

antee territory. It may be assumed that England has protested in advance, that Siam must not be protected.

In the saline marshes of Aignes-Mortes, where the French and Italian labourers came to blows, the Italians left the unhospitable locality, and there being no longer a sufficiency of hands, the salt harvest is compromised. The vines in the neighbourhood cannot have their fruit gathered, because the Italians who made the vintage, have decamped, in dread of being killed. What signifies all the assurances of fraternity between international labour advocates?

In December last, it was decreed by the Minister of Public Instruction, to have Russian taught in five of the lycées. At once, 400 pupils put down their names; after the first lesson, not a few of the volunteers deserted, complaining that the Board of Public Instruction desired to torture them. It is not known how many students at present seek the "beauties" of the Slavonic tongue, in the originals of Tolstoi and Dostoiensky. To compel the alumni to learn German and English, in addition to the dead languages, was bad enough, but to top-dress these with Russian, is viewed by the victims as an unnecessary cruelty.

Dr. Napias is the head inspector of the sanitary condition of work-shops and factories; he has just published his very able report, from which it appears, that in 1892, the accidents caused by industry were; dead, 5,925; permanently injured, 3,047; partially permanent, 29,650; momentarily incapacitated, 16,929; and, he adds, all these could have been avoided to the extent of 50 p.c., by fencing machinery in a manner that would be effective and also cheap. In Paris and the suburbs, circular saws cause accidents to the extent of nineteen per cent.; belts and shafts, to nine per cent.; and thirteen for cogwheels. As for the hygienic conditions, these the doctor affirms, he can enforce, and does; the chief being the ventilation, and next, the cleaning up of workshops after the hands have retired for the day.

The theatres commence to be brushing up for the season's opening: managers have incurred great expense re-fitting and re-decorating the houses; they do not appear to be very hopeful about the supply of new plays; in the mean time they fall back on old successes for new generations. One thing they do not do—lower prices; hence, why the narrow purses keep away, and go to the singing saloon.

A correspondent from Rome states, that the Pope has the bulk of the Pontifical funds invested in London banks and house property, and that brings him in a rental of 110 million frs. annually. It has never been stated that he had anything in the French funds. Victor Hugo had all his vast fortune secured in England and Belgium; so had the late ex-president Grevy. Both are mentioned as having plenty of Egyptian bonds. The French must have large egg nests in English funds and scrip, so as not to be taken unawares as they were in the days of the invasion; they commence, also, to invest in American railway securities.

The weather continues to be lovely. In fact, it is glorious; but the farmers

have put on their wishing cap, and call for rain to moisten the ground, for the sowing of winter wheat, and the swelling of root crops. An Autumn drought would be the worst of all calamities.

The cholera has, as yet, produced no panic; it is being well watched; if the plague even did come, it could not be so direful in its consequences; we know how to keep the enemy at bay—never to capture him; hedge him in with a sanitary circle of cleanliness, till he surrenders.

An old man of 107 years of age, has committed suicide; he left "memoirs," stating he was suffering from an incurable disease.

The new representatives have given signs of life; they would appear even, to be more wide awake than many of the re-elected "ancients," as they have forestalled them in the selection of seats in the Chamber. It may not be known, that in the French Parliament each member has his own numbered place, that he retains till the dissolution. Indeed, he is best known by the number of his desk, and on, or into which, letters and documents are deposited.

Of all the once powerful deputies cast adrift by the general elections, M. Floquet takes his defeat the most to heart. At one time, he had all the chances in his favour of succeeding M. Carnot; he claimed to belong to the *crème de la crème* of democracy, was the first among its Corinthian pillars. In order to console him or, perhaps, his lady, who is known to be very ambitious, he will be offered the "temporal" embassy to Italy, for France has a distinct ambassador to the Vatican Court. Floquet is an old revolutionary friend of Signor Crispi, and, as the latter is likely to return to power, he might be capable of exercising a happy influence on the existing delicate relations between France and Italy.

The annual pilgrimage to the tomb of Auguste Comte, the founder of Positivism, and his "three angels"—lady friends who were to be interred with him, but who were not, has just taken place. En passant, there are not many shepherds who can boast of members of their flocks desiring to be buried with them. The real in memoriam service comprises a meeting in the rooms where Comte expired, and that his disciples have converted into a museum, when an address is delivered by the successor of the founder, M. Pierre Laffitte, on the progress of Positivism, during the last year. Next follows a banquet in a restaurant, where speeches are delivered by the delegates of that latter-day cult, from several countries. Positivism is the worship of humanity, of Mahatmas in the mass, and rejecting all evidence of religious belief, that is not based on concrete fact, and rigorous logic. The affiliated will not be convinced till they feel and see like St. Thomas.

Special regulations are to be enforced in the admissions to the night Refuges; none will be admitted to a free shake-down till having passed a medical examination. A new hospital regulation is said to be on the stocks—that of preventing visitors, who are admitted twice a week, from embracing their relatives, who are inmates of the wards, in order to avoid contagion; but visitors will be allowed to remain at bed sides half an hour longer. Z.

## VESPERS.

I sit beside the hearth to-night  
And watch the shadows fall,  
While twilight lingers o'er the plain,  
Soft mingled with the misty rain  
And casts a gleam on all.

The sombre wings of evening drip  
With sad and silent beat,  
And, as above the cloud forms go,  
On hill and valley here below  
The darkling shades repeat.

All drear and lonely night steals down  
Along the burdened air,  
Till o'er the mournful earth there swells  
The music of the vesper bells  
With voice and breath of prayer.

And up the valley on the wind,  
In fitful gusts, is blown  
The roll of organ melody,  
That trembles to the far-off sea  
Of silence, deep and lone.

And thro' the intervals is borne  
The sound of sacred song,  
Some old sweet anthem, or a hymn,  
That floats across the twilight grim  
In measures full and strong.

And down the ebbing tide of sound  
I watch, across the gray,  
The spirit of the day depart,  
While thro' its tears its soothed heart  
Smiles out in one last ray.

And o'er my soul with breath of heaven  
A benediction falls,  
Like a mantle from some angel's breast,  
That, filled with hope and peace and rest,  
Droops over Life's dim walls.

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## OUT-DOOR SKETCHES

### THE SPRING FLOWERS.

A "late spring" has its advantages, as generally secures a longer term of existence for the sweet spring flowers—the most charming of all our native flora. The unusually cold May and June of this year greatly prolonged the frontier between spring and summer, and, if it made the early flowers somewhat later in blossoming, at least kept them much longer with us. The bloodroot (*Sanguinaria*), usually over by the beginning of May, lasted in some localities, till the middle of it. The lovely three-leaved lilies or trilliums, continued with us all through May, being found in some shady places even after June 1st. The white violets—purple, yellow and white—lasted well into June, and the bright graceful scarlet columbine (often called by the children "honeysuckle,") remained in bloom in some spots till the end of June, and even beyond. Wild roses and columbines thus being in bloom at the same time. The first opening columbines I found in the second week in May, the last I know of was still blooming, within sight of orange lilies, on July 12th—this fact a full flower thus continuing this year two full months in bloom. But owing to the late and coldness of the early spring, most of our spring flowers were this year included within the covers of May. For in it there were blooming not only the shadflower, the bloodroot, the trillium, the pretty plummy (*dicentra*) the arum, the columbine, the Canadian honeysuckle, the violets, the addertongue, the saxifrage, the convallarias and their connection, the smilacina, the slender mitrewort and its pretty cousin, the tiarella—the graceful purple cranebill geranium and its distant relation, the white anemone; all these and many other less conspicuous flowers "too numerous to mention, especially in their long-winded Latin names."