

mode of government had worn off, which hardly took a month. Then all over the provinces men in some or no sort of authority thrust themselves forward as rulers, and it appeared in Paris as if the nation would learn to live without reference to its heretofore governing centre. Gambetta was chosen to communicate with the country outside the city, and with numbers of their photographed sheets, whose print was smaller than that in the photographed calendar sent to our readers last year, entered his balloon. It did not rise in Paris on that day, and it was said that Gambetta, the undaunted, was afraid of dangers in the air. But the following day, the wind being more favorable, the balloon rose slowly and ascended beyond the reach of the armies below. Had a chance bullet struck it, or had it fallen within the German lines, it is hard to say whether it would have been better or worse for France; but the history of the latter part of the war would have been very different. The breeze carried it along safely, and as it glided over the investing army little did the foes of France know that it contained him who was to prolong the war many days.

Gambetta arrived safely at Tours, where he met those delegates to whom the Government had committed some measure of authority. They were on the point of making terms with the Germans when he arrived, but the effect of his determined attitude of uncompromising antagonism to the invaders at once became apparent, and for some time longer France did not publicly acknowledge herself beaten. He endeavored to revive the spirit of 1793, when the allied armies were hurled back, but was not successful. At Tours, and subsequently at Bordeaux, he assumed the general direction of the movements of the armies outside of the capital, taking charge of the interior, war and finance departments. He made desperate attempts to regain his lost cause; published false reports of French victories; underrated German victories, which he ascribed to treason, and endeavored to raise new armies of defence. But these efforts resulted in nothing; he was considered visionary; peace was made; Gambetta resigned his office, and for a time fell almost out of sight in

the general management of the nation. He was doubly fortunate in this, for while he became a greater favorite than ever with the people, it prevented his name from being mixed up with the deeds of the demoniacal commune, which he most cordially hated.

On February 8th, 1871, he was elected as representative to the National Assembly by no less than ten departments, and chose that of Bas-Rhine, though it was certain that he would lose it by the annexation of Alsace to Germany. In July he was re-elected in the departments of the Seine, Var and Bouches-du-Rhone, and took his seat for the last named. In November of the same year the *Republique Française* was established as his special organ. During the excitement of 1872 he visited Southern France, stirring up the people everywhere. In his memorable speech at Grenoble he attacked Thiers, denounced the Bonapartists and the National Assembly, and insisted on the removal of the government from Versailles to Paris. A number of officers who attended the banquet in his honor on that occasion were sentenced to sixty days' arrest, and then transferred to another regiment. In 1873 he promoted the election of Barodet and Rone to the National Assembly in opposition to the candidate put forward by Thiers, whom he afterwards vainly endeavored to uphold in the presidency when the Assembly was determined on his overthrow. His efforts to prevent the prolongation of Marshal MacMahon's powers proved equally futile. During the recent elections the attempts to prevent his words from being heard in France show the dread his opponents have of him. His Italian blood shows itself to be a prominent feature in his composition, and he has recently in the face of coming victory shown himself capable of being calm when calmness is best, as well as fiery when it is necessary for the furtherance of his cause to excite the passions of his followers. His recent apparent forbearance has stood him in good stead when attacked by all the malignity of the present dominant governing party, and no furious verbal onslaught, even by Gambetta, ever produced half the effect as his recent half smothered phrase in reference to MacMahon, "Submit or resign."