

FROM OUR OWN OBSERVATORY.

The European War Scare.

WHATEVER may be its outcome, it is unquestionable that the present situation of affairs in Europe is one of the most dangerous that the world has witnessed since the termination of the Crimean War. And perhaps the most significant sign is that presented by the demand of the German Emperor for an expenditure of 325 millions of marks during the next two years on the building of new ships. There can hardly be two interpretations put upon such a proposal; especially when we note the disclosures made by Cecil Rhodes before the Parliamentary Commission of Inquiry into the Transvaal raid, and the state of tension between the aristocratic and jingo party in Germany and the Socialists. Just as, in 1870, Napoleon the Little found no way out of a complete surrender to the constitutional and reform party except by an appeal to the military instincts of the French; so there seems to William the Foolish no way out of a surrender of his autocratic pretensions except by a war in which the national prejudices of his people may be used to swamp the patriotic and progressive work of the most enlightened sections of his people. A special effort, it appears, is to be made to get rid of those college professors who have helped to discuss, elucidate and popularize the principles upon which the progress of the nation must depend; and strong measures are to be taken to exterminate the democratic and socialistic elements. Without in any way endorsing the principles of the Socialistic party, it is safe to say that the Emperor and his friends, in adopting the methods of the Spanish Inquisition to destroy them, must in the end necessarily fail, even if, by cultivating the jingo spirit, they may delay the final day of reckoning.

It is said that the war feeling in Britain is not just now very strong; but we all know how rapidly such a feeling can be cultivated; and it is likely that the sympathy shown with Dr. Jameson's raid and the animosity arising from German trade competition, point to the existence of feelings that would rapidly lead the country on to the war-path. The position taken up by the Greeks has certainly enlisted the sympathy of large sections of the British people; and it seems certain that, if Lord Salisbury allows them to be coerced in the interests of Turkey, it will be a severe trial to the stability of his government. The matter can hardly fail to take on a decided shape before another week elapses; and if a war between the great European powers should result, it will doubtless be the most momentous one of the present century.

Rome in Canada.

The most prominent result of the General Election of June, 1896, appears to be, that at the present moment Canada's statesmen are waiting for permission from the Pope before they proceed to the business of the new Parliament. Whatever may be, or may have been, the intentions of the new Government,