

# COUNT MOLKE ON THE PROSPECTS OF EUROPE.

Count Molke, speaking in the German Reichstag on the new military law, and especially alluding to clause 1 in the bill, which places the effective force of the army at 401,659 men in the time of peace, after pointing out how necessary the army is for the maintenance of order at home, went on to say:—"What are our prospects abroad? The succeeding generation, perhaps, more fortunate than ours, may hope to be rid of the armed peace which has long been inflicted on Europe. I can see no chance of such good fortune befalling us. A great historical event, such as the restoration of the German Empire, is not accomplished in a trice. What we achieved by force of arms we may have to sustain by force of arms from attack for half a century. It is impossible to avoid seeing that we have acquired since the happy issue of our last war the respect of all but the sympathy of none. Everywhere we are met by the same distrust, the apprehension that Germany, with her increase of power, is to become a dangerous neighbor. In Belgium you will find plenty of sympathizers with France, but few with Germany. Holland has begun the reconstruction of her line of forts and arsenals, against whom I will not pretend to say. No German dreams of annexing Holland; for, though we conquered that country at the beginning of the century, it was not for ourselves, but for the Dutch. A pamphlet widely read in England describes an invasion not of the French but of the Germans. Denmark, too, has deemed it necessary to augment her fleet and fortify the Island of Seeland, fearing an attack from us. At one time we are credited with the intention of annexing the Baltic Provinces, at another of seizing the German Provinces of the Austrian Empire. France, the neighbor with whom we are most concerned, is reforming the whole organism of her army, copying our military institutions, and passing them off as hers. She has introduced universal compulsory service, lasting in all twenty years, instead of twelve, as in Germany. The French Government is now in a position to embody 1,200,000 men into the active and 1,000,000 into the territorial army. The National Assembly, without distinction of party or regard for economical considerations, is willing to make the greatest sacrifices in order to restore and extend the power of the army. More warlike than the War Minister, that body has compelled him to accept an additional sum of 17,000,000*fr.* in order to call up the second portion of the contingent, and its action is supported by the whole country. I believe that the great majority of Frenchmen are animated by a sincere desire for peace, but we have seen how a party may drag Government and people into the most unexpected resolutions. The cry which comes to us from the *Vosges* is the frantic desire for revenge. We do not wish to follow our neighbors in their scheme for extending the army, but, on the other hand, we must take care that it does not decline. Two pieces effective must be settled for a long period. Remember that every diminution of the effective makes itself felt over a term of twelve years, and we cannot tell what twelve years may bring forth. The mildest of men may be dragged into a quarrel if he has a troublesome neighbor. I believe that we shall show to the world that we are a powerful but yet a peaceful nation, that we do not wish to make war through love of glory or conquest. Indeed, I don't know that we should do

with a morsel taken from Russia or France. I hope that we shall not merely keep the peace for a number of years, but impose it, as a moral necessity, upon other nations. Then, perhaps, people will come to see that a powerful Germany in the centre of Europe is the best guarantee for the peace of the old world. But, gentlemen, if you wish for peace, be ready for war, and I believe that it is our duty, in the present condition of Europe, to declare either that we have no need of a strong army, or else to accord all that is necessary for maintaining it in full force."

## MARVELLOUS ESCAPE OF 300 MEN.—A HORSE JUMPING FOR HIS LIFE.

BAY CITY, Feb. 24, 1874.—The drifting ice affair has turned out not so disastrous as was at one time reported. The ice field drifted in to the east shore Monday night, and all the men who had not previously escaped did so during the night and yesterday morning. All who were on the ice at the time it went out are now reported safe. This is the third time this winter that the ice has floated out into open water, the first time carrying Smith and McEwan, and the second time six or eight men, who escaped the next day.

Some very remarkable escapes were made over the broken ice. Among these we may mention that of Arthur Stevenson and seven comrades. Stevenson had a horse and sleigh, and with the party attempted to come ashore. The ice was so badly broken however, that it was deemed safer to take the horse from the sleigh and lead him, leaving the men to draw the vehicle. It was necessary to make the animal jump from one ice cake to another in a journey of five miles over the broken ice.

