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## PASSING EVENTS IN EUROPE.

THEY are "making history" in Europe, just now; and future generations will regard the incidents of the present day there with the same interest with which we study the acts of the men who have done so much to give shape and tone to modern society, and whose influence is still felt throughout the world. It is true that the full results of recent events will only be partly developed for a time; but that the European continent is about to undergo a great and important change cannot admit of doubt. The question is, if the alterations consequent on the defeat of Austria by Prussia will be effected without a more extensive, and even more bloody struggle than has yet taken place. The real intentions of the Prussian government are in a great measure undisclosed, though no mystery is attempted on some points, such as, that Austria must cease to be a German power, and that Prussia is to be the head of the Teutonic race. This resolve, if fully carried out, will probably lead to a further dismemberment of the Hapsburg dominions; for the seven millions of Germans who constitute a portion of the empire will undoubtedly, in the end, elect to be German at the expense of ceasing to be Austrians. Although Germany has been the scene of continued internecine wars for the last thousand years, yet the whole people are intensely national, and neither wars of dynasties among themselves, nor wars of religion, could extinguish the feelings of brotherhood that is cherished by the Teutonic family for all its members, as children of one common Fatherland. Indeed, a united Fatherland has been the aspiration of German patriotism since the days of Arminius, and was never stronger than it is at this moment. The German opponents of Frederick the Great rejoiced as heartily at the victories gained by him over their allies the Russians and French as his own subjects did; and Rosbach is always considered a national quite as much as a mere Prussian triumph. It was a struggle, in their estimation, of the Teuton and the Frank, in which the Frank was ignominiously defeated. We cannot believe, then, that the Austrian branch of the race will long be kept apart from their kindred; and this will, by and bye, add another difficulty to the existing complications. Much, however, will depend on the course Prussia is really determined to pursue, and which we suspect will not be fully known for some time, for she has an intricate game to play. If she could accomplish a real union of Germany, we think public opinion in Europe would go strongly with her, notwithstanding the odious features which marked the initiation of the recent war, and the spoliation of Denmark, which led to it. But she has to contend against the religious prepossessions of the states south of the Main,

against the supporters of the old confederation, and the claims of existing dynasties, besides the Austrian difficulty. The speech lately delivered by the king to the Diet throws little light on these points, which was evidently his object. Again, Russia is exhibiting symptoms of alarm at the progress so suddenly made by Prussia, and the position she will hold, when at the head of Germany. And Russia has, in fact, cause of apprehension. It is most likely, in the first place, that the union of Germany would, sooner or later, lead to the liberation of Poland, which the Germans would desire to establish as a barrier between themselves and the colossal power of Russia. In the second place, the policy of the Czars, from Peter the Great downwards, has been to make the Baltic a Russian lake, and the seacoast obtained by Prussia will frustrate that scheme; for she, too, is ambitious to become one of the maritime powers. In the third place, when driven out of Germany, Austria will look for acquisitions of territory in the direction of the Turkish principalities, a project in which she would have the sympathy and support of the other great powers, both with the view of keeping these countries out of the hands of Russia, and to strengthen Austria, as it is not supposed to be desirable that she should sink from her position as a nation of the foremost class. These facts will insure the hostility of Russia to the aggrandisement of Prussia, and her enmity is not to be despised, notwithstanding that she does not hold the same place in European affairs that she did prior to the Crimean war. It is true, that the prophecy of the first Napoleon at St. Helena, that Europe in fifty years would be either Cossack or Republican, has not been fulfilled; yet if a Russian general of great military talents were to arise, who would proceed on Napoleon's own plan of making the war feed itself, he might, for a period at least, bow the southern nations to his yoke, with the immense hordes at his disposal, who would follow him to the rich pastures of Germany, and the countries bordering the Rhine, as to a feast. That, however, is, at most, a bare possibility or a remote contingency, and should not be considered in speculating on existing facts and the consequences that are likely to flow from them. Sufficient for the day is the good or evil thereof.

The claims of Italy on Austria, if pushed to extremities, would cast additional impediments in the way of a lasting peace, if such a thing can ever exist in this unruly world, in advance of the millennium. Italy is entitled to the Southern Tyrol, both because these Tyrolese are Italians, and because the possession of their mountain passes is necessary to the security of Italy. But Victor Emmanuel and his advisers have included Illyria and Trieste in the schedule of their demands; and it were less a loss to Austria to sustain several more defeats, and even the capture of Vienna, than to surrender her only direct communication with the ocean. Hungary would be especially averse to such a concession.

But the supposed pretensions of Napoleon are, of all, the most dangerous to the pacification of Europe, if there be truth in the last accounts that have reached us. If his demand to extend the French frontier to the Rhine be in accordance with a secret agreement between himself and Prussia, the matter might be peaceably settled, in the meanwhile, at all events. But if he is determined to use force, we cannot believe that Prussia, flushed with her recent triumphs, will submit to what he asks. To do so would be contrary to the national policy which she professes to guide her, and would render her highly unpopular with those who are her chief supporters, the German Unitarians. Judging,

then, from the motives which usually direct governments and nations, we may infer that the interference of France in the German quarrel would induce Austria to renew the war, in the hope of retrieving her losses, and regaining her *prestige*; that the dispossessed German princes would attempt to recover their dominions; that Italy would continue to hold to her engagements with Prussia; that Denmark would perhaps endeavour to get back the Duchies; and that Russia would gladly take part in the contest, for the reasons we have already mentioned. Will Napoleon consent to such a state of things, with all the risks contingent upon it? We do not conceive he will, though his past adventures in Mexico, Italy, and elsewhere, render speculations as to what he will, or will not do, nearly as idle as guessing from which quarter the wind will blow at any hour for the next six months. All that can be asserted with anything approaching certainty is, that the war is now at an end, should he keep his fingers out of the pie.

The Queen has prorogued the British Parliament in a speech containing sentiments of peace, and good will towards the United States. How the American Government and people, will respond to these kindly words, is yet to be seen. In a similar spirit, we trust. The Reform agitation seems not quite so intense as it was; yet we expect that it is not dead but sleepeth. The condition of the navy is, the while, stirring up the English mind to its utmost depths. It has been found that while the Admiralty has been busy making experiments in plating and gunnery, needful and useful unquestionably, other countries have been building iron-clad vessels so fast, that the United States and France are far ahead of England in that respect. The excuse given for this is, that the improvements and discoveries being daily made in the means of offense and defense have withheld the Government from constructing new ships, at an enormous expense, which in a few years would turn out to be obsolete and useless. The arguments advanced by the contending parties in this discussion remind one of the popular anecdote of Dean Swift and his servant. The servant, on a journey, neglected to clean his master's boots, on the plea that as the road was bad, they would soon be dirty again. The Dean answered this logic by depriving the servant of his breakfast, inasmuch as he would soon be hungry again. If the British Admiralty refrain from building an iron-clad navy until science and ingenuity have ceased to invent new methods of slaughter, and for the prevention of slaughter, they may as well convert their docks into duck ponds and their arsenals into Quaker meeting-houses.

The intelligence from other parts of Europe is not of special interest.

## THE DRAMA.

NEW actors are as popular in Montreal as Mr. Barton Hill, and none more deservedly so; for besides his natural advantages, splendid figure, grace of action and expressive countenance, there appears in all his performances, evidence of determination to make what actors call "a part" of each character. He has the artistic faculty, that comparatively few strive to attain, but without which, no mere player can ever become a real actor, of sinking his own identity in that of the person he represents, and being for the time what he seems to be, if not so entirely as the greatest artists on the stage, at present, still, enough so, as to give promise of rare future excellence.