

manners and philanthropical inclinations. They seemed to have no connexion with Mr. Brand or his agents, and to be moved only to unwonted liberality by zeal for Liberal principles. One of these kind-hearted gentlemen would visit a "public" and distribute largess like an unseasonable Santa Claus, several months out of his reckoning. When the trial came on, the sitting member's counsel could afford to despise the evidence of this. "What have we to do with that?" or "we are not responsible for this," was his triumphant exclamation when it was produced. Unfortunately one paltry half-sovereign was traced indirectly to an agent, and Mr. Brand lost his seat. It may, perhaps, be a matter of surprise, that a town situated about midway between the episcopal cities of Gloucester and Bristol should be so depraved. Dr. Ellicott, the Bishop, can hardly have paid proper attention to this crookedly ingenious people, and it might not be amiss if, for sometime to come, he made a slight *détour* from the main line to Stroud, when passing from one of his cathedrals to the other.

The French Assembly met on November the Thirtieth, to renew the interminable war of words in which Gallican deputies appear to delight. The hope of any definitive settlement of constitutional questions is farther removed than ever. The projected alliance between the two Centres has again proved abortive. Nothing remains, therefore, but to shriek at the top of the voice, and to brandish fists in the unsympathetic faces of opponents. Marshal McMahon's message did not make its appearance until the fourth day of the session. It would appear the President and General de Cissey had quite as much as they could do to manage the Cabinet, so numerous were the difficulties they encountered in framing the *pronunciamento*. As it emerged from the crucible, it appears a tolerably forcible and well-tempered instrument, The Septennate

only exists, we are told, "as a means of social defence and national recovery." Whether it may continue to be necessary for these laudable purposes until 1880 appears to be of no consequence; necessary or not, helpful or obstructive, the Marshal will occupy his position "till the last day with immutable firmness, and scrupulous respect for the law." Death is an element which does not appear to enter into the horoscope of the future. As for the constitutional laws, we presume the very notion of them has been abandoned. That impracticable marplot, the Count de Chambord, has taken order for their defeat, should they be presented. In a letter to the Extreme Right, he implores them not to do anything which might imperil the restoration. In other words, they are to keep the French people in a state of unrest and turbulence until, worried with seeking rest and finding none, they throw themselves, from sheer pain and exhaustion, at the feet of the Bourbon. Then again there is every possibility of a breach in the Republican party. The result of the municipal elections shows that M. Gambetta has been at his old tricks. His admirers found proof of his sound statesmanship in the reticence he preserved during last session, and the readiness with which he swore fealty to M. Thiers and the Conservative Republic. That is all over now; the Southern blood has simmered up again, and Radicalism has been stimulated into triumph at the municipal elections. The immediate result will be that the *bourgeoisie* and the rural population, disappointed in their expectations touching the Republic, will fall back into the arms of Imperialism. At all events, the outlook just now is less encouraging than it has been at any time since the establishment of the Marshalate.

Of Spain, there is nothing new to be said. At the last moment, however, we learn Iberian affairs have entered upon a new and important phase. Alfonso, the son of