

that if industrial and commercial interests alone had been at stake, it is probable that there would have been no reaction towards Protection or that it would not have been nearly so severe, we are brought face to face with agricultural depression as one of the most potent factors in producing this reaction. "It is not an agricultural crisis which Europe is passing through to-day, it is a real revolution in agriculture, and in rural property. Never since the 16th century has there been one so quick and thorough." "This agricultural revolution destroys the value of the property, and all confidence in the future of this property." "Thus in the recent agricultural revolution is to be found the sole cause of the check and falling back of free trade ideas." Reference is here made to other supposed cause, the financial contraction owing to the demonetisation of silver, and foreign rivalry; and we are told that "the first explanation is foolish and the second is much too narrow." Here we have the first important step in the argument that the real cause of the retreat towards protection in European countries is the agricultural depression.

We need to move on and seek the cause behind this depression. This, we are informed, results from the intensity of modern progress in chemistry, physics, mechanics, metallurgy, and even in agriculture itself. Roscher's remark is quoted with approval, that the human race in utilising matter to supply its needs addresses itself, first to the animal kingdom, then to the vegetable kingdom, and last to the mineral kingdom. Thus in the mineral world we find victorious rivals to the produce of culture. For lighting purpose animal fat was used, then olive or other vegetable oils, and now the mineral oils, petroleum, etc. This change is illustrated by reference to various substances used in every department of life. The facts are indisputable, although M. Berthelot, a famous French chemist, is no doubt too sanguine when he imagines that in the year 2000 the mineral kingdom will furnish all the nourishment required by the human race and that the surface of the earth will be transformed into a simple pleasure garden. In the same direction, the invention and increase of electric railways have lessened the price of horses, and also of fodder. Even in the purely agricultural domains the increased facilities for production have brought down the prices of produce. The reader can easily follow out this line of thought, and illustrate it to any extent from the use of bicycles and horseless vehicles of many kinds.

Here, then, are two main points, agricultural depression as the cause of the re-action towards protection, and the intensity of modern progress as the cause of that depression. The question then arises, what is the prospect for the future, our economist is evidently a free-trader in his beliefs and sympathies, but though in his case the wish might have been the father to the thought, he is not hopeful of speedy victory. "Will commercial freedom regain the adhesion of rural populations or overcome their resistance? With time, that is possible." Alas, you may say that with time all things are possible. However, be the time long or short, three conditions must be fulfilled before Free Trade can recover its lost ground: (1). This transition period must pass away, and rural property must settle itself to the new conditions of modern life. (2). People must learn that the principal cause of the fall in prices is not the rivalry of foreign nations. (3). Further, we must see that even this fall of prices is not without certain happy compensations from which the general public draws large advantages. In the meantime, Meline in France and McKinley in America, have the opportunity of showing to the world how to create prosperity by hampering trade. If any are led by this brief notice to seek a close acquaintance with M. Paul Leroy-Beaulieu, they will find him both brilliant and instructive, a man familiar with the facts of modern life, as well as with the speculations of political economists.

Strathroy.

W. G. JORDAN.

At Sotheby's the other day, a copy of Goldsmith's "Deserted Village," the octavo edition which is commonly but erroneously styled the "first," was sold by auction to an American buyer for £25. The next day Mr. Reeves, the bookseller, whose shop is almost next door to Sotheby's rooms, sold another copy of the same issue for three shillings to a well-known man of letters.

## Parisian Affairs.

THE funeral of Jules Simon, State affair though it was, remained to the last simple and sorrowful. He was truly regretted and his loss is the more keenly felt, as he has left no successor, whose voice, life of well doing and of world-wide respect, formed an influence for France. His coffin was covered with the plainest of palls—that with the silver fringing and velvet trimmings was put aside. There were mountains of wreaths, but on a separate car; only one was placed on the bier, that from his little granddaughter, Marguerite, composed of common daisies, gathered by her own little, chubby hands, aided by her nurse, in a meadow at St. Cloud—the favorite country residence of the deceased. As is well-known, *Marguerite* is also the French for Daisy. There was the usual flow of mortuary orations; the best was that of M. Frederic Passy, the philanthropist, and the fellow worker of Jules Simon since thirty years, in all benevolent causes. His peroration was extremely happy and appreciated: "Simon can ascend to heaven accompanied by the blessings of the thousands of women and children and the humble, whom he has saved." It was the true note of the six official discourses. The remains were deposited in the family tomb in the cemetery of Montmartre. Of all the foreign nations to whom the memory of the eminent departed will remain green, he most prized the English and Americans; he knew they comprehended his broad humanity and expansive toleration, because they enjoyed the fullest of liberties, and aided him to complete what France still lacked, while consolidating what she had acquired. Zola is already in the field as candidate for the vacant fauteuil in the Academy, caused by Simon's death. Simon never estimated Zola's talent very high; he regarded him as a type of the *litterateur commercial*.

The French commence to feel that at last the English are returning profound indifference to their hostility. That situation will make their relations more workable. Britain is accepted as adhering to the triple alliance; if so, that ought to please the Gauls, as it will render the work of the Franco-Russian alliance in supporting that self-imposed burden on their Atlas shoulders a little lighter—the peace of Europe. That propped up peace continues as ever to be a practical joke in the sleeve of diplomatists as of peoples; no matter, if it staves off war, it has its *raison d'être*. The recent speech of the Marquis of Salisbury was a douche and an extingisher at once to the little coterie which runs the officious agitation for the expulsion of the British from Egypt. The mass of the French know full well that England will never quit the Nile valley, that it is only France—with the Russian doing bow-wow at her heels—that keeps up the farce of "still harping on my daughter;" that the solvency of Egypt runs no danger from the British who have established and guaranteed it, and that as France voluntarily decamped from Egypt, she must occupy her bed as she made it. By their puny opposition to the Debt Advance, the French have lost all hold on the Egyptians, who say: "You want back your own Alsace from the Germans; but oppose England restoring ours, by wresting the Soudan from the Khalifa." No wonder the resident population of the French in Egypt is dwindling; abusing the English, like Othello's occupation, is now gone. The French always dread Lord Salisbury's sarcasms or "shaves;" those now relating to first conquering the province, a veritable oasis, of Dongola for the Khedive, and then, when money will be forthcoming and time available, to root the head centre of Mahdism out of Omdurman, and push on to Bahr-el-Ghazel, have depressed the Anglo-phobists, because it shows that his lordship has fully taken their measure to out-race by exploring parties, the Anglo-Egyptian army advancing to the Nile Springs. But France may at once inter that African day-dream like so many others.

Political parties are denouncing the ex-Bourgeois cabinet for its foreign policy, which has resulted in driving England to join the triple alliance. England's minister cared very little what Cabinet ruled France; it had one duty to perform, to pull up Russia in time, that she would not be allowed to have a walk over the world. It would be more profitable for France to well study the rapid strides Britain is making in the development of railways in her colonies and African possessions, and the pursuit of that grand idea, bristling though it be with difficulties—the imperializa-