

tions which do not concern the material development of the Dominion. One whole year—one whole Parliament—has been allowed to go by while one man is putting his nose into the expenditures of Government House, another man groans because steamers run on Sunday, another man does nothing but wrangle about the cost of putting in a canal basin. The Government devotes its whole strength to defence. No policy is initiated. Binder twine has coiled itself around the mental fibres of the members of the Opposition and the Cabinet. All of this political twaddle is nauseating. It is time for the members of Parliament to realize that while Nero is fiddling, Rome is burning; while they are wrangling about binder twine the country is not progressing. What a Cabinet is selected for is to propose and carry out a definite and vigorous policy. It is not enough to be on the defence of what was done during the last decade. The people demand and are entitled to a Government up-to-date. The strong feeling of Canadians is that development of our resources should be our national policy now. What is the use of encouraging manufactures if we have not people to use them? What is the use of owning the North-West if we have not inhabitants to live there? Any statesman who can initiate a policy to cover these wants can be sure of such a following that everything else will be forgotten. It almost seems as if there ought to be a clearing of the course at Ottawa, and that the people should send down as representatives there men who will do something more in Opposition than haggle about the number of napkins used at Rideau Hall, and who will, as members of the Government, *initiate* something for the good of the country. Canadians have much to be grieved at in the occurrences of the last fortnight on the Government benches, and it will take a long pull and a strong pull, and what is more a pull altogether on the part of the Ministry to get themselves out of the hole they have got into. In short, they must go to work.

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#### Forecasts.

IT is devoutly to be wished and hoped that there may never be war between Germany and Great Britain. It is very unlikely, even at this moment, that war is imminent between those two great powers. But no one can doubt that such a calamity is possible, and even more probable than it has been for many years past. John Bull is a pacific animal. The fire-eaters are never weary of telling us that we put up with any number of insults rather than have our commerce interrupted. But there is a point beyond which the foreigner must not go. Cowper told us long ago that the Englishman bears with great equanimity every form of "constitutional control." "But if authority grow wanton," it is quite another thing: "Woe to him that treads upon his free-born toe." So in regard to his relations to foreign powers. He bears a good deal; but, if he is sure that he is being insulted, then the insulter had better get ready!

And the outlook? It is never quite safe, as a great authority has told us, to prophesy before the event; but a good many people have been venturing on prophecy, and telling us of combinations which are likely to take place—some of them, in our judgment, most improbable. According to some, we are to come to the beginning of the end of Britain's greatness. That, of course, like most other things, is quite possible; but not absolutely certain or even highly probable. A great many other things are a good deal more likely. When Napoleon III. proclaimed war on Prussia, it was the forecast of many that it was the end of his dynasty, and so it has proved. If Germany goes to war with Eng-

land it is quite likely to be the end of the Prussian monarchy. The way to that destination would not be difficult to trace.

We see in the newspapers idle talk of a combination between Germany, Russia and France; and this, too, is of course possible; but ridiculously improbable. It is said that France is encouraging Germany in her demands. This is quite likely. Nothing could please France better than to see Germany at war with one of the greatest powers in the world; for then she would believe that her hour and her opportunity had come. The declaration of war on the part of Germany against England would hardly have been issued when France would demand back her Eastern Provinces, and, if refused, would go to war for them. The draped statue of Strassburg, in Paris, speaks silently of the resolve, deep in the heart of every Frenchman of every class, to get back Alsace and Lorraine. And here would be her opportunity.

It is difficult to imagine such a state of things without a general European war ensuing. It is said that France hates England as bitterly as she detests Germany. That may be so, although it would be difficult to prove it. But at least England holds none of her territory, nor could a war with England bring her any material advantage, whilst it would certainly involve enormous sacrifices. Nor would an attack on Germany necessitate a formal alliance with Great Britain. France would simply be seizing her opportunity.

As for other combinations, it is impossible to predict them. There is, at the present moment, an alliance between Germany, Austria, and Italy. And Italy might take advantage of France being at war with Germany, to make an attempt to regain Nice and Savoy. But would Italy willingly go to war with England, or go into a practical alliance against her old friend and sympathizer? And how would Russia act? Would the understanding which seems to exist between the great Empire and the French Republic lead to Russia joining against Germany? Or would India be assailed? Or the sick man of Turkey despatched? The mere asking of questions like these shows the number and complexity of the problems which await solution.

One thing, at least, is quite certain that Germany could not go to war with Great Britain without suffering terribly; and the result of the war, whatever it was, would be to imperil the great military system of the country, and, along with that, the form of government. It would be a great mistake to imagine that the Germans bear patiently the burden of their enormous army. They put up with it simply because they know that, otherwise, they could not protect themselves against France. But, if the war were to end by the cession of whatever portions of territory the French might demand, the reason for so great an army would be gone. Nor are Germans quite easy under the personal government of their Emperor. They are a people slow to revolt, but they have revolted before, and they are capable of doing so again; and there are forces at work in the Fatherland which might easily break forth and shatter the monarchy for ever. We are not prophesying: we are only forecasting possibilities. When France went to war with Germany in 1870, the Prime Minister of the period, M. Emile Ollivier, declared that they did so "with a light heart," but the heart of France was heavy enough before two years or one year had passed. If the Emperor William repeats the crime of the Emperor Napoleon, can he be quite sure that the result will be for the benefit of himself and his people?