

are not quite sure whether Italy is still a member of the Dreibund, or whether anarchy reigns in the Austrian Parliament, or the Parliament is sitting. The Emperor Joseph still lives and the dual monarchy will worry on somehow as long as he is on the throne. There are rumours about Russian designs on Persia and Afghanistan, but no person's pulse is stirred. Two countries beside our own still excite a languid interest—France and Germany. France generally gives us the unexpected. A revolution was promised in connection with the Dreyfus case, or at the very least the defeat of the ministry which ordered his second trial and saw the affair through; but the *QUARTERLY* never gave credence to the predictions, and never despaired of France. Writers for the British press seldom do justice to France, and they are astonished that the Paris papers should pay them back in kind. France has astonishing staying and recuperative power, and the support given to her present strangely composite ministry shows how well able she is to recover herself at the last moment. The Premier keeps his team well in hand. The Foreign Minister tells the Chambers that the British fleet is superior to theirs at every point and in every respect, and consequently that it is idle and undignified to bluster. Instead of raging at him for his frankness, the Government's majority is at once increased. The Minister of War goes on quietly with his policy of making the army subordinate to the civil authority and of suppressing the enemies of order, and in a city supposed to be honey-combed with disaffection no one cheeps. What a lesson for politicians everywhere that nothing pays like fearless discharge of duty! No one need keep away from the Exhibition, for fear of "the red foot fury of the Seine."

The Kaiser is determined to have a fleet that will permit him to shake his mailed fist wherever he pleases, and though his wisest subjects disapprove, he is likely to get it. It seems madness to impose new burdens on a people who are as much compelled to have the finest army in the world, as Great Britain to have the finest fleet; but there is continuity as well as method in his madness. Britain need not object; for the more successful he is the more necessary will it be for him not to quarrel with the Mistress of the Seas. Whether he sees in the future an occupation of part of South America or of Syria and the Euphrates valley, so that Germany may colonize over seas without losing her overspill to rival powers, need not affect us, otherwise than to wish him well in either case. It would be a clear gain to the world, certainly, to have a German Dominion established in the East; and it is gain to humanity about which we are concerned and not any mad idea of painting all the earth red. Russia might object, but that is her look-out. So far as her ambitions are legitimate, we can wish her, too, all success. G.