

CURRENT OPINIONS.

The Shah of Persia.

Sau (Baltimore): Nassr ed-Dine was a shrewd and capable ruler from the Oriental point of view, but has done very little for the improvement of his realm. He had a talent for amassing money. As long as he could sell concessions to European capitalists he rivaled the presidents of Venezuela in that sort of thrift. Rumor credits him with the possession of some \$60,000,000 in cold cash, the proceeds of taxes, bribes, monopolies and concessions. His visit to Europe in 1873 did not teach him much. Of the modern art of government he was perfectly ignorant, and his people, ground down by taxes collected under the wasteful and oppressive Oriental system, are probably fewer and poorer now than when he ascended the throne in October, 1848. His dominions are of less area, Russia having appropriated much of his territory east, west, and south of the Caspian. Persia is now, it is said, at the mercy of Russia, and preparations have been made by that power for an advance southward to the Indian ocean. Some years ago England and Russia were rivals at Teheran. They both still keep an eye on events there, as England is averse to having Russia reach the sea that way. The Shah's successor, Muzaffer ed-Dine, is a more self-indulgent and less capable man, it is said, than his father. The latter, however, was extremely jealous of him and never gave him a fair chance to show his powers.

The New French Cabinet.

American (Baltimore): The cabinet is a compromise, or, more properly, an Opportunist ministry. The Radicals in it are not typical, and it will not receive the support of either the extreme Radicals or the Socialists. These two groups, which were the main support of Bourgeois, do not constitute a majority of the Chamber, but the other groups are so wide apart upon some questions, and so bitter in their rivalry, that it is difficult to keep them in line for a ministry. The Radicals and Socialists thus become a very formidable minority, able at almost any serious crisis to overthrow the government. Such a cabinet is needed now in France—one that will address itself conscientiously to the general public welfare, and leave political pyrotechnics severely alone. France has had quite enough of political crises. They seem to do less harm in France than anywhere else in the world, but the constant repetition of them is not desirable. The presence of M. Hanotaux at the foreign office is a guaranty of consistent foreign policy. There will be no surprises.

The Italic Words in the Bible added by the Translators to Make Sense.

The Truth (New York): Every one, of course, knows that the italicised words of the Bible are of human origin, and form no part of holy Scripture. No doubt our translators sincerely believed that they could add to the force of the original writings, or render their meaning more clearly; but they greatly erred in their well-meaning though mistaken attempt. There is scarcely an instance in which they have not obscured the sense or perverted the teachings of the Holy Ghost, so impossible is it for man to improve upon what God has said: God has said, "I hate thoughts;" man has added, "I hate *vain* thoughts" (Ps. 119: 113). God has said, "That ye might learn in us not to think above that which is written;" man has added, "That ye might learn in us not to think of *men*