

bombardment. The conduct of the Prussians has been magnanimous. They might have ere this inflicted much suffering upon the inhabitants of that vain and wicked city; but they seem to pause in pity for their misfortunes and crimes. These it was who madly cried: "On to Berlin." These it is who are mainly answerable for all the calamities of France. The country suffers, and Paris is spared; while Paris is guilty and the country is comparatively innocent. There have been serious skirmishes south of Paris. A large army has been formed in the valley of the Loiré; and Trochu has an immense army in Paris. Such is the state of the country, that, if the war continues, the chances will be against the Germans. Misery will drive the population to despair. A desperate people will be dangerous. The future of France is very difficult to predict. The elements of stability do not exist. It would seem that the Napoleon dynasty is execrated. It wanted principle and moral tone. A virtuous people can alone make a stable government. Ignorance reigns wherever the Pope reigns. The French are still atoning for the massacre of St. Bartholomew.

THE Russian difficulty has increased, and at last diminished. It is clear that the Russian government had determined to make use of the French embroglio to resume its plans in regard to the Black Sea. Russian diplomacy is cunning, watchful and unchanging. It can pursue its aims for centuries. It now demands the repeal of the treaty of Paris so far as the neutralisation of the Black Sea is concerned. Granville maintains that those who made the treaty can alone abrogate it. This firm attitude has drawn forth a pacific note from Russia, and it is thought that a conference of powers will be held. Still, political events are so strange and rapid that a change in the aspect of things may take place at any moment. Meanwhile, the danger is, that the peace party in the cabinet of Britain may prevail, and Russia may thence derive new motives to insolence and injustice, and so this party may inflict new miseries upon their country. Russia was encouraged by them to engage in the Crimean war. Granville's secession from the cabinet would be a real misfortune. This does not imply that the Russian demands are unjust. On the contrary, they seem reasonable. Why should not Russia have the Black Sea for every purpose as well as any other sea? She has as much right to control that sea as Britain has to control the Mediterranean. Still, a bargain is a bargain, and our country makes a noble stand for international honor and security when she insists on adherence to treaty engagements till these have been modified by the contracting parties.

THE DUKE OF AOSTA, son of the King of Italy, has been elected by the Spanish Cortes to the crown of Spain, and has accepted the nomination. The parties in that country are so numerous that a difficult work lies before him. A wise and liberal administration of power will confer great benefits upon that unhappy people. The Protestant churches have a great work before them in establishing Gospel missions and enlightening its ignorant masses; but their efforts must be neutralised unless they have the co-operation of a wise government. It is difficult to spread the truth among an ignorant and superstitious people, the great mass of whom cannot read.

THE POPE confines himself within the precincts of his palace. No one knows how long he may remain in Rome. Deprived of all civil power, he occupies a new position. Catholic powers shew no signs of interposition on his behalf. His former protector, Napoleon, is a prisoner. The Jesuits have left Rome, and, it is said, mean to take up their abode in Prussia, and thus assail Protestantism at its continental centre. Their efforts in the calling and management of the Ecumenical Council have neither benefited themselves nor the Roman See. Papal infallibility has been followed by Papal reverses. The