

WAR ON THE RHINE.

A VETERAN'S VIEW OF THE FRENCH AND GERMAN ARMIES.

The Condition Existing in 1870 in Favor of Germany Will Aid France Should Hostilities Break Out—Hatred of Bismarck.

The writer passed some time in the French and German camps on the eve of the Franco-Prussian war. The popular feeling then was a good indication of what was to occur at the first provocation. Germany arose as one man; it arose for an idea, and France went as far as personal enthusiasm for a romantic figure could carry it and broke down when the imperial puppet was removed. There is an interesting field for study in the two nations to-day as they stand logically pitted against each other by reason of clashing traditions and opposing principles of government. There seems to be, however, a complete reversal of circumstances; and much that favored Germany in 1870 is not with Germany to-day, but is with France; and much that weakened France under the second empire is not with France to-day, but is with the rival empire across the Rhine.

Prussia has become the empire and the old opposition cry of 1866 against Bismarck—one man power—has come to full realization. The states have had union, a national sentiment and a national policy, and what do they think of them? The discontent of the people has not subsided; poverty has increased; emigration has gone on at a wonderful rate. The people turned away from loyalty to princes and nobility, the old tie that bound land and people and government, and their golden traditions are gone. Great estates have absorbed the land and the young have no home feeling and no incentive to love the native soil. There are many indications upon the surface to show a state of things far different to that of 1870. Experience has taught them that they have exchanged such liberties as their lazy and frivolous kinglets allowed them for a menial service to a mighty and all absorbing power that grinds on remorselessly, a power only great in itself and reducing all outside to a littleness more beggarly than before.

The Germans have stood for independence, progress in thought and the amelioration of man. But it is not many years since Bismarck sounded a warning note of another kind. It was not aimed at a foreign foe, but an internal one, namely: sensualism. He said that dissipation was sapping the manliness of the nation. All of that mighty force of human energy called up by the political agitations of Bismarck's early days turned from the noble channels of lofty endeavor to petty indulgence and base gratifications. The beer and music gardens conquered the all conquering Germans and their warmest friends have mourned over it. In another direction the energies of that powerful people were turned into fields of scientific discovery and Virchow and Buchner, not to mention Darwin and other outsiders, led the excited minds into all the dazzling mysteries of organic creation and development, and the destructive school of Bible critics at Stuttgart, with Bauer at the head, paved the way for a widespread materialism that has borne fruit in this age.

But in France all is national, all is fixed upon one idea, ultimately, and that idea destroys the possibility of any alarming spirit of neutrality or indifference. Legitimist, imperialist, republican or socialist, believe in France, and once France is exalted the factions can settle somehow which shall rule. This national ambition is not one of conquest, but looks only to the Rhish border, to Alsace and the old provinces where Germany stands in the way. The name of German brings up a spectre that all Frenchmen loyally hate.

Now the man of France who nurses this hatred of Germany is the citizen, the free and independent bourgeois. He is in the army and he stands today in the same relation to the struggle for nationality that his German counterpart did in 1870 toward the unification of Germany. The regular army of Germany is a body of conscripts, and made up of peasants who cannot evade the rigorous draft. This peasant conscript lives in the barracks and has all the traditions of imperial service to hold him to his work. He was a menial out of the army, and his pickel-haube and breech-loader makes him a man of consequence. Beyond what this boorish enthusiasm for a strong crown amounts to, Bismarck cannot hope for popular support outside of Prussia. The burglar or citizen element in the standing army is independent. It is voluntary in a sense, is self-sustaining, lives outside the barracks, and looks upon the service as an evil and a burden to be avoided. When this element comes to be summoned in the Landwehr for field duty, the crown must show good reason for its action or the Landwehr will not stand to its work. The brunt of battle in a new conflict with France will doubtless fall upon the ignorant peasantry of Germany, who can be held to their posts and will have a sort of brute enthusiasm, good so long as kept in motion. But Bismarck never yet won a fight with such material. In 1866 the Prussian schoolmaster whipped the Austrian boor at Sadowa. That was the boast of the time. In 1870 the schoolmaster and his enthusiastic young ally from the burgher class struck together for the unification of Germany at Sedan. Both then made way under the empire for a huge standing army of the most illiterate orders who could not escape by emigration, or get exemption through privileges open to the burgher class, and so the man in pickel-haube to-day is a peasant. His French antagonist will be a citizen whose heart is in his work, and whose nation is his God.—George L. Kilmer in New York Mail and Express.

