

nerve never flinched, hand never faltered. The quarter of a million have utterly "cribbed, cabined and confined" the two millions and a half. Five hundred thousand armed, drilled, and honestly patriotic Frenchmen—not by any means all Paris, or open to the cruel censure that has been so liberally dealt out to the battalions of grocers—have over and over again striven hard to make a *trouee* in the hostile cordon to find

A CRACK IN THE GERMAN ARMOUR.

Patriotic ferocity, love of home and fame and honor; the cause that they were acting before the eyes in which they most desired to bear themselves well, and fighting literally *pro aris et focis*—all these sources of inspiration have been impotent to aid the garrison of Paris in breaking out. They were two to one in absolute number, ten to one by dint of their power of throwing themselves in a mass on a single point in the long thin line of the German investment. But their impact, when they did attempt to make a gap in the besieging line, was as the smiting of a leaden sword against a weapon of proof. Again and again the dull blow was dealt; again and again came the instantaneous and shivering parry, until the besieged became hopeless and helpless; and their last disastrous sortie proved that they had completely lost faith in themselves. So by the unbending purpose, the constant watchfulness, and the unswerving energy of 200,000 Germans, 500,000 French soldiers have been driven to the last sad and humiliating confession of utter defeat. The old practice was to compute the ratio of the besieging to the besieged forces as the ratio of the circle to its own diameter. But "Messieurs les Allemands" have changed all that; they have shown how a siege may be conducted to a triumphant issue by an army less than one-half the strength of the garrison. By the fall of Paris the campaign practically closes; and nothing in its whole course was so consistent in its character as this ending. Utter collapse, absolute defeat, uninterrupted disaster—such have been for the French the monotonous features and fortunes of the war. We have heard of the practice of wood-cutters in the vast forests of North America, who make such an incision in the bark of many trees on one continuous line, that when a slight push is given to the farthest it falls on its fellow, and the whole rank goes down "by the run." It has been exactly so with the French armies in this campaign. At Weissemburg, at Woerth, at Thionville, at Gravelotte, at Sedan, at Orleans, at Vendome, at Belfort—steadily and continually the

FATAL IMPETUS ONCE GIVEN

on the frontier has sent to the ground, in hopeless disaster and irretrievable confusion the armies of France. Imperialist or Republican, Guardsmen or Mobiles; men impelled by NAPOLEON, or inspired by GARIBOLDI—all alike have crashed into utter ruin before the steady and resolute course of the Germans. We do not now stay to ask what would have been the case if, as one time seemed not quite improbable, the first push had been given by the hand of France. Disaster, in war, is contagious and self-reproductive. Had Starbruck been Weissemburg, or had MACMAHON undone the deadly mischief which the vehement but careless DOUAY expiated with his life, who could tell that the end of the campaign, if it had even now come, might not have been very different? Meanwhile, we can only grieve with the accomplished facts. France lies absolutely powerless under the heel of the Germans. Neither Marengo nor Jena,

nor Austerlitz, nor Brodino—no battle of history, no sudden disaster befalling a military nation—ever so sorely smote the pride of a people as this capitulation of Paris, closing, as it does, an almost unbroken series of defeats. But the fact that is Franco which has now fought and lost forbids us to imagine that the end is yet. If the Beresina, and Leipsig, and Waterloo are French memories, so also are Friedland, Jena and Wagram. A nation which is perpetually at strife—which accepts combat as the first law of being—must have its ups and downs, its chances and mischances. It would be simply absurd to imagine that Franco biffed and prostrated to-day, will not fight for a hundred years to come. A great people, proud, quick and sensitive, jealous of its memories, and ambitious for its future, cannot rest in such a way for such a time. If the German Emperor persevere in the terms of peace which have been foreshadowed in the policy of merciless annexation, France will fight again and that ere the present generation has ceased to feel the spur of its terrible defeat.

ON BRITISH NORTH AMERICA.

