

that the muscles of the women are encased in enormous masses of natural fat. The huts are built with the bones of seals, and the floor is covered with skins of various animals. By a sardine-box-plan of packing, a hut which is built only for three persons, accommodates twelve. An agriculturist has been brought from Germany to instruct the people in the culture of the soil; he has commenced by sinking artesian wells.

The doctor, who is a Frenchman, believes there is an excellent future for the Germans in their new colony, which is fairly rich in mineral wealth, iron and copper especially. Children of European parents, if born there, can also be reared. Climate for a colony is almost everything, and the most powerful stimulant to tenacity. He does not believe in connecting Angra with the Congo, the district between 1570 miles, being devoid of water and full of obstacles. Nor can any great resources be expected from agriculture, owing to the winds and natural drought. By planting cypress trees as a protection, they would afford shelter for kitchen gardening. Germany could convert Angra into a coaling and victualling station for her navy; it could be protected at a little expenditure.

AFTER the revocation of the Edict of Nantes, quite a colony of the Huguenots settled down in Brandenburg, and formed, till fifty years ago, quite a French colony in Berlin. Prussia—like other countries—was only too happy to receive the refugees, who represented the cream of the commercial and industrial intellect of France. The welcome made to the banished by the royal family of Prussia is one of the brightest pages in the history of the Fredericks. At present this French element is completely blended with the rest of the population, and can only be traced in a few remnants of traditions. The absorption has been slow, for the exiles being Celts, had all the tenacity of that race, plus the severity of their own Calvinism.

Up to 1813, the descendants of the French Pilgrim Fathers could be distinguished in the streets of Berlin by their small stature, brown eyes, quick and nervous movements—clearly indicative of their Provençal origin. At that epoch, too, several families in Berlin spoke French as in the days of Louis XIV., displaying that talent of conversation—half grave, half serious, which we call *causerie*. But similarly as in Louisiana, the French colony has been absorbed in the nation by which it is surrounded. Several descendants of the Huguenots have inherited the special gift of their family—as the Ancillon, the Naudé, the Achard, the Erman, etc., in the departments of theology, philosophy, the physical and mathematical sciences. Singular coincidence—the conqueror of France in 1870-71, Kaiser William himself, has Huguenot blood in his veins. Louise, daughter of Coligny, was the fourth wife of William of Orange, and grandmother of the first wife of the Grand Elector, Louise Henriette. The latter's son was the first king of Prussia.

BERLIN is not a pretty city, but its inhabitants love it not the less, as a mother doats most on a malformed child. Before the war of 1870-71 made Germany an empire, Berlin, the empire city on the Spree, was only viewed as the capital of Prussia. Other cities were capitals and centres of attraction previous to 1866, as Hanover, Dresden, Darmstadt and Karlsruhe; now these have to hide their diminished heads in presence of Berlin. Hence, their hatred, their antipathy for that city, which has reduced them to inferiority and cut out their traditions. Bismarck himself is suspected to sympathize a little with these views; at least he resides in Berlin only during the time necessary to govern Germany—and a little the rest of Europe also, after which he is as eager to decamp as a boarder for school vacation.

Signor Verpucci, of Turin, has just visited Germany after an absence of twenty years. He finds Berlin so changed as to be absolutely a new city; Baron Haussmann's spirit has passed there; new streets have been made, old ones improved; light, air, and cleanliness everywhere. True, its streets want animation; all is as peaceful and as grave as in the days of Frederick II. In travelling through Germany, "we do not like Berlin!" is a household word. "See Rome and Naples and then die"—"All good Americans go to Paris after death," are proverbs. People will save up money to visit London, Paris, Rome, etc., the capitals of their native lands; but no such idea ever comes into the head of a provincial German respecting Berlin.

The vivacity of Paris cannot be expected certainly in Berlin: the *vivacita parigi*, is a flower which will not bear transplanting. Happily, the Berliners themselves are proud of their city, and believe their provincial fellow countrymen do not possess a tithe of their natural gifts. This affectation of superiority is more highly resented in the case of Berlin, especially by the eclipsed rivals, than is generally done by provincials against the head centres

PRESIDENT CLEVELAND AND PARTY GOVERNMENT.