Oldest Christian Church.

The oldest specimen of Christian architecture in the world is the Church of the Nativity at Bethlehem, which was built A. D. 327 by the Empress Helena, mother of Constantine the Great. An altar in this splendid basilica is said to mark the spot where were buried the 30,000 children massacred by order of Herod. Here also is a low vault, called the Chapel of the Nativity, with an inscription which says: "Here Jesus Christ was born of the Virgin Mary." The ancient church is now used by all sects alike, and it is in a state of great neglect. Adjoining it are Roman Catholic, Greek and Armenian convents, and connected with it is a chamber which was formerly the study of St. Jerome.—Boston Budget.

QUEER THINGS ABOUT MONEY.

A woman who bought an old fashioned bureau at a second hand store in Cincinnati discovered a secret drawer in it which contained \$1,000 in gold and old bank bills.

Money was so scarce in certain counties of southwestern Texas during the earlier part of the winter that in some instances the skins of javelina hogs were used as a circulating medium, and possum skins were frequently offered in liquidation of grocery bills.

Squire Royal, the tax collector of Taylor county, Pa., took out a well worn overcoat to sell to an old clothes man a few days ago and found \$100 in bills rolled up in a sheet of note paper. The squire is confident that the money is his own, but he has no recollection of having placed it in the pocket.

John Monroe, a young man living with his widowed sister in the northern part of Georgia, was digging a hole for a potato bin in his cellar the other day, when his spade broke open an earthen pot containing \$1,480 in gold. The coin had been buried by his sister's husband during the war and subsequently forgotten.

A Chicago gambler, who had been playing in hard luck, borrowed a counterfeit silver dollar from a friend and made straight for the nearest taro bank. He met with phenomenal success, and on quitting the game was \$121 ahead. As he was leaving the place he boasted of his trick, and was at once ignominiously kicked into the street.

Some months ago a lady living in Butler, Ga., through fear of the depredation of tramps, put \$110 in bank notes in a paste-board box and buried it in the yard near the wood pile. Last week she went out and found that box and bills had been badly mutilated by wood lice. She has sent the notes to the banks which issued them for redemption.

A young farmer in Des Moines county, Ia., who had saved up \$300 in bank bills, wrapped a piece of paper around them and stuck the roll up the chimney in his bedroom for safe keeping. One cold afternoon his mother put a stove in the room and built a rousing fire in it, and when the young man returned to supper only the charred remnants of the notes could be found.

ART AND ARTISTS.

Albert Bierstadt, the landscape painter, has begun a series of representations of Niagara Falls. He made a number of studies there last summer of parts of the falls, which he is painting separately.

The London Court Journal understands that for \$4,000 an American has purchased M. Yessup's picture of "Christopher Columbus," with the intention of presenting it to the New York museum.

Appropos of the Meissonier picture in the Stewart collection on exhibition in New York, here is a bon mot. The artist's age is known to be 73. Two ladies pause before the picture in a critical attitude, one says: "Meissonier, 1807. He must have been very young when he painted that!"

Mr. John A. Elder, a Richmond artist, is at Beauvoir, Miss., painting a portrait of Jefferson Davis. It represents him standing in the attitude of speaking, one hand extended, the other resting on the constitution, lying on the table, on which are his books and the sword he used in the Mexican war.

The celebrated portrait of Goethe, by Zischeln, painted at Rome in 1788, and the property of the late Baron Charles Rothschild, of Frankfurt, was bequeathed by him to his daughter, the Baroness Solomon Rothschild, of Paris. The baroness has just presented the picture to the Stadel art institute at Frankfurt on the Main.

