

and Gen. Berthaut, the Minister at War, are anxious to resign. According to others, McMahon's self-conceit has not yet received a mortal blow, and he is meditating another dissolution, and a new election to take place 'under a state of siege.' This seems exceedingly improbable, because the Marshal, however impervious his obstinate spirit may be to popular opinion, cannot fail to see the fearful risk he would incur of casting France once more into the throes of revolution. Next May, the Paris Exposition is to be opened, and it is likely that he will make considerable sacrifices of personal feeling and prejudice, rather than reduce France to the verge of insurrection so short a time before it. He could easily make concessions sufficiently broad to conciliate a large section of the Left, without in any way compromising his dignity; and for that reason we believe that he will attempt to form a *quasi* Liberal Cabinet by means of Dufaure.

In the East the tables are suddenly turned. Russia has won a brilliant victory in Armenia, where it was least expected. Moukhtar's Pasha's army has been practically broken up, Kars is invested, and an

army is on the road to Erzeroum. On the Lom, Suleiman Pasha, who succeeded the Fabian Mehemet Ali, and from whom some dashing and rapid exploit was expected, has abandoned his old line and taken refuge at Rasgrad, whither the Czarevitch has followed him, after leaving a sufficient force 'o mask Rustchuk. In the west, Osman Pa-ia still holds the powerful post of Plevna, and has hitherto defied the engineering genius of Todleben and the reckless bravery of the Russo-Roumanian army. A diversion by Servia would no doubt cut off Osman's connections, and it is obvious that Plevna cannot be taken until he and his 130,000 are cooped up within their lines of circumvallation. Servia, however, holds back, and Russia is making assurance doubly sure by connecting Plevna by railway with the Danube. It is quite manifest that Turkey has reached the end of her tether; she has fought with desperate valour, but the sanguinary contest is clearly approaching its close. It will then be seen what Europe will do to place the suffering Slavs in a secure position for the future.

October 25th, 1877.

## BOOK REVIEWS.

COUNT FRONTENAC, AND NEW FRANCE UNDER LOUIS XIV. By Francis Parkman. Boston; Little, Brown & Co. Toronto: Hart & Rawlinson. 1877.

Mr. Parkman's latest contribution to Canadian history, if possible, surpasses in interest the previous volumes of the series. The bold, clear-cut figure of Frontenac stands out in Franco-Canadian history in all its imposing dignity. During nearly twenty-seven years, with an interval of seven about midway in his career, the grand, haughty, brave, petulant, and chivalrous old man occupied a foremost place in Canadian story, during a turbulent period of intestine strife, battle with the Iroquois, and national intrigue and rivalry. These most

thrilling chapters from the heroic and romantic period of our own early history, are full of intense interest, and must have exerted at once a fascinating and inspiring influence upon the mind of our author. Before entering upon an account of this volume, it may not be amiss to point out some chronological points which may be of service to students, and especially to the younger of them. Four names occupy the most prominent positions under the French *régime*, Jacques Cartier, the voyager, Samuel de Champlain, the founder of the French system, François de Laval, the sturdy champion of the Church, and Louis de Buade, Count Frontenac, the foe of England. Now Cartier arrived off Quebec, then Stadacona, in 1535; Champlain died in 1635, ex-