

tal, the receptions and banquets may be counted upon being executed without a hitch. The illuminations are the best side of the rejoicings. The red, white, and yellowish celluloid globes, lit up by electricity, and forming festoons and triumphal arches are superb. As to the display of flags they are more profuse than tastefully arranged; they have the advantage to be all new, but the Russian and French tricolors, of the same hues, only differing in the coloured bands being one vertical (the French) and the other horizontal, rather confuses and lessens effect. The grouping of bouquets of flags was not happy, nor was it relieved by originality. Plethora is not art. It was a grave mistake to introduce paper flowers to ornament leafless trees.

The Czar's going to pray in the Russian Church, before commencing his peregrinations in detail, has been much remarked and approved of. During the voyage, from the magnificent farewell paid him by the British, it was noticed that when the Royal Squadron which escorted the Imperial yachts till they were taken charge of by the French warships, a rainbow suddenly beamed out; rainbows also appeared during the remainder of the voyage. May such prove a happy omen for the three nations. The review of the French fleet at Cherbourg will have its corollary in the military review at Chalons, where samples of the several services of the army will be shown the Czar, even the native troops—Turcos and Zouaves—from Algeria have contributed their quota to the grand gathering of the extra autumn manoeuvres of 100,000 men. Between these, the laying of the foundation stone of the "Pont d'Alexandre III," an output of the International Exhibition, and the big picnic in the Palace of Versailles will be the crack intermediary events. The fetes have brought two millions of visitors to Paris, chiefly provincials; disappointment or surprise is felt that, relatively speaking, so few foreigners have come. It was a worthy treat for sightseers. As to hotels they are overcrowded, and it is to be hoped the supply of provisions will not run short. Glory on an empty stomach is serious. The French, publicly as well as privately, have gone to much expense to entertain and welcome their guests. The rejoicings had to be kept within bounds, as they were organized by the State, the population being allowed to conditionally cut in. It will remain one of the most striking events of the age.

Since the hob-nobbings between Napoleon I and the Czar Alexander I in 1808 at Erfurt, the French and Russians never indulged in such mutual admiration as at present. How long will the unity last? So long as its aim is confined to maintaining the peace of Europe. It has ruled out the abominably selfish policy of Bismarck; to keep France isolated and England and Russia at loggerheads. That was sowing the wind, for the trend in his nefarious policy will recoil on Germany in the end. If Russia has France, England has Italy, and since the Balmoral interview the Czar is now aware of the succession of intrigues, by some powers, to keep England isolated and push her into some rash revolution, the better to expose her to a coalition of enemies. But Lord Salisbury has not been caught by that chaff; he remains working in with the other central powers, while never sacrificing one jot of his country's independence or liberty of action. By a good understanding with Russia the two great powers can rule the world in peace, because their interests command that Britain can well give her consent to the occupation of Constantinople by Russia in exchange for the whole Nile valley and a free highway between the Black Sea and the Mediterranean; while France, instead of fiddling the score of "evacuation of Egypt," ought to rosin her bow and stick to scraping "Partant pour la Syrie," as a compensation.

Though the Sultan knows his fate is in the hands of the Czar and of Lord Salisbury, it is expected he will not perform the happy dispatch, and the occupation by the powers of his chief seaports means the partition of his empire. It must in the end come to that; he will never reform; Russia will never be content till she has Constantinople; England will never quit the Nile valley, and no power will declare war to trip up the waiting game the two powers are playing. It is the political aspect of the alliance between France and Russia that engrosses attention. Signed now, it cannot alter the issues aimed at; it cannot mean attacking any power that would break the peace and every diplomatic plan of campaign will, when interests are in jeopardy, call forth counter plans. The form of government in France does not

concern the Russians one straw; they note what can be her potency to aid the advance of their country for peace or for war. That was the great discovery made and acted upon by the late Czar, and which has reined in Germany; his son has made an equally invaluable find; the importance of an *entente cordiale* with England. Perhaps opinion does not give Russia sufficient credit for her desire to develop her industrial resources and to find an output for them in the general markets of the world. Russia is an agricultural country, she is now determined to become a centre of the industries. This is visible by any person who visits her instructive exhibition at Nini-Novgorod, which has succeeded this year's annual fair. Manufacturers would do well to study that show, of which the idea alone is a revelation. Fifteen years ago all the cotton consumed in Russia was imported; to-day one-third of that raw material comes from her own Central Asia and the Caucasus. In 1893 her cotton outputs amounted to one milliard of francs, one-third greater than in 1883. Her productions of wool, petroleum, coal, salt and cast iron, have also marched in seven-league boots; she commences to suffice for her own wants, but she lacks opening-up railways. No matter what political cyclones may burst upon Europe, Russia will be secure in her Asiatic strongholds.

The Russian fêtes and their hurly-burly over, the works of the 1900 Exhibition will be at once proceeded with; quite a regiment of navvies is ready to fall in with pick and spade. The foundations, as in all buildings, are the longest and the heaviest part of the labours. The superstructure will not be tedious, as all the materials will arrive ready prepared, exacting only fitting into position. A fresh infusion of glory-spirit has taken place, due to the Czar's visit, and the expectation that he will come to open the 1900 World's Fair, will keep brains and hands well occupied. The idea—though the intention be excellent—of giving out slices of the works to syndicated artisans is not very popular. But all attempts to solve the social problem merit experiment.

Paris, Oct. 7, 1896.

\* \* \*

### Field, Forest and Stream.

PASSING down by steamer recently from Sarnia to Detroit I was very much struck by the great and yearly increasing difference between the two banks of the St. Clair river. The Canadian side has evident natural advantages over the other, but it is almost entirely devoid of objects of interest, while on the United States side there is quite a succession of summer cottages and summer hotels, most of them picturesque in appearance and many of them set off by a background or an environment of trees. On asking for an explanation of this difference I was told by one local resident, that the unprogressive shore is in part an Indian reserve, and by another that there is no more difference between the shores there than there is all along the St. Lawrence from Brockville to Duluth. "On the one side you see," said my informant, "activity and prosperity, while on the other you see repose and stagnation, if not decay. Compare Brockville with Ogdensburg, Port Hope with Rochester, Fort Erie or even St. Catharines with Buffalo, Port Dover with Cleveland, Amherstburgh with Toledo, Windsor with Detroit, Sarnia with Port Huron, the Canadian with the United States Sault Ste. Marie, Port Arthur or Fort William with Duluth. The difference is quite as marked now as it was when Lord Durham dwelt on it with emphasis almost sixty years ago in his 'Report.' You will get but a poor idea of the contrast, if you limit your observation to a few miles of the St. Clair river."

Though there may be a good deal of force in this way of putting the case, and in the implication that the difference is due to causes that are as deep-rooted as they are widespread, I cannot see any necessity for leaving the Canadian shore of the St. Clair so entirely bare of trees. If they were planted in suitable places they would soon add very much to the beauty of the river without sensibly lessening the area of land available for cultivation. It is quite probable that the absence of trees has more to do with the absence of summer resorts than anything else has, for the Canadian