It seems almost incredible, but the trip was made without serious mishap, and horse, sleigh, and men came safely ashore at last. Mr. Stevenson says that all the men who were within sight of the point where he landed got ashore.

We learn of two men who had no horse, but was provided with a hand sled. When the ice broke they wanted to go eastward and northward in quest of some point of escape, and rigged up their hand sled to take a ride at the rate of forty miles an hour in the gale which was sweeping over the ice from the southwest. They sped along at lightning express speed for mile after mile. To choose their course was impossible: on went the sled, straight as an arrow from a bow and about as fast, dead to leeward, skimming and singing along over the ice. Suddenly the men saw right ahead of them a channel of open water. On they rushed towards it, and what at first looked like a narrow strip of water opened out wider and wider as they approached it on the wings of the wind. There was no such thing as stopping or turning the sled, and the strip of water was opening out the wider every second. There was nothing else to be done; the two men rolled off the sled, one on each side, and went spinning along the ice for a rod or two, while the sled the next instant plunged into the open channel and disappeared. The men picked themselves up, and finally made their way ashore on foot, content to go slower but safer than on a sled before the gale.

We have heard numerous other narratives of the extreme hazard all going to increase, the wonder that thus far not a single life is reported lost. The belief last night was that the ice would be closed up by the wind before morning, so that the men remaining

near the west shore would all come off. As they have shelter, food and fire, they will not suffer in the mean time.—*Detroit Post.*

STRONG SPEECH OF MACMAHON.—From France the most important piece of news is a speech made on Wednesday by Marshal MacMahon at the Paris Tribunal of Commerce, in reply to an address from the President of the Chamber. The Marshal said:—"A large number of workmen will be employed this year in the reconstruction of forts and works around Paris, rendered necessary by the misfortunes of the war. Among the reasons you give for the falling off in the trade, you mention the anxiety felt on political grounds, and the persistent doubt in the public mind respecting the stability of the Government. I should have understood these apprehensions a few months ago, but now they no longer appear to me to have any foundation. On the 19th November the Assembly entrusted the Government to me for seven years, and my first duty is to secure the execution of that discussion. Have no uneasiness therefore. During the seven years I shall be able to make respected by all the order of things legally established. We shall, I hope, also see calm restored to the public mind and confidence revive. Confidence is not to be created by degrees, but my acts will be of a nature to command it." This speech (the *Times* correspondent says) produced a strong impression. In the Assembly, one of the most influential members of the Right said, in speaking of it:—"Hitherto we have had to do with the Septennat theorique, we have now to deal with the Septennat militant." It, in fact, appears that the Government have resolved to propose the measures necessary to convert the septennial term into a reality. The *Presse* stated a few days ago that the Cabinet had determined to institute legal proceedings against any paper which attacks Marshal MacMahon's term of office, or denies its legality; and all the newspapers with the exception of those giving decided support to the Right, have approved this semi-official article.

THE SUGAR CROP.—A Kingston, J., letter, under 21st February, states that the reaping of the sugar crop had at that date commenced pretty generally all over the island of Barbadoes, the canes yielding a strong, good sugar, though not quite ripe. On a great many estates a full crop was expected; on others better crops than last year. But the failure of the December rains had shortened the production by at least 5,000 hogsheads, although the young crop was thought to be improving vigorously.

An expedition of one hundred and fifty men and two hundred wagons left Bozeman, Montana, on the 12th day of February, provisioned for six months, and prepared to explore the country between Bozeman and the Yellowstone. Carpenters, blacksmiths, a surveyor, and saw mill went with the expedition, and the purpose is to lay the foundation of a town at the head of Yellowstone navigation.

Some uneasiness is felt in Paris relative to an anticipated movement, on the 16th inst., in favour of Napoleon IV., who on that date becomes of age to govern. It is stated that the ex-Empress Eugenie is in Paris plotting a Bonapartist manifestation.

A son of Colonel Jermyn, and a son of Sir John Beverley Robinson, Canadians, are said to be at the front with the British army in Ashantee.