

late Rev. Mr. Rothwell, for many years rector of Amherst Island, near Kingston. Though indented with prominent American interests, he is evidently free from that bias which sometimes distorts the vision and disappoints the aims of the great movers of opinion in the United States. Our great neighbour has, in common with our mighty mother, one indivisible interest, far above the plane of tail-twisting politics, in settling the value of the small coin of the commonwealth of industry. *Parva Diva moneta* is the divinity of the hour. Mr. Rothwell hopes for his scheme general acceptance on the continent of Europe. Such a result will be certainly desirable. Its proportions, however, will satisfy the English-speaking confederacy of nations if confined to their respective countries. It will be the herald of better and greater things, the full significance of which it is impossible to estimate.

J. BAWDEN.

A BUDDHIST'S REVERIE.

O swift-winged time,
Bearing to what unknown estate—
What silent clime,
The burden of our fleeting years,
The story of our smiles and tears,
And lifelong fate.

O vanished days!
Their golden light can none restore?
Those sovereign rays
That set o'er Western seas to-night,
This tranquil moon that shines so bright
Have paled before,
Returning in their time—but oh!
The radiant light of long ago
Returns no more.

This little Pearl
Of water born, shall year by year
Imprison in its tiny sphere
These fleeting tints, whose mystic strife
And shadowy whirl
Of colour seem a form of life;
Nor ever shall their sea-born home
Dissolve in foam;
But this frail build of love and trust
Sinks into dust.

J. W.

PARIS LETTER.

The Siamese question is viewed as removed out of the sphere of international complications, the sole point that opinion was interested in. Might being right—when was it ever otherwise—in Cathay as in Europe, Siam at once knuckled down. By so doing she has saved herself from being absorbed by France—and England, while sparing the world a probable big war. After all, France in point of territory gains little, while Siam will be all the better in consenting to France's occupying her hinterland and its wild tribes. It is an additional burden for France, and means an expenditure of more men and money. An increase in her commerce in Cochinchina would pay her better than an augmentation of territory. They are the Germans, Chinese, and English, that monopolize the trade of France in her own colonies in the Far East. It is to be presumed that there will be no difficulty in raising the blockade, when Siam has accepted the full ultimatum of France, and the latter is at liberty to occupy the ceded territory by Siam. As to the cash compensation of two millions of francs, the money can be readily obtained with the Bangkok customs dues. Siam is now secured in her independence by England and France, so has no need of a navy or an army beyond what is necessary

for police and general order wants. The King still reigns over a territory double the area of the British Isles, and has nearly seven millions of subjects more or less loving. And the exportation of rice by English firms, and the importation of British goods, will be brisker than ever, as the Siamese escape expense and headaches for the future, respecting the Cambogians and Annamites. France for the police, England and Germany for the trade.

Rivers are a moving highway, and so long as the Mekong remains free, international traders need not give themselves any trouble whether the road be the platonic property of France or Siam. The main point is to keep it open and exempt from revenue-making taxes. The mouth of the river will be of little commercial value, if the head waters leading into the Chinese markets cannot be controlled. English Burmah sending spurs into the river, and so protecting its free navigation and open to all, is a salutary check on prohibitive transit rates, for the latter can be met by reprisals still more prohibitive. It is then not clear what advantage France obtains, so long as she cannot land-lock the watery way. There can be no difficulty then in the frontiers between Tonquin and Burmah—some 200 miles being delimited between France and England. It should not be forgotten, that the peninsular shape of French Indo-China leaves it at the mercy of any maritime power. As to the Chinese claim for their part of the Mekong, the Celestials may be entrusted to look after their frontiers, and what is the profit and loss of the whole imbroglio? Security of Siam from being "protected," an increased naval force on the part of England in the Far East waters, always equal to that of France and Russia united; augmented drainings on men and money for France, and a powerful push given to English public opinion towards the Triple Alliance. The Siam question will have no effect on the general elections; there is not much glory in compelling Siam to capitulate while England controls the free navigation of the Mekong, and the blockade has no *raison d'être*.

