

## Notice.

### RECONCILED POWERS.

The meeting of these sovereigns at Venice recently was a noteworthy incident, the full significance of which will perhaps only be understood in the light of future events. Some surprise was at first expressed that the Queen of the Adriatic should have been chosen as the place of meeting, it being considered as fraught with unpleasant memories for the House of Hapsburg; but the Venetians showed they could afford to let bygones be bygones, and the Austrian banners which they, during their subjection to the Imperial yoke, used to tear to pieces were hoisted to welcome the sovereign they once abhorred. Municipality, nobles and populace vied with each other in doing enthusiastic honor to the guest of their King; no expense was spared, either publicly or privately, in the decorations and illuminations which Venice is so fitted by nature to display, and the whole reception was a grand success. Our engraving represents the two monarchs as they sat side by side in a gondola going up and down the long canals and shooting under the Rialto—far famed features of this grand historical city. Victor Emmanuel II., King of free and united Italy, was born March 14th, 1820, and received the crown of Sardinia from the hands of his father, Victor Emmanuel I., after the desperate battle of Novara, 23rd March, 1849, in which the Sardinian army was worsted, in the hopes that he might be able to make better terms with the conquering Austrians. The new King bravely carried on freedom's battle, and, assisted by wise Ministers, has had his persistence rewarded in being now King of Italy, free and united from the Alps to the Adriatic. Francis Joseph I., Emperor of Austria, was born August 18th, 1830, and succeeded to the throne 2nd December, 1848, on the abdication of his uncle, Ferdinand I., brought about by Francis Joseph's mother, Sophia, a Bavarian Princess, on account of his having made certain promises of constitutional concessions to his subjects. Under the ill-judged advice of his mother, who was leader of the Ultramontane and reactionary elements

that prevailed at Court, the new Emperor's reign was a very troubled one, and though for a time he managed to crush the Hungarians and frustrate all attempts by the Italians to throw off the Austrian yoke, yet it was seen that he was fighting a hopeless battle against ideas that would ultimately prevail. The Concordat granted by him in 1855, conferring certain extraordinary privileges on the Romish Church, roused the Liberals over Europe, and was the precursor of the war with France, whereby he lost the greater part of his Italian provinces. The crushing blow dealt Austria at Sadowa was the culminating point of the misfortunes brought upon that Empire by the unwise policy hitherto followed by her ruler. Her remaining possessions in Italy had to be surrendered, and she was shut out from the leading position she had hitherto occupied in the Germanic Confederation, which was assumed by Prussia, her victorious rival. She was on the brink of falling to ruin, and, convinced at last by the terrible logic of events, the Emperor had to change his policy entirely. He called to his aid Count Von Beust, the great Protestant statesman of Saxony, and under his wise direction a more constitutional state of things was inaugurated, the Concordat modified, Hungary conciliated and bounds set to Ultramontane arbitrariness. Although Beust, who is now the Austrian Ambassador to England, had to lay down the reins of power owing to the intrigues of reactionists, the Emperor was too wise to give them into the keeping of the latter, and Count Andrassy, his present Premier, is following up the wise course of statesmanship Beust began. Ecclesiastical laws almost as severe as those of Prussia have been enacted to curb clerical influence, although the Vatican is too politic as yet to add the Emperor to its enemies. The meeting of the two Sovereigns at Venice is said to have been mainly to come to a mutual understanding as to the policy to be followed towards the papal power, and in reference to the election of a new Pope.