

are the great excess of criminals in the population of Irish birth who have immigrated to England, and the great excess of females to males among the criminals from Scotland, Wales, and Ireland, especially the latter. The proportion of criminal females to males of English birth is about one-third women to two-thirds men, the Welsh and Scotch are about half of each, while the Irish amount to three-fifths women to two-fifths men." Now, the Irish and the Gladstonians assert that the object of the Crimes Bill is to diminish political freedom, but manifestly there is among the Irish something worse than political freedom to coerce.

EUROPEAN politics are just now an interesting study. For months past Europe has seemed to be on the eve of great events, yet the great events do not come, although every day shows that so deep rooted is the quarrel among certain of the Great Powers that probably nothing but an explosion and the defeat of one or the other can settle matters. The Slavophil party in Russia see in the rise of the German Empire an obstacle to the spread of Russian influence and power; the French see in it the loss of two provinces, and, worse still, of the prestige which is as the breath of life to France. Germany, her very existence menaced on either hand by these two Powers, now certainly in alliance for a common object, gathers allies about her for defence, as best she may, and can only await events, hoping that in the chapter of accidents the opposed alliance may be broken up, or one of the allies become so engaged that the other may be settled with alone. Any complication that would absorb the attention now bestowed by France or Russia on Germany would be most welcome to Prince Bismarck; with Russia especially engaged elsewhere, he could not afford to miss the opportunity to struggle out of his present difficulty. Germany is menaced with very serious danger—danger which is constantly increasing, and which will tax all Prince Bismarck's astuteness to avert. He has seemed disposed to yield very much to Russia in the Bulgarian dispute, to conciliate her; but it is hard to see how when it comes to the point he can consent to the strengthening and aggrandisement of so determined an enemy to Germany, by giving her Constantinople, which, moreover, will not remove the animosity of the Slav towards the Teuton. His patience has limits, as shown by the recent financial war against Russian credit in Berlin. Through the newspapers there he has poured red-hot shot into the financial resources of Russia, and has by this simple device fairly crippled his threatening enemy, a feat which, performed at a critical juncture, we take to be one of the most skilful even of Prince Bismarck's many achievements.

FRANCE on its part is a brooding volcano. The National Fete day passed off in quiet, only because the Paris mob saw unmistakeable signs that the Government had made up its mind to disperse any rising with gunpowder. The Radicals, who send to Paris a third of the Deputies and are in a great majority in the larger cities of France, mean war with Germany, and they are at open feud with the present Moderate Republican Government. An accident may any day overturn this Government; the Right, by whose grace it is maintained in power, are half inclined to step aside and let the threatened Revolution loose. They are restrained, however, by the knowledge that a revolution would probably mean foreign war, and if the war proved successful the Radical régime that carried the country to success would be immoveably rooted in popular esteem. Then good-bye to the hopes of the Right, the Legitimists and Bonapartists—the Monarchists of all kinds, whose fight of kites and crows with the Republicans now makes up the internal history of France, and perhaps saves her from rushing to destruction. In her disappointment and sullen jealousy France has repelled from her side every Power that might help her, every natural ally she has, for the sake of allying herself with the one that hates Germany most. This is the bond of sympathy between Russia and France, two Powers whom history and tradition would place—the one as oppressor, the other as friend, of Poland—in opposite camps. Spain, more perhaps than any other Power, is a natural ally of France. She could give France invaluable help in her projects on the Southern shore of the Mediterranean; and not being a Great Power, of whom France is therefore jealous, nor having manifested the least desire to interfere in Egyptian questions, it is to Spain that France might be disposed to entrust the military custody of the Suez Canal. Yet even Spain has not altogether escaped the effects of the pervading ill temper and jealousy of French statesmanship, and has been perhaps by this time forced in self-defence into the Central European alliance against France. But the hatred felt toward England by France is the most remarkable feature of the present situation. England has done nothing since Waterloo to deserve such hatred. It is hardly possible that it has been excited wholly by events in Egypt, which indeed are rather a pretext than a cause for hostility. Yet it would seem that France would