Triumphs of "Modern Journalism."

The extraordinary disproportion constantly existing between the importance of a topic and the space devoted to it must strike every newspaper reader of ordinary intelligence. It is not so much that graver subjects are altogether neglected, as that frivolous, stupid or objectionable themes are thrust into absurd prominence by the side of affairs of weightiest moment. This deplorable tendency is observable even in such expensive luxuries as cable dispatches—not the sham messages manifestly concocted in this city, but those which bear internal evidence of genuineness and which cost money.

A cable dispatch in a New York newspaper often reads like a page from a London society journal—the emptiest and most contemptible of periodical publications. In the treatment of domestic news the same want of proportion, the same downward tendency is observable. The space occupied by trivialities and indecencies is preposterous. Whole columns are devoted to the vulgar horrors of prize fighters, the junketings of the lowest order of politicians, the drunken frolics of some worthless broker, the adventures of a miserable variety actress, the elopement of a stableman, dog fights, cock fights and every other kind of low vice and profligacy. And day by day the offense grows ranker. Only a short time ago no newspaper with the slightest pretense to respectability would have dared to print a line of the impurity with which, in these later days, whole pages are defiled. The editors have even crossed the sea in search of abominations greater than any yet exposed in our own courts of justice, and have published the details here, poisoning the moral atmosphere of the whole country.—New York Critic.

California Coolies' Lodging House.

One of the lodging houses, which holds nearly 1,000 persons, may be taken as a fair specimen of the coolie's way of life. The building, which was originally a four story structure, has been converted into double this number of floors. In the main hall on the top and lower floors are arrangements for cooking, and each lodger has the privilege of using the common fire. Adjoining this co-operative kitchen are the water closets, always out of repair, and it is no uncommon sight to see the Chinese standing on bits of brick and stone and placidly cooking, while the floor is covered with the overflow from the choked closets, and the atmosphere is like that of a huge cattle stable at the east when thrown open on a winter morning. The coolie seems to be able to live without air, for in the closets that serve as rooms in the great human hive there are never any means of ventilation, day or night. Yet the occupants appear to thrive, and if capacity to do hard work is a sign of health they are in good physical condition.—George H. Fitch in Cosmopolitan.

FREE STATE OF CONGO.

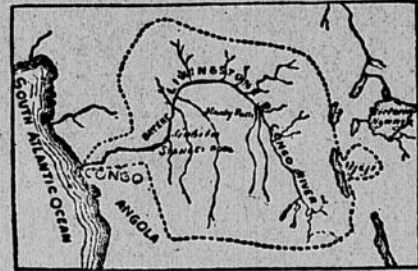
STANLEY'S AFRICAN STATE DOES NOT SEEM TO "GO."

A Territory Nearly Half as Large as the United States—Fabulous Fertility—Almost Unheard of Facilities for Fortune Making—Maps.

The lecture tour of Henry M. Stanley through the United States this winter has called attention anew to his work in Africa. The latest word is that the Free State of Congo, which owes its existence to him, is not panning out according to expectation. This is unfortunate indeed. It was the dream of Stanley to found a great nation, which should take in the whole basin of the Congo. A waterway 6,000 miles in length could with little expense be made navigable throughout. The territory thus included would embrace an area nearly half as large as the United States, a populous region of fabulous fertility. There are already nearly 43,000,000 people there.

France and Portugal had already established trading outposts and laid claim to some of the territory along the Congo. Native tribes one after another owned patches of the banks of the great river. On entering the country of every one of these tribes a new set of tolls had to be paid by the Congo navigators.

Stanley persuaded France and Portugal to cede to the Free State portions of their territory along the banks of the Congo.



MAP OF THE CONGO FREE STATE.

He next persuaded the isolated tribes to merge their interests into one government. The object of this was to do away at once and forever with the annoying river tolls and stoppages. Once belonging to one government throughout its entire length the Congo would be free to travelers and traders from mouth to source. Concessions to this effect were obtained and ratified.

