origin in the policy of Russia and in the agitations of the Pan Slavist party. For a long time it seemed as though the word of Chancellor Gortschacoff after the Crimean war might be repeated. "*La Russia ne bends pas, elle se recueille.*" The great Northern Empire had a merely negative and defensive policy. For a long time after the Treaty of Berlin, the old policy of the alliance of the three Emperors did not seem quite abandoned, but Russia by degrees assumed a more independ-