rather go to war with England than with the Power that has brought all this disgrace upon her. Perhaps she feels that in case of defeat she would not suffer as much from England as from Germany, who, victorious, will certainly "bleed her white" once for all, and so end this agony for a generation or two. The only cause, in fact, for French hostility to England is the consciousness that France has lost first place among European nations, while England, in spite of internal trouble, goes on prosperous. It is her loss of prestige that galls proud France; and this might be recovered in a war with England without the danger attendant on one with Germany. Certainly the lost provinces would not be recovered; but if France could regain some of her prestige, by any means, she would be in a better position as regards Alsace and Lorraine, whose loss indeed would not be so much felt were the greater wound to French honour healed.

THE Sultan is reported to desire to re-open the Anglo-Egyptian Convention negotiation; and we suppose if he is ready now to ratify it in the form that was agreed upon, there would be no insuperable objection to his doing so. But no changes in its provisions can be made, changes which have no doubt been prompted by France and Russia. The Convention was agreed upon between England and Turkey, and England's demand for its ratification was supported by Germany, Austria, and Italy, that is by all the peaceful powers of Europe, whose goodwill for Turkey is thoroughly sincere, while it was opposed by France and Russia, the only two aggressive States in Europe. A consideration of the character of the two groups of Powers ought to have been sufficient to determine the Porte to ratify the Convention; but if, in its weak state, it choose to lean upon so infirm a prop as the friendship of two such powers as France and Russia, no one will be to blame but itself when the natural consequences follow.

It appears from the text of the Convention that, contrary to the general impression, Turkey, instead of having a joint right with England to re-occupy Egypt with troops in case of "external danger, internal disorder, or failure of the Khedive in his duties as a vassal," had an independent and prior right of interference, for reasons some of which, as in the last of the three cases mentioned, could hardly affect England at all; and the Porte thus had conferred upon it by the Convention a right of independent interference in Egypt which it has in fact, though not in theory, entirely lost. The first annex to the Convention declares that the refusal of any Mediterranean Power to agree to the Convention before the expiry of three years shall be held to constitute "a danger from without," and so to justify the postponement of evacuation. This is the actual position; and while France refuses to agree to this Convention, "a danger from without" exists which will prevent England from evacuating the country. Reviewing the correspondence published with the Convention the *Times* says:—"On January 15th of the present year, Lord Salisbury summed up the result of the twelve months of discussion that had already taken place, and placed on record the unalterable resolution of Her Majesty's Government 'in no circumstances to leave Egypt to the danger of renewed anarchy, or to accept as an admissible contingency that the void left by the retirement of our troops should be filled by the forces of any other Power.' That despatch clearly indicated the limits of the concessions which it is possible for this country to make without immediate dishonour and disaster, and the history of the subsequent negotiations is simply a history of sedulous efforts on the part both of France and of Turkey to push us beyond these limits. Our right of re-entry in case of external menace or internal disorder was represented by the Turkish diplomatists as an infringement of the sovereign rights of the Sultan—an amusing contention in view of the fact that he owes to this country every vestige of real authority that remains to him in Egypt as well as every guarantee he possesses for the payment of his tribute. The French, on the other hand, have been equally bent upon obtaining an unconditional promise to evacuate on an early date. They absolutely ignore the conditions in which this country is placed, and do not condescend to anything that can be dignified with the name of argument. Frenchmen do not like to see Englishmen in Egypt, therefore Englishmen are to walk out at once. That is all that the French representations come to, and it is pretty evident that the principle involved—*ste-toi que je m'y mette*—is capable of the most far-reaching application.

REFERRING to Mr. Gladstone's oft-repeated declaration that in the matter of the Irish question he has the whole civilised world with him, the *Allgemeine Zeitung*, of Munich, says: "From our countrymen in the United States we know what difficulties there, also, are thrown in the way of a prosperous, social, and political development of things by the Irish revolutionary element. On American as well as on its native soil it rebels