

need only money to buy gunpowder. Yet war could not fail to bring a great increase of distress and discontent, while military defeat would be political ruin. Moreover it was certain that as soon as the symptoms of a conflagration appeared the European fire-brigade would be at work. Bismarck may be inclined to mischief; but he is Vizier, not Sultan. The German Emperor, with his empire still imperfectly consolidated, is inclined to peace; to the Emperor of Austria peace is a vital necessity, and a lava torrent of Panslavism such as an eruption of the Russian volcano would set flowing is the visitation of all most to be dreaded. The meeting of the Emperors at Skernewitze, to which Europe looked up with awe as a war-cloud, was really a rainbow of peace. Apart from the military ambition of Russian satraps, the chief source of danger throughout has been the popular exasperation fanned by bellicose journalists on both sides. It is a pity that bellicose journalists cannot be taken to see the human wreck of a battle-field, or even the contents of a field hospital. Perhaps, if they could themselves be sent to the front, the effect would be still more wholesome. However party may rave and yell, it does not appear that fault can reasonably be found with the British Government, which, after taking a firm stand, has put forth the power of the nation vigorously and with effect.

IN the Egyptian War the British soldier continues to display his high qualities under the most trying circumstances, showing himself not less steady and enduring than he is brave. If the skilfulness of his commanders has been called in question, we must recollect that they have to contend, not only with the enemy and the desert, but with a perpetual fire of adverse criticism, professional and unprofessional, which must be confusing and unnerving to the last degree, and can hardly fail to interfere with the execution of any far-reaching plan of operations. The Mahdi has an immense military advantage in his freedom from popular opinion and the press. But the situation is plainly serious. The Arabs, instead of hurling their naked valour and fanaticism upon the squares of discipline armed with superior weapons, are apparently learning to use the rifle with effect, and to harass the British columns on the march by sharp-shooting at long range. This, it is to be feared, may prove very galling and very trying to discipline. The Indian auxiliaries are perfectly loyal, and apparently they fight well; but their steadiness, if not their fidelity, depends upon their confidence in the invincibility of the Europeans by whose side they fight. The numbers of the hostile Arabs do not seem to diminish: nor is there as yet any appearance of a collapse of the Mahdi's power, though vague rumours of the rise of rival prophets have been heard. A rival prophet, if money could command him, as money can generally command anything in the East, might be a most effective engine in this case. It has long been evident that the introduction of long-range weapons was likely to change the conditions of war to the disadvantage of those disciplined masses which hitherto have been irresistible; and at the same time to improve the chance of uncivilized and untrained races if, in addition to valour, they were endowed with the native intelligence and activity which qualify for irregular war. It is not pleasant to think that England may find in the Arabs of the Soudan what the Roman found in the Parthian. After all this is a miserable war. It was not entered on deliberately: it has no defined aim, since the idea of permanent occupation is still disclaimed; it has hardly even an objective point, Khartoum not being a vital centre of the Mahdi's power; the country was launched into it, not so much by the Government, as by the unaccredited enterprise of a mystical though heroic adventurer. It has now become a matter more of passion than of policy, except in the case of the Messrs. Rothschild and their brethren of the Stock Exchange, whose interest, as Egyptian bondholders and extortioners, underlies to an unpleasant extent the whole of this affair.

At last, by dint of overwhelming numbers and that prodigality of life which is their only military quality, the hapless Chinese have gained an advantage, perhaps considerable enough to be called a victory, over the French. The fortune of war is likely to be soon turned again by the reinforcement which France is sending out on a large scale. But the French Ministry has fallen. To the piratical character of the war and the savage barbarity with which it was waged, the French felt no objection; but a single defeat they cannot bear. The admirers of party government will now probably see something illustrative of the blessings of their system. Once more the vortex is set spinning and nobody in France knows whether to-morrow there will be a government or none. A moment of popular exasperation is generally favourable to passionate councils and violent men. This may give a chance to the ultra Radical M. Clemenceau. But a recall of M. Freycinet is the more likely result. In the meantime Communism and Anarchy are sure to gain by the confusion, and by the blow which each of these Parliamentary revolutions gives to the general authority of government.

