

Notes of the Month.

FRANCE is still in a most unsettled state politically. There is a vast amount of discontent at the present state both of their Home and Foreign affairs. After their great defeat by the Prussians a civil war was commenced and raged with awful violence till it was crushed by the overwhelming power of the Government. The ruling powers however have not got the confidence of the people. The difficulty is to find a man and a government who can and will under present difficulties give satisfaction to the nation. At present there is a German army encamped on their soil, and maintained largely at the expense of the country. Much trouble has arisen between this army and the citizens in the Provinces where they are. Many soldiers have been murdered, and daily reports of outrages against others have come to us. Bismark has notified the Government of France that the perpetrators of these murders and outrages must be delivered up to the German officers for trial, or that their army of occupation would be increased, and would preserve order by force. By a recent despatch we find that a number of prominent citizens in the town of Revin have been seized as hostages, in consequence of a quarrel between the French people and the Bavarian troops. This notification and action on the part of the Germans must be most galling to the French. With this state of feeling the nation will never be satisfied, and what is wanted but cannot be found, is a man who can form a government and unite the people, that they may be able to drive these proud invaders from their borders, and show the Germans that they can still maintain the dignity and position of one of the first nations of Europe. The present republican form of government we can scarcely expect to last. The people have an end in view, and it will matter very little to them what may be the form or character of the government which will offer to aid them in accomplishing it. They have been defeated by the Germans; the glory of their nation has departed with their defeat; they have since been subject to the most tantalising insults and threats on the

part of Bismark; the strongest and most bitter feelings of hate and revenge have taken root in the heart of the nation, and nothing will ever satisfy them but a government of whatever name or character which will seek an alliance with other powers against Prussia. There is a growing feeling for war and we fear that they will not be satisfied till they have it.

GREAT BRITAIN has been greatly excited over the severe illness of the Prince of Wales. The first account received by us of him was not by any means alarming. It was that he had typhoid fever, but that the symptoms were not dangerous. Then came more alarming accounts, but with the assurance that the fever had been at no time beyond the control of his physicians. After two weeks the public learned that the Prince up to that time had been delirious, and that his insensibility continued. It was further stated that brief snatches of sleep alone gave him any relief, and that no hope of his recovery was entertained. For over two weeks he was at the point of death. All the members of the Royal family in the meantime were summoned to his bedside. Daily with them and with his physicians who were in constant attendance on him, hopes and fears alternated as to the issue of his illness. The telegraph lines and cables throughout the world were occupied in sending hourly intelligence regarding him. It was when the worst of news was expected that the most gratifying intelligence came of visible improvement in his condition. Hope was revived, and now we are happy to record that he is progressing favourably toward recovery. The intense excitement of the people, which is said to have been greater than during the Crimean war, is gradually subsiding. The sympathy manifested for the Prince and the members of the Royal family, shows how near and dear the throne is to the British nation. Lately we have heard much from stump orators regarding a growing republican spirit among the people. We could scarcely credit the truth of the statement. We remembered that those who were dissatisfied with the existing state of affairs in a country are generally apt to magnify the strength which they have to back