

with pussy, their natural enemy, all perish from one cause—the hunger of a greater destroyer. The terms of Bismark are very severe; and it remains to be seen whether the French nation will submit to them. France is to surrender two provinces, one colony, forty ships of war, and two hundred millions sterling. The payment of this large sum must be guaranteed by the municipalities; otherwise, the property of the wealthy will be taken and held as a guarantee. The other members of the French Government, who are mostly at Bordeaux, repudiate these terms, and seem disposed to give further trouble. The National Assembly is to meet at Bordeaux to take the terms of peace into consideration and decide upon the future government of France. The movements of the next three weeks will be the most curious of the war. Prussia gives France her choice; but if the latter choose a *republic*, what then? Will the former sanction the choice? Will she force Napoleon upon them? But we must wait.

Now that the war seems over, its lessons should be pondered by us all. Paris and France were centres of moral corruption, and they have received condign punishment. The instrument of its infliction has been an educated, an enlightened and a moral people. France was a country enfeebled by party strife. Prussia is a nation governed with a most unbending despotism—combining the wildest liberty of discussion on all subjects (except politics) with absolute submission to a government that extends its superintendence to almost everything. Both countries practised the conscription; but the Prussian system was the most complete. In modern war, the destruction of life is so great that no power can maintain armies in the field without a military organization of the whole people. The high education of the Prussian officers and men, and their knowledge of the science as well as the art of war, has formed their greatest advantage over the French. No nation can hold its position or be safe for a year in Europe now without military strength. Prussia is a territory-devouring and aggressive nation; and if other nations mean to keep her in her place, they must fight her with her own weapons.

The government of Mr. Gladstone

has incurred a good deal of odium from its timid policy in foreign affairs. The Premier has found it expedient to change his constituency by the resignation of Greenwich, where he has become unpopular. Meanwhile, warlike preparations are being carried on with vigour. Mr. Bright is no longer fit, from the state of his health, for a seat in the cabinet. An earnest effort is being made to settle the Alabama claims by the appointment of a U. S. Commission. News have again been received, which give promise of the safety of Livingstone, who is said to be at Mozambique. His friend, Sir Roderick Murchison, has been very ill, but is recovering. However, the great geologist is an aged veteran, and cannot live very long. Dean Alford has died at the age of 61—a man to whom the interpretation of the New Testament owes much. His works praise him as a learned, liberal and impartial expositor of Divine truth. He has thrown immense light upon scripture, and prepared the way for a more liberal theology. The influence of Alford will be long felt in the ranks of the gospel ministry. Mr. Gladstone's letter to Mr. Dease, wherein he has appeared to pledge the British Government to maintain the dignity of the Pope, has elicited a good deal of feeling in Protestant circles. It was simply a bid for British Catholics' support. Britain can very well afford to leave the Pope and his subjects to settle their own affairs.

The proposed union between the United Presbyterian and Free Churches has been discussed at Presbyteries innumerable, and the feeling and division of opinion are evidently so great on the subject that it is scarcely credible that union can take place between these bodies for some years. A serious division in the Free Church would be the immediate consequence. Two heresy cases have refreshed the souls of the orthodox hunters of new opinions—one in the Established and the other in the U. P. Churches. Mr. McLeod seemed to teach priestly absolution; Mr. Ferguson to teach a future offer of salvation to the wicked in another world. The Presbytery of Edinburgh have met with unexpected difficulties in dealing with the latter case. Mr. Ferguson defends his views very ably.

A. P.