It was under the auspices of King Leopold, of Belgium, that the state was founded. Something more was thought necessary to establish it on a firm foundation. Formal recognition of the new nation was deemed necessary from the governments of Europe and America. An official agreement with France and Portugal must "delimit" their boundaries and give the Free State full sway along the Congo.

African chiefs to the number of 450 had joined the International Association of the Free State of the Congo. There was considerable discussion in the United States congress at first about recognizing the new state. Our American law givers are not over wise about affairs outside of their own country. Gladstone brings it as an accusation against us that we turn our eyes inward to our own country and devote ourselves to getting rich, letting the rest of the world go to the dogs. It is a good way to keep out of trouble at any rate.

At length, April 10, 1884, congress passed a resolution authorizing the president to recognize the International African association on the Congo as one of the governments of the world. That set the ball rolling. The European powers speedily allowed, Nov. 15, 1884, assembled the Berlin conference of nations, to ratify the coming into existence of the Free State. The representatives of fifteen governments, the United States and the countries of Europe, guaranteed place and name to the new nation. Its water ways were to be free routes of trade to all peoples. Best of all, in all time to come there should be no traffic in slaves within its borders, and each power bound itself to prevent such traffic to the utmost of its ability.

So the new state was christened. The final sitting of the conference was on Feb. 26, 1885. The part the United States took in this important negotiation is a matter of pride to every American.



ACROSS THE DARK CONTINENT.

The second map shows better than any description what Stanley really did for civilization. The dark lines show his routes of travel. The death of Livingstone had left the work of that great explorer uncompleted. No traveler in Africa had finished entirely the task he had set out to perform. To finish the incomplete discoveries of Burton, Speke, Grant and Dr. Livingstone, Stanley, commissioned by The New York Herald and The London Telegraph, set out in 1871. He entered Africa on the east side at Zanzibar. Two years, eight months and twenty days afterwards he came out on the west side, at the mouth of the Congo or Livingstone river. He had traveled around the great lakes of Africa, established the sources of the Nile, threaded the Congo from its source to its mouth, and crossed the "dark continent" from east to west, being the first white man, probably the first white or black, to achieve any of these exploits.

It will be a matter of profound regret if the Free State does not get on well. A brave band of seven more missionaries have just started thither to join Bishop Taylor's band. They are persons in the trades and professions—comprising two carpenters, a physician, a miner and a farmer. The country teems with undeveloped riches, and fabulous fortunes have already been made there.

There is at least a prospect that the burning shelves and cases of the congressional library will be relieved, though quite how soon no man knows. The ground is being cleared for the new library building. It will stand just south of the Capitol, and will be a noble structure. Many homes will have to be taken away to make room for it. Among them is the now historic mansion that Mary Chamberlain owned and lived in.

SAMPLE ROOMS.

LIVERY STABLE ADJACENT.

PALACE HOTEL,

COOPERSTOWN, D. T.

This house is one of the most commodious between the Red and James River Valleys, and it will be the aim of the manager to make it a pleasant home for residents, and a convenient hostelry for the traveling public. The patronage of the public is solicited that the house may be kept up to a first class standard.

JOHN PASHLEY, PROP.

CARLOS.

No. 2486; Stud Book Society Hippique Percherone Grey. Foaled 1882, Imported 1885. Sired by Sandy (1079) 1930; he by Nogent (729) 738, he by Vidocq (732) 483; he by Coco II (711). His dam Favorite by Bayard (717) 26.

CARLOS stands 16.3-1-2 hands, and weighs 1720 lbs.; has very fine style and remarkable action. His bone is large, flat and clean, and his feet first-class in size, shape and quality of horn. In disposition he is gentle, and being well broken is easily handled by anyone. Has been tried and is a good server.

THE ABOVE HORSE WILL BE FOUND AT

LAWRENCE BROTHER'S STABLE.

COOPERSTOWN, DAK., at all times during the season.