

M. EMILE OLLIVIER.

The new Premier of Napoleon's first Constitutional Ministry, formed on the 2nd January last, is only 45 years of age, having been born at Marseilles in 1825. In 1847 he became a member of the Paris bar, and the following year, after the revolution, he was sent by Ledru Rollin as Government Commissioner to Marseilles. He was afterwards appointed Prefect at Langres; but, in consequence of differences with the Government of Louis Napoleon, then President of the Republic, he resigned office and returned to the bar. There he achieved considerable success, and followed his profession undistracted by politics until 1857, when he offered himself as Opposition candidate for one of the circumscriptions of Paris. He was returned, and in the Corps Législatif spoke and voted with the other four Opposition Deputies against the policy of the Emperor. Until 1865, when the debates were regularly reported in the *Moniteur*, the speeches of M. Ollivier and those of his colleagues, Jules Favre, Ernest Picard, Pelletan, and Jules Simon, were not allowed to be published. Ollivier was, up to that time, a bitter opponent of the second Empire, but his course was probably dictated, more by personal feeling than political conviction, for his father had been expelled and completely ruined by the *coup d'état*. After his re-election in 1863, his attitude towards the Government underwent a change. As the policy of the Empire tended towards freedom, Ollivier became more moderate in his views, and as his report on trade combinations and strikes formed the basis of the new law on these subjects, it brought him into personal communication with the Emperor. As his Republican convictions were by no means so strong as his ambition was aspiring, this association naturally enough resulted in his detachment from his old political associates; and in 1865, he had so far won the confidence of the Government as to be chosen—with its support—one of the members of the Council General of Toulon. From that date he has never acted with his old political friends; but has been regarded, at least for the past two or three years, as one of the confidential advisers of the Emperor, in carrying out the reforms which, at the beginning of the present year, resulted in placing him at the head of the new Ministry, and in establishing Parliamentary Government in France. During the exciting scenes of the past few weeks he has carried himself with courage and dignity, and promises well to earn distinction as a statesman. He is an impressive speaker, a ready debater, and an able parliamentary



