

## THE PROTESTANT AND EVANGELICAL WITNESS.

### Secular Department.

#### EUROPEAN NEWS.

##### ITALIAN AFFAIRS.

**When we hear in the present day of the appearance of a new Emperor of the French, it is interesting to note that the well-known stamp is now the avowed medium which chooses for the dissemination of his views, and for the ventilation of a policy which has affected so often, and so seriously, the interests of Europe at large. This is the fact which gives to the essay "L'Empereur François Joseph et l'Europe," which has just issued from the Paris press, its peculiar interest. It is a remarkable document, which would attach to it on the ground of its own intrinsic literary merit. Notably the production of M. Daverney, of St. Sulpice's library, and M. Pichot, one of the numerous successful capitalists of the second Empire, it is more than suspected that it may in reality claim the signature of M. Macqueron, the Empereur's secretary. It is a remarkable article, written with the tact and courtesy of his master, and may be supposed to embody his views as to the most feasible and satisfactory solution of the matters of which it treats. Whether the projects which are broached in it are altogether practical, yet remains to be seen. At present the ventilation of the whole question is all that can be desired.**

**The audience of the wide sea of that public opinion which the Emperor has always professed to respect, and the light breezes or powerful currents which may affect its course will be, we may be sure, narrowly scrutinized by one of the keenest observers of the present age.**

**Profiting greatly among all the rascals of Venice, the Jacobins have really succeeded, in all probability, towards the assembling of that Harem Congress which has been so often talked of, but which is still only in embryo.**

**The recognition by Europe of the annexation of Savoy and Nice is still the darling scheme of Louis Napoleon; and this, as is well aware, can never be obtained, except upon the footing of a single nation. For this reason, what that plan may be, we do not yet know.**

**Unquestionably, in the present moment, it is only so in the brain of its author, nor is it unlikely that a shadowy outline has been left to be filled up according to the turn which events may hereafter take. It does not, however, follow that suspicions as to the source from which they may have emanated, are to be regarded as well founded. They are in no wise reasonable, and will conduct to general good. That the cession of Venetia by Austria has now become a mere question of time is the deliberate opinion of every one who has studied, in all its numerous bearings, the present state of Italy. In what precise moment an important change may be ultimately effected, is of course a matter of small consequence. The time for such a concession, important as it may be, should not be purchased at the cost of a bloody war, will be the wish of all who have the good of either party at heart. Austria can hardly fail to see the immeasurable strength which will be added to her position, were this thrown in her side quite suddenly, and not in a manner not diametrically opposed to the national honor.**

**It is to be hoped that the Emperor will be induced to give his assent to the peace with the State troops.**

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