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Editorial.

THE FRANCO-RUSSIAN ENTENTE.

IS there a formal treaty of alliance between the two powers? To the solution of this question newspaper men have for the last eighteen months been bending their energies. We have been told that such a treaty has been signed and date and circumstances have been given. We have have been told that it has not been signed but will be. We have even been allowed to penetrate the secret of some of its provisions and to contemplate its probable effects. Of one thing, however, there appears no room to doubt, viz: the ardent desire of France to cultivate the friendship of Russia. Two years ago, on the occasion of the visit of the Russian fleet at Toulon, all France was in a ferment of joyous excitement. All ranks and conditions among the people appeared to be affected by a sort of philo-mania, having Russia for its object. The mayors of cities donned their golden collars, and read addresses. The bands played; the people "put on their best attire and culled out a holiday" to do honour to their Russian visitors. The theatre, the opera, even the church, bent their energies to swell the enthusiasm. Again, within the last few days, these scenes have been re-enacted, on the occasion of the visit of the Czar and Czarina. Where are we to seek for

the causes which have lighted these fires of enthusiasm? The memory of Napoleon's great disaster must have been hard to blot out. History shows us France's armies often ranged against those of Russia, so that we should expect to find a feeling of hostility rather than of friendship existing between them. The new order of things could not have owed its origin to geographical position: the two nations are geographical opposites; nor to community of interest; there are no two nations who have less in common: nor to similarity of temper or disposition; in this respect also they are opposites. It may then be fairly assumed that these extraordinary manifestations of good will towards Russia are not based upon any sentiments which Russia or Russians as such, have evoked. We will find the source of this passion in something personal to France. Glory has ever been very dear to France and humiliation very bitter. Yet she has been obliged in recent years to submit to humiliation. She has seen her armies overpowered in repeated conflicts, her capital in the hands of a victorious enemy and two of her provinces wrested from her. Is there a Frenchman who does not long to avenge these disgraces? The question which dominates all others in the French heart is, How shall Al-