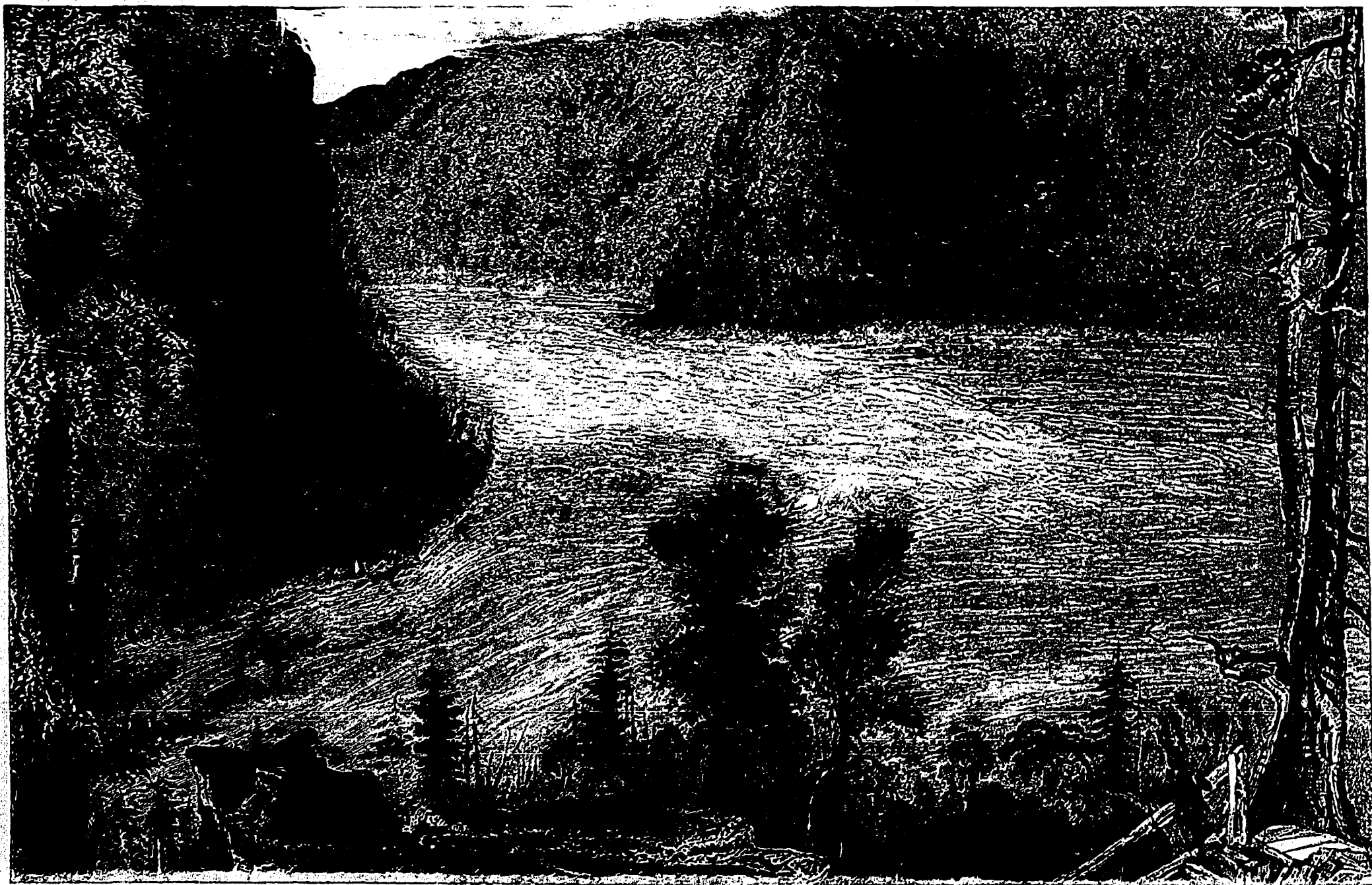
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tactician. In hearing Rochefort for his extreme violence, Ollivier effectively demonstrated his strength in the Corps Législatif, for only a mere handful of Deputies—thirty-four—voted against Rochefort's arraignment, and 226 for it. This is a fair indication of the strength of his Government, as against the Republican faction; but he may have to encounter other elements of opposition, though according to present appearances his administration has the confidence of the great body of the French people.

"THE WHIRLPOOL"—AN INCIDENT.

The whole neighbourhood of Niagara is celebrated for the beauty, variety and grandeur of its scenery; and, next to the mighty "Falls," the Whirlpool in the Niagara river, of which an illustration is here given, is one of the most remarkable of its wonders at which the spectator never feels wearied with gazing. It is situated three miles below the Falls, and one mile below the Suspension Bridge, at a point where there is a sharp turn, almost a complete angle, in the channel of the river, and is formed by the dashing of the current, with tremendous velocity, against the rocky steps from which it is hurled back and twirled round in sullen, surging grandeur, the water rising in the middle to a height of about ten feet. This Whirlpool is said to resemble in appearance, though of course not in magnitude, the Great Maelstrom on the coast of Norway, and is visited by almost every tourist who goes to "see the Falls." The view of the river down to the whirlpool from the Suspension Bridge, is described by a clergyman in a private letter, with the perusal of which we have been favoured:

"The river, above the bridge, in solemn majesty flows down, so deep and calm, that the long and tortuous lines of foam which have floated down from the cataract are scarcely seen to move on its surface, and give no indications of the prodigious force of the current underneath. It is as it passes under the bridge that the bed of the river suddenly changing its inclination and character, the waters all at once rush down the pent-up channel with a brawling noise, and their tremendous volume, as it comes out from under the bridge, not finding room to expand itself, is violently compressed into a ridgelike rise in the middle, sloping towards either edge of the gushing torrent. The whole current, convulsed into the most tumultuous agitation, boils and leaps and foams as it pursues its mad career to the whirlpool, whose gyrations never cease, and where anything that is caught is kept rotating for hours and



"THE WHIRLPOOL," NIAGARA RIVER.