

against the leaders of the Conservatives proper. A Unionist Government, however, and a strong and stable one, must now be formed, if the nation is to be saved from dismemberment or even from worse ills. No other hope is there of escaping Parliamentary anarchy, the domination of a foreign conspiracy in British politics, the loss of Ireland, the unsettlement of India. British commerce and industry are in a critical condition, and can ill bear political convulsion. But of forming a strong and stable government, or any government at all, there is but one way. A patriotic junction of the Liberal Unionists with the Conservatives is the imperious necessity of the hour, and is demanded by the accordant voice of all who care for the country more than for Party, and desire to preserve the Union. The Conservatives, though they are the most numerous party and the victory is mainly theirs, are not strong enough either in numbers or in leaders to go on long by themselves. It is idle to talk of difficulties and objections when there is but one mode of escaping public shipwreck. These men have combined to deliver the nation from dismemberment; why cannot they combine to complete its deliverance and to place it out of peril? A scion of the Whig house of Devonshire, we are told, cannot possibly act with Tories. Can a scion of the Whig house of Devonshire allow his country to go to political perdition? England, is the parrot-cry, does not love coalitions. Does England love a coalition for her destruction, between Mr. Gladstone and the agitators whom he described the other day as marching through rapine to the dismemberment of the nation? The coalition between North and Fox was selfish and corrupt, not patriotic. The junction of Mr. Gladstone with Mr. Parnell for the furtherance of their several ends bore, to say the least, a closer resemblance to it than could be borne by a junction of Lord Hartington with Lord Salisbury for the rescue of the commonwealth from confusion. If concurrence in legislation on general subjects is not easy for a coalition government, let there be a truce to the superstitious fancy that every session of Parliament must of necessity be marked by some great legislative innovation. Let there be a truce also to the fancy, almost equally superstitious, that the Executive Government must hold itself responsible for every act of the Legislature, and retire whenever it is out-voted even on questions not affecting the Administration. An Executive Government, firm and strong enough to uphold the law in Ireland, repel foreign conspiracy, suppress domestic rebellion, whether in the form of outrage or obstruction, guard the integrity of the nation, and secure commerce and industry against revolutionary disturbance—this, and this alone, is indispensable at the present moment. It will be a very good incidental result if the line between the duties of the Executive and those of the Legislature should henceforth be more clearly drawn, and the necessity of stability in the Executive more distinctly recognized than it is. It seems hardly too much to hope that some of those who have adhered on personal grounds to Mr. Gladstone and continued to hold office under him, now that the will of the nation has been declared, will listen to the call of patriotism and support, or at least refrain from embarrassing, any government which may be struggling with the enemies of the realm. That the Conservatives should relapse into sinister relations with the Parnellites and tamper with Home Rule would be a thousand times impossible with Liberal Unionists in the Cabinet. It may be hoped too that the Conservatives have received their lesson, that they have renounced for ever the fatal heritage of intrigue, and decisively returned to the path of principle and honour. All interests in the country which dread disruption and confusion would be fain in such circumstance to support the Queen's Government. Should the Radicals attempt its overthrow by an alliance with Irish rebellion they would, if there is any spirit left in the nation, be surely made to rue their treason. To support the Queen's Government, and to strengthen its hands against the enemies of the realm, is the plain duty of the hour. Let a Liberal member of the House of Commons reserve to himself as large a measure of legislative independence as he thinks fit, but let him support the national Executive. By faction, and by faction alone, the nation has been laid at the feet of a despicable foreign conspiracy and brought to the very verge of dismemberment. If this warning will not awaken Englishmen to a sense of their duty as citizens, what warning will?

GOLDWIN SMITH, in *Macmillan's Magazine*.

READINGS FROM CURRENT LITERATURE.

EXPANSION IN POPULATION AND WEALTH OF THE WHITE ARYAN RACES.

In 1788, the population of Europe was, in round numbers, 145,000,000; in 1888, it will amount to 350,000,000. This, however, is not the whole increase. In the two Americas, in South Africa, and in Australasia, 70,000,000 millions more of European race are to be found; and the total of 420,000,000, somewhat over a third of the human race, possess more than half the globe, and enjoy a supremacy they are not likely to lose over the populations of India, Africa, and the Far East.

This growth of population has been accompanied by a more than proportionate growth of wealth, more marked in this country [England] than in any other, even than in the United States. In 1788, English capital is stated to have amounted to 1,200 millions sterling; in 1875, it had increased to 8,500 millions an increase of seven times in less than a century. The capital of France, England, and the United States together reaches the prodigious figure of 24,000 millions sterling. In the same way, income has also increased relatively as well as absolutely, from £16 a head in 1788, to £35 a head at the present time, the total income of Great Britain being valued at 1,200 millions—as much as the whole capital of the Three Kingdoms a century ago—against 200 millions just before the outbreak of the French Revolution.