There is no electoral fever in the country and but very few quasi-public meetings. As for the poster professions of faith placarding walls, they attract chiefly from the diversity of the colors of the paper; all the gamut of shades has been utilized. Disraeli observed, that in his parliamentary career he listened to many speeches that had changed his convictions, but never his vote. Neither poster, speech nor journal, will alter the minds of the voters. The latter are of two classes, the extremes and the moderates. The advanced candidates do not regain lost ground, and they remain in the clouds; up in a balloon, in a word. The moderates are definite and practical; state what can be effected by legislation. They promise no slices of the moon, and avoid wind-bagism as if the cholera. They admit the right of converted monarchists to rally to the constitution, for there is liberty of conscience in France. Their sincerity will not be kept long untested. Those who desire to remain monarchists, can do so, but they must state the fact this time for the constituencies. No more hoodwinking the voters, no more putting the flag in the pocket. The Comte de Paris is expending heavy sums of money to keep his party afloat—being fossils they sink. As for the Bonapartists, they are never mentioned and in any case are as poor as church mice. The

Socialists do not appear to be in danger; they rant and foam, but such will disappear in the ballot boxes. The closing of the Labour Exchange for sedition and disobedience of the law, has been a terrible blow to the wild politicians. Now they have nowhere to lay their heads, and their thunder is of the stage kind. Demagogues must be converted in order to live.

The maintenance of a Russian squadron in the Mediterranean will be a conclusive reason for England there augmenting her fleet, tightening her grip on Gibraltar and bestowing more attention on Tangiers and Ceuta. Not that the Russian navy is a serious foe; its boys in blue are marched directly from the plough to the mast. The Russians would have to depend on France for a harbour of refuge, and that only for twenty-four hours, if France and England were at peace. That move of Russia will not facilitate the British evacuation of Egypt.

M. Charles Malo is one of the most authorized writers on military questions in France. Examining the new military law just voted in Germany, he says, "it is a weapon of the most redoubtable character that was ever made." He adds, that France has her last man now enrolled in her system of conscripts, while Germany can add 231,000 more soldiers to her army every year than France. Further, the increase in the male population in Germany is double that of France so that by the end of the present century the reserves of France will be one half less than those of the Teuton. Solution for Frenchmen—*increase and multiply.*

The weary season has set in of distributing the annual prizes at the lycées and collèges to the "big, bigger, and biggest gooseberries;" the floods of oratory on these occasions are torrential. However, it makes the young people happy—and their parents—to return home with a cab laden with gorgeously bound premium books, and crowns, and diplomas. This sad fact—for France—has been demonstrated this year at the general competition of the prize pupils of all the collèges—that where physical exercises were most cultivated, that has led to a serious falling away in intellectual ability.

A globe-trotter who has resided in Siam, supplies some interesting facts respecting Bangkok. The principal thoroughfare is "Oriental Avenue." There is neither theatre, concert, nor any place of amusement in the capital; only at the clubs and legations can Europeans meet. English manners and customs dominate; the sole European drink is "whisky and soda;" breakfast at ten, tiffin at two, supper at nine. Clothing, as far as possible approach the state of nature ideal. The cab regulations are curious; a vehicle with two fast trotting little ponies, is ten francs; the driver, if he runs over any pedestrian, incurs no penalty, as the inhabitants are bound to keep out of the way. The military band plays every afternoon; the national anthem of Siam is "God Save the Queen." Then there is a variation on the Russian hymn, and an "O'er the hills and far away."

The animal world has been very much to the fore these last few days. The "kangaroo boxer" has been travelling between Marseilles and Paris, looking for its owner, and the latter for the pugilist. The railway company not knowing what to do with it send the boxer to the Zoo Gardens, as a pound. When the