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THE SITUATION OF SWITZERLAND

The position of Switzerland with respect to the belligerents is unique. She is now like an island surrounded on every hand by the roaring waves of war. France, Germany, Austria, Italy all touch her borders. The only bit of neutral territory with which she is in immediate contact is the little principality of Liechtenstein. But since there are only some ten thousand Liechtensteiners, the fact is hardly worth mentioning. The sturdy little republic must keep a clear eye and a steady hand in order to stay out of trouble. And with all her care, if the war is prolonged, it may be impossible to preserve her neutral attitude. Meantime the well-informed Swiss journals are able to give us trustworthy information and appreciations of the state of things in the neighboring lands. We translate from the Journal de Geneve of May 25th and 26th:

Five Wars.

"This is the fifth war between Austria and Italy in sixty-seven years. The whole history of contemporary Italy is filled with the echoes of these wars. And that explains why the mere name of Austria, in spite of the thirty years of alliance, suffices, particularly in the north of Italy, to stir the souls of the educated classes. In historical works, in school manuals, in the stories told round the family hearth, Austria is always the enemy.

"The first of these wars occurred in 1848. An insurrection had broken out at Milan, then an Austrian town, the capital of the kingdom of Lombardo-Venetia, which was under the control of the Crown of the Hapsburgs. The whole peninsula was at that time like a volcanic region, shaken by an inward lava, trying to burst forth in an eruption. Revolution was stirring the masses, in Sicily and at Naples against the Bourbons, in the central duchies against the petty reactionary sovereigns who were under Austrian authority. The people were demanding liberty. The idea of Italian unity was not yet ripe. Then it was that an Italian prince drew his sword and marched to the help of the insurgents of Milan.

The First a Failure.

"This was Charles Albert, King of Piedmont. His real title was King of Sardinia, and he was the great grandfather of Victor Emmanuel III., the present King. His liberal tendencies were not pronounced and he feared revolution. But his family ambitions and a certain ardent mysticism urged him to heroic acts. The soul of a medieval knight beat under the hair-shirt which covered his breast. Bravely he launched his little army against Austria. On his side were the aroused people of Lombardy and Venetia, battalions of volunteers raised in the States of central Italy and the Holy Father's blessing. Pope Pius IX had, even in his own States, permitted a little army to be raised in his honor. "The war was short. The Pope, repenting of what he had done, recalled his troops and disowned their leader. After some brilliant successes Charles Albert was beaten at Custoza. The war, which had begun on April 6th, was over by August 10th, when Marshal Radetzky, Commander-in-Chief of the Austrian troops, reported to his sovereign: There is not, any longer a single enemy on the soil of Lombardy.

A King's Abdication.

"The second war took place in the following year. A revolution had burst forth at Rome and a Republic had been declared. A French army had landed to restore the papal power. Charles Albert feared this intervention of the foreigner. Between the foreign invasion, which was a menace to Italy, and a Republic, which threatened his throne, he decided once more to try the fortune of arms, and, without help from the other States of Italy, he marched against Milan. Beaten at Novara he tried to commit suicide in the midst of his troops. That very evening he gathered his princes and generals in council and said to them: "Sirs, I have ascribed myself to the Italian cause; for it I have exposed my life, my children and my throne. Since I have not been able to meet death I shall make a last sacrifice to my country. I lay down my crown and I abdicate in favor of my son, the Duke of Savoy. He departed, that very evening without saying where he was going, shut himself up in a convent, and spent the last years of his life in prayer.

"His son, Victor Emmanuel II, made peace with Austria, but ten years later attacked her again, this time with the help of Napoleon III. That was the great war. A hundred

thousand Frenchmen and forty thousand Piedmontese marched together from victory to victory. Peace was signed after the lapse of two months. The Austrians were driven from Lombardy but kept Venetia. Piedmont ceded Nice and Savoy to France. All the rest of Italy, with the exception of Rome rose up and gave itself to Victor Emmanuel.

"The last war with Austria was that of 1866. On this occasion Italy found herself the ally of Prussia. But the Italian army was beaten at Custoza and the fleet at Lissa by the Austrian Admiral Tegetthof. Still, Austria, having been beaten by the Prussians on the fields of Bohemia at Sadowa, gave up Venetia.

The Emperor of Austria.

"Of all the actors in this great drama, which stretches over more than 60 years of time, only one now survives, the Emperor Francis Joseph. It was in 1848 that he ascended the throne after the abdication of his uncle, the Emperor Ferdinand I. War was at his gates; all Austria was in revolution, and there was civil war in Hungary. Francis Joseph, a young lieutenant of eighteen years, of fine manners and handsome figure in his white uniform, was living the careless life of pleasure of young officers. When the heavy crown was brought to him he flung himself sobbing into his mother's arms, exclaiming: Farewell, dear days of youth! Perhaps in that moment he caught a glimpse of what his reign would be, so full of commotions and wars, of what his life would be, so full of sad, tragic sorrow.