MINDFUL of Canadian indifference to our internal politics, and of their little worth, in the mass, as objects of serious attention, I venture only to sketch broadly such aspects of the situation as may aid us to answer those questions of universal interest: Where are we? Whither are we going?

Our present circumstances, nationally considered, are, on the whole, comfortable. Trade is fairly active, wages good, and profits some degrees above the vanishing point. The swollen pretensions of the working classes, or those who presume to speak for them, have materially abated; the just claims of capital find protection in the extension of the principles of trades-unionism to the employing classes, and the deeply-seated legal instincts of the people have armed the law with sufficient power and vitality to deal successfully with manifestations of violence and irrationality that were but lately flagrant and alarming. The danger that impended over our commercial and industrial stability a year ago, through the steady substitution of silver for gold in the public treasury, under the operation of the Bland Act, has been averted by skilful management of the national finances, and time gained for the ripening of public opinion toward a suspension of the silver dollar coinage till juster relations can be established between the two precious metals. A long and sterile session of Congress is closing amid freedom from scandalous jobbery or serious injury to any of the great interests or industries. The purification of the civil service, by separating it from the arena of partisanship, is slowly but surely gaining ground, and the friends of the reform find solid reasons for encouragement and hope. People have been taught by a cheering experience that the Government may be as safely entrusted to one as the other of the great parties, and thus new guarantees have been won for good administration of public affairs. The "Solid South" has disappeared in the numerous contentions that have divided Congress upon any lines other than those that mark the boundary between the loyal and insurgent States of the Civil War. The body of voters that holds itself aloof from partisan ties in the dearth of real partisan issues, and thus restrains the corrupt dispositions of professed politicians, has grown in size and determination, and is helping to carry the nation safely through the long period of transition. The aggregated corporate power that but a few years ago seemed so threatening, has been greatly broken, and looks as though it is as susceptible to the law as its later rival, the boycott. Altogether, we have much reason, during our coming respite from political agitation, to rest and be thankful.

In respect of the future, the most disquieting feature is the steady decline of the Senate in tone and *morale*, and in the public esteem and confidence. None of our political essayists have yet ventured to tell us how the Constitution is to continue to work should the Senate greatly and permanently descend from the high character and respect it has hitherto enjoyed. To-day a formidable minority of its membership consists of men for whom seats have been bought by great corporations, or of millionaires who have bought seats for themselves; and the elements of this minority act together, and can block or shape legislation as desired by themselves or their masters. As the influence of the Senate lessens from these causes, the public interest is left more and more to the keeping of the House of Representatives, which is already disabled from doing much else than to pass the annual appropriation bills that keep the indispensable wheels of Government in motion; the time and energies of the members being chiefly spent in foisting improper persons into the public employments, and performing lowly services for constituents before the Departments and bureaux at the capital.

The incorrupt but still hurtful incapability of the House to perform useful legislative functions results, at the present time, largely from the views of duty entertained by President Cleveland. The Democratic party has a good working majority in the House, and is likely to retain it during the remainder of the Presidential term. At the National Convention, in 1884, it was resolved that the legislative work of the party should consist in reducing taxation, revising the tariff, creating more intimate commercial relations with the peoples of North, South, and Central America, and in promoting honest civil service reform. In connection with this declaration of legislative duties, Mr. Cleveland was chosen to the leadership of the party and gave his adhesion to the declaration, or "platform." In his first message to Congress, he commended to legislative attention, reform of the tariff, suspension of the silver coinage, commercial reciprocity with Canada and Mexico (including the Fisheries in the arrangements with the first-named country), strengthening of the civil service reform measures, revival of the navy, improved relations with the Indian tribes and in respect of their reservation-lands, and reclamation of forfeited or fraudulent land-grants to railways. At the same time he let it be known that