An able paper was read the other day at the Russell institution by Captain Duncan, R. A. "On Canada or British North America. The views advocated were mainly that Canada, with its area of three millions of square miles and its population of four millions, is the most important colony of the empire, and likely to become the highway to the east, on the completion of the new and projected line of railway to British Columbia, in lieu of the present route by the Grand Trunk so exposed to hostile attack; that the severance of the colonies would be fatal to the interests of the British Empire and that Canada is all important, in view of any misunderstanding with the United States and should therefore be aided and protected to the uttermost by the mother country, as an essential foothold on the American continent in the event of war. The mode proposed for her defence would be by fortifying the chief towns, and maintaining efficient gun-boats on the St. Lawrence and the lakes the country keeping on foot the establishment necessary for a contingent of 200,000 fighting men. Military colonisation to be the basis of such a population; Government sending out discharged soldiers, with good conduct certificates and the Dominion making free grants of land on conclusion of their cultivating and residing on the same with liability to service in defence of the country. Encouragement should be held out to retired officers to settle and take commands and free passages and land grants made as rewards to soldiers after a certain term of service, thus affording such inducements to enlistment at home as would supersede the recruiting sergeant, and remove all fears for our army at home now so rife.—*European Mail.*

The Suez Canal promises to turn out a remunerative investment. The revenue receipts from tolls for the month of December amounted to \$160,000, or at the rate of two million yearly, an income representing an expenditure of forty millions of dollars. The ship owners of Great Britain patronize the Suez route more than any other nation in consequence of their large trade with China and India. The steamship "Rolo" recently made the passage from Gravesend to Calcutta within thirty-five days, making use of the Suez Canal route. The work of deepening the canal proceeds vigorously, and no detention occurs during the passage of the largest craft.

A MILITARY correspondent of the London Times says: "I have made a great many enquiries about the wounds inflicted by different weapons and I find that the evidence is on the whole to the effect a chassepot inflicts a more dangerous wound than the needle-gun and is a more effective weapon in every respect. A thoughtless inquirer may find surgeons who will assert the contrary, because the chassepot bullet at a long range is perhaps less destructive than the needle-gun at a short one. The orifice made by the French bullet is small, and if no bone has been touched, is apt to heal over quickly; but the canal made through the flesh in flames, suppurates and causes dangerous swelling and internal evil. So thoroughly is this now understood that some of the best surgeons recommend immediate enlargement of the orifice. Now and then a case occurs, though very rarely of a chassepot bullet passing through a bone without shattering it. There is a case here at this moment of a soldier whose tibia was penetrated in this manner. The bullet retained its form with the exception of a little derangement of its point. Generally speaking—and I have examined a large collection of bullets which have done their work—the missile flattens out and splinters the bone just in proportion to its force in striking. The chassepot bullet is lighter than that of the needle-gun, but its velocity at any given distance is far greater. The new Bavarian rifle, the Werder, is better than either the chassepot or the needle-gun; but as yet only the picket troops are armed with it. I am inclined to think its action as a breech-loader even quicker than that of the Martini. It is a small bore, and the barrel has, of course, a sharply-twisted rifling. The Prussians are in love with it, and the best proof of its popularity is that very few examples are ever left on the field of battle, because every dead man's rifle is seized by a living comrade, who leaves his own in exchange for it. Before this campaign the Prussians endeavored to induce Bavarians to adopt the needle-gun. It is now probable that the Prussian army will adopt the Bavarian weapon."

The German troops, according to a Berlin paper, now occupy, not partially but completely thirty two of the eighty six French Departments comprising 15,000 communes. They exercise in these all civil and military powers, control the post telegraphs and railways and regularly collect the taxes.

A Western editor, on entering his office and seeing his apprentice boy cutting some queer capers, called out to him, "Jim, what are you doing on the floor?" "Why sir I have had a shock." "A shock?" "Yes sir." "What kind of a shock?" "Why sir," said the lad gasping, "one of your subscribers came in during your absence—said he owed for two years subscription—paid for it—and also paid another year in advance."

"YOUNG ARTUOR."—Yes, Agossiz does recommend authors to eat fish, because the phosphorous in it makes brains. So far you are correct. But I cannot help you to a decision about the amount you need to eat—at least not with certainty. If the specimen composition you sent is about your fair usual average I should judge that a couple of whales would be all that you want for the present. Not the largest kind, but simply good middling sized whales.—*Mark Twain in the Galaxy.*