"Just the other day when he sent forth his troops against the great grandson of Charles Albert, the old Emperor recalled, in a manifesto to his people, the events recited above and in which he himself participated, along with the names of Radetzky, of Tegetthof, of Custoza and of Lissa. Then he railed at Italy, with whom he declared he had always kept faith as an ally. To which the best reply from Italy will be: There will never be peace as long as Austria rules over Italian subjects. As Cavour put it once: It is not in the past that we must look for reasons for going to war, but in the future.

Italy Was Unready.

"And now what sort of an adversary will Italy make? It is estimated that she can put 1,200,000 men of the first line in the field for the present campaign. But to tell the truth this army is to some extent improvised. The Giolitti Ministry, a business Government, had neglected national defence. Italy became suddenly aware of this when war was declared last August. No matter what her desires, she was unable to make war. As it is in all countries with democratic constitutions, the superior positions in the army were filled, but the lower places lacked officers. The staffs had to be reconstituted. Numerous lieutenants became captains, and lieutenants were picked up wherever they could be found. There are many captains who are not more than 25 or 30 in the Italian infantry, and a large number of lieutenants have received the instruction to fit them for officers during the last seven or eight months.

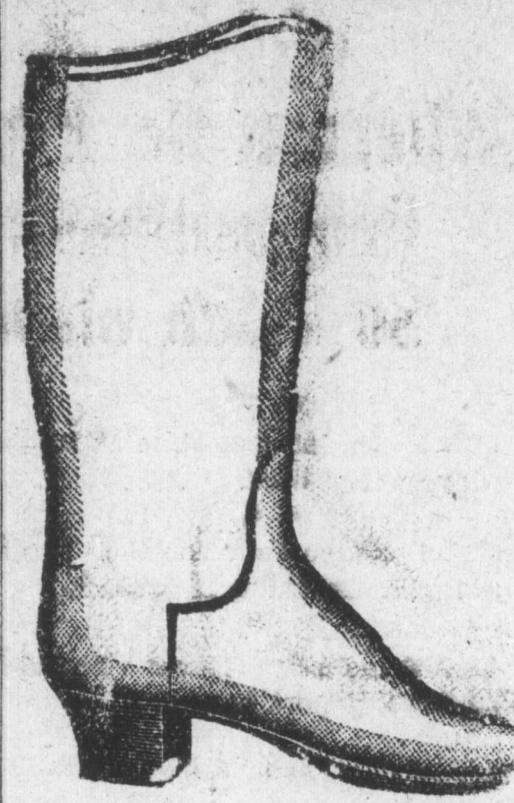
"A part of the artillery has been improvised also. The Italian army has only recently received its field guns of the Deport model for which Parliament voted supplies in 1911. But since last autumn the work has been carried on energetically. All we hear now leads us to believe that the army is extremely well equipped with its now green-grey uniforms, its well-made shoes and supply-trains in good condition.

A Great Awakening.

"As to the spirit of the army, impartial observers, Swiss, who have returned from Italy, quite recently, assert that all they have seen has made a good impression on them. This information refers, it is true, more particularly to the army corps of the north. Our informants noticed in them a calm and self-possession of a remarkable kind. The events of the last month have had a great influence on the army as well as on the civil population of Italy. The soldiers are much keener now than they were. A great awakening has taken place. The whole army is ready to march to the conquest of the Trentino and Trieste.

"Moreover the army is composed of fresh troops and in this respect it is superior to the troops which it will be called on to fight. Some of these have, it is true, a technical training which the Italians lack, but the latter have still all their nervous energy unabated. The question arises how will the Austro-

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German army best meet the attack of this new force? Will it be by offensive or defensive action? That will depend in some measure on the number of men which can be detached from the east and west fronts and on the number of reserves which can be called up. To make any impression in offensive action at least 400,000 men would be needed at once and many more later on, and perhaps the Germans can ill spare so many."

LOVE ONE ANOTHER

Preaching one Sunday from the text "Love one another," the village parson told a little story of two goats that had met on the one-plank bridge which crossed a small stream where he lived. "But did they fight and try to push each other into the water?" queried the minister. "Oh no! One lay down and allowed the other to step over him. There was the right spirit! My brethren," said the preacher, leaning over the pulpit, and speaking in a gentle, persuasive tone, "let us live like goats."

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