A CURIOUS explanation is now given of Bismarck's sudden plunge into colonization after his complete repudiation of that policy. It seems that he was stung to the heart by the Lasker Resolutions and is trying to punish the United States by cutting off the stream of German emigration. Undoubtedly, if he could cut off the stream of German emigration, he would wreak his vengeance on the United States in the most effectual way. The future of the country depends, as reflecting men feel, to a very great extent upon the continual inflow of an amount of the German element, with its inestimable qualities, sufficient to balance foreign elements of a lower and less trustworthy kind. The German Chancellor therefore shows his perspicacity. But there are things which the master of thirty legions cannot do. German emigration is to a great extent an exodus from the military system, which would not be escaped by the settlers in one of Bismarck's colonies. Nor can the attractive force of the mass already deposited in the United States be neutralized by the Bismarckian ukase. Small German settlements planted in the neighbourhood of great British colonies will be almost certainly assimilated and absorbed, so that the gain will ultimately accrue to a country which at present hardly stands higher in the Chancellor's favour than the United States. In his wrath Bismarck fails to appreciate the value to Germany of the German Vote in the councils of the Great Republic. Undoubtedly the Lasker Resolution was an impertinence: a squirt of tobacco-juice on the carpet of diplomatic propriety. But the Chancellor should make a return in kind; he should get the Reichstag to pass a resolution condoling with the American Government on the sickness of General Grant, who has so long combated with energy and success the noxious principles of the Democratic Party.

THE Jewish question has broken out again simultaneously in Tripoli and at Vienna. The story of persecutions in Tripoli is not unlikely to prove, as did the story of persecution in Tunis, the precursor of French intervention, and the stalking-horse for the financial operations of Hebrew banking-houses at Paris. The flogging of women is a reproduction. On the former occasion it was true that a Jewish woman had been flogged; but she had been flogged at the instance of her father whom she had offended by an objectionable amour. The outbreak at Vienna is, like those which have taken place elsewhere, an uprising against the domination of an intensely alien and extremely odious plutocracy, which is absorbing the wealth of the people and at the same time strangling their nationality. In time this question will be seen in its true light, and the struggle will be recognized as an economical and social conflict, which, though most deplorable and disastrous in its way, is a totally different thing from a religious persecution. The students at Vienna are no fanatics, though they may be somewhat socialistic. It is not against Moses but against Shylock that Russians, Germans, Austrians, Poles, Roumanians, all the communities in short of Eastern Europe, without distinction of religious creed or temperament, are at once in revolt. We should do the same if we found ourselves struggling in the coils of such an anaconda. Let the Jew only change his habits and his bearing towards the people among whom he lives, as the most enlightened of his own race wish him to do; he will be in no danger of being persecuted on account of his religious creed. That the Jew himself is a model of toleration is very far from being the fact. For proof of this we need not go back to the history of Uriel Acosta and Spinoza. Only the other day we learned from the London *Times*, a journal very favourable to Jewish interests, that a Hebrew sect having sprung up in Southern Russia, which aimed at the rejection of the Talmud and reforming away the exclusive habits and customs of the Russian Jews, the founder of this sect, M. Robinovitch, was set upon in the streets by a crowd of three hundred Jews and pelted with mud and snow. We see the Jews as they are in the West, constituting a mere fraction of the population, and softened by the prevailing influences of the civilization in which they live. If we saw them as they are in Eastern Europe, swarming over the country in myriads, with their social exclusiveness untempered, devouring the substance of the people by usury and debauching them by worse trades, we should perhaps abate somewhat of our philosophic scorn for the communities which instead of submitting with perfect patience begin to writhe in the Hebrew's grasp.

FROM a pamphlet by President White, of Cornell, on "Some Important Questions in Higher Education," we perceive that in the State of New York an effort is being made to get rid of the system of "one-horse" universities and to enter into a combination for the purpose of giving validity to examinations and restoring the value of degrees. The same necessity is felt by the friends of higher education on both sides of the line. Another question treated by President White is that of Elective Studies, the principle of which he defends against Academical Conservatives. What is the object of university education? Is it special knowledge or is it general culture? That is the question which must be first settled. If the object is special knowledge, the less the student's choice is restrained