

changes have been great. The heart of Europe has been severely exercised. In the early part of the year the signs of the times indicated stirring scenes near at hand. The Italians were fretting that Venetia was still in the hands of Austria, and the Papal States under the government of the Pope sustained by French troops. Prussia was also saying hard things about the German Bund, and one Bismark had come to occupy considerable space in the attention of the universal public. The Austrian Government seemed to be the object of denunciation from both parties, and it did not take an old prophet to foresee that war was inevitable unless the course of discussion should be changed. The French Emperor stood by, calmly smoking his cigar, and evidently enjoying the fun of seeing two or three of his respectable neighbors getting into a "snarl," as long as he was safe. Russia waited at home to see how the matter would terminate, and gradually the three kingdoms worked themselves up to the fighting point. The Italians made an attempt to carry the "quadrilateral" and were defeated. They were not able to do much fighting afterwards, and Austria turned her forces against her enemy in the north. The two armies met on the field of Sadowa, and the Austrian axis went down before the needle-gun of the Prussians. Two score thousand of brave men were put *hors de combat*, the Austrian strength broken, and the Emperor of that Kingdom turned over Venetia to France, and called in Napoleon to aid in procuring peace. Italy received Venetia from Napoleon and the peace that ensued has placed Prussia at the head of the German nationality; disposed of several small Kingdoms—among which are Saxony and Hanover—to the Prussian Court, and made the latter Kingdom one of the leaders in the diplomacy of Europe. Napoleon tried to imitate the monkey justice, and nibble the cheese a little, but got cluffed at once. He modestly asked Prussia that France should be extended to the Rhine, thus transferring a large strip of Germany to France. But a decided negative from Prussia backed by the needle-gun soon quieted all aspirations in that line; and Napoleon having excused himself for asking for it, as we must obey the wishes of the French people, gracefully acquiesced in the refusal. Europe is therefore again

at peace, save the little speck of war at Candia which is too small to attract very much attention.

Spain during the year has done some mischief bombarding the cities of Chili and Peru, but the last effort gave her a taste of the old maxim of Burns—"The best laid schemes of mice and men, gang aft a-gley." Her fleet was driven off with much damage, and one admiral blew his brains out from chagrin at the affair.

The Governments of Brazil and Paraguay have also tried their hand at fighting on the borders of the latter, and with various success. Recently the news wears the appearance favorable to Paraguay; but Brazil is a great country in resources, and governed by a shrewd man, who knows several other useful things besides war, and will probably worry out his antagonist.

In the domain of science the world has made progress. Professor Agassiz of Harvard University spent several months exploring Brazil,—its mountains especially,—and the Amazon, the results of which will enrich the libraries of the world, and add much to the domain of exact knowledge. The savans of the old world have not been idle, and the preparations for the world's fair at Paris in 1867 give evidence that the mind of the public is awake to the great material interests that are the bases of all civilization.

Commerce and navigation have been pushed on to their fruitful results, and the expansion of the steam marine of the nations is attracting wide attention from all the capitalists interested. Boston, Mass. is just putting forth some efforts to connect herself with some foreign ports. New York is looking forward to new connections. Chicago has completed the astonishing project of pushing a tunnel two miles under Lake Michigan, so as to secure pure, clean water from the lake, at the expense of six hundred and twenty thousand dollars. She is now engaged in turning the course of the Chicago river so as to drain the city into the Illinois river. Schemes for municipal improvement are common. Internal improvement is the order of the day everywhere. In France it is the building of levees along the rivers to secure the lands from inundations. In the United States it is the building of the great Pacific Railroad