The preponderance of the white Aryans in wealth and territory over the other populations of the globe is, therefore, an assured fact. A like preponderance in numbers may be regarded as certain of attainment in the not remote future. Among Eastern populations, that of India alone increases. On its 1,400,000 square miles of territory, our Indian Empire has a population of about 240 millions—one hundred and seventy persons to the square mile—increasing at the very considerable rate, unexampled in the previous history of the East, of 1 per cent. per annum, with very little fertile soil unappropriated. Of the Far East, the total population is not probably much above 300 millions—the population of China is almost always greatly exaggerated by publicists—and the Semitic and Negroid numbers, compared with those just cited, are quite insignificant. The Chinese, though they emigrate largely, do so only from a limited tract, and not increasingly, while they do not multiply out of their own country, nor, as far as we know, within their own borders. Hence it seems pretty certain that the earth and its fulness are, with the exception of certain tracts, reserved for the possession and enjoyment of the white Aryans, and among these the predominant stock in force, wealth, and numbers will undoubtedly be the Teutonic. Next will come the Slavonic peoples, whose growth in the last hundred years is more surprising even than that of the United States, where immigration has greatly assisted it. In 1788, the population of Russia and Poland (not, of course, wholly Slavonic) was 27 millions; in 1885, it was 98 millions an increase of 260 per cent., or sixty per cent. more than the rate of increase of the population of Great Britain within the same period. During these hundred years, the so-called Latin races, who are in reality Iberian and Keltic much more than Italic, have, relatively speaking, greatly declined in numbers; and though doubtless they will play a great part in the history of the future, it will not be a supreme part.—*The Spectator*.

FRANCE.

THE first fifty years of the seventeenth century saw France emerge from the eclipse of power in which she had been left by the religious wars, and acquire that commanding place in Europe which she retained even after the Peace of Utrecht. During this time of her rising greatness she enlarged her borders on every side, and founded an empire beyond the seas; her authority became supreme on the Continent; she was illustrious alike in war and in peace; and if there were grave defects in her autocratic Government, it made the State respected, put down faction, and was, on the whole, a beneficent influence. It was an age, above all, of great men in France: the dominant order which stood round the throne had many of the faults of an exclusive caste, and often proved a source of disorder and peril; but it provided a noble array of soldiers and statesmen of conspicuous merit, and it gave the nation a race of leaders, distinguished equally in camp and in council, who raised it to a position of splendour. How widely different have been the fortunes of the France of the last thirty years! how dissimilar is the ominous spectacle presented by that far-famed people to those who still have hope in its destiny! France has become almost a second rate power; she has been deprived of two of her fairest provinces, and has a watchful foe on her weakest frontier; and she is as closely hemmed in by the new German Empire as she was once overshadowed by the House of Austria. Worse, too, than the loss of Alsace and Lorraine is the diminution of her renown in arms caused by the War of 1870; Sedan and Metz have tarnished the glory which Blenheim and Waterloo left undimmed; and the decline of her weight in the councils of Europe, and of that moral influence beyond her limits, widespread and immense in former times, is at least equally marked and unfortunate. As for the Governments of France in this generation, they have alternated between corrupt despotism and extravagant democratic license; but while they have often been as severe and arbitrary as the old *régime* in its worst days, they have failed to maintain the national greatness, to check the destructive strife of parties, and to attain a semblance of strength and authority. With the collapse, too, of her noble orders, France seems to have lost the breed of men who made her the foremost power of Europe; the Revolution, despite the boast that "it opened a career to all kinds of talents," has long ago ceased to place leaders of commanding power at the head of the nation; and at no period, since the reign of Louis XV., have the soldiers and public men of France held so low a rank in the esteem of the world. This remarkable change, we believe and hope, is due far more to the ruinous effects of the jealousy and envy of democratic government than to the permanent decay of French genius and worth; the princely exclude merit of the highest order from the position it ought to hold in the State. But the fact remains, and is of profound significance. This work suggests reflections like these: would we could add, as we compare the age of the two Pitts with the present time, that the elements of decline and weakness which have smitten the fabric of French greatness were not, at this moment, disturbing England!

The prominent, nay the subordinate, figures on the brilliant canvas of the Duc d'Aumale, almost all belong to the great noblesse of France; Richelieu, Turenne, and Condé were pillars of the State, and raised the monarchy to the highest point of splendour. No such names appear in democratic France, though we do not forget the great powers of Chanzy, or the patriotism of Gambetta; but the magnificent growths of the seventeenth century do not seem to rise from that soil, exhausted by the lava of revolutionary fires, and where all that is noble and rich in promise is nipped by the blasts of popular envy. It is ill with a State, as all history shows, which loses a great aristocratic order. This has been the fortune of modern France: may other nations not present a like example!—*Edinburgh Review* on the Duc d'Aumale's *Princes of the House of Condé*.