

£50,000, and even the Liberal *Spectator* is of opinion that £100,000 should have been asked. Of course, Mr. P. A. Taylor and the noisy knot of republicans who grow rabid whenever the Royal Family is mentioned, cried out against any vote. They might have saved themselves the trouble, for loyalty is the *mode* in England just now.

Public affairs in France have not been proceeding quite so smoothly as they promised. M. Gambetta's speech at Versailles, in which he strove to "educate his party" into alliance with the *bourgeoisie* and the peasantry, was a very clever and honourable effort. He was followed, sometime after, by the minister, M. Buffet, who also made a conciliatory speech, which might have been delivered by M. Thiers, on the necessity of rendering the Assembly a thoroughly popular body. So far well; but this *entente cordiale* was far too good to last. The first bomb-shell was the University Bill, which destroyed the hope entertained by the Liberals of establishing secular education. The Right Centre, the Right, and the Bonapartists unitedly supported the clergy and the bill. Then came the revelations, made by the Committee on the Nièvre election, of the intrigues of Imperialism, and M. Rouher's audacious defence. M. Gambetta very inconsiderately accused M. Buffet of aiding Imperialism by keeping Bonapartist prefects in office, and from that moment, the allies have been working at cross-purposes. The Left wants an immediate dissolution; the Right *entre* are quite willing, if the Left consent to abandon the *scrutin de liste*, which they will not do. The immediate

consequence is that a long vacation has postponed the general elections for some months.

M. de Laveleye has said that the dangers of the European situation "arise from the difficulties in which Germany finds herself—difficulties that are the nearly inevitable result of the last war, and the treaty that ended it." It is quite certain that the Empire is ill at ease. There was more truth than most people were disposed to allow in Count Von Moltke's complaint last year, that Germany was without allies on whom she could depend. In fact, she has been passing through a series of scares ever since the termination of the war. Her ecclesiastical legislation is a failure, and trade and manufactures are in a state of stagnation. Then came the suspicious fraternization of Francis Joseph and Victor Emmanuel. Following it was the remonstrance against French armaments, and the peremptory and somewhat ostentatious demand of the Czar that peace should be preserved. The alliance of the three Emperors is, in fact, an exceedingly shaky one. Their meeting at Ems did not take place. Instead of that, Alexander went to visit his Austrian brother, without passing through Berlin, as he had always done before. The reason why Germany is now looking so anxiously at Russia, is because she fears that instead of keeping Austria back from assisting France in any new war, she might herself form a member of an anti-German coalition. Altogether, the ambitions of European powers and their swollen armaments have rendered the renewal of war a mere question of time.

BOOK REVIEWS.

QUEEN MARY: a Drama. By Alfred Tennyson. Canadian Copyright Edition. Toronto: James Campbell & Son.

The announcement that Mr. Tennyson was about to give to the world a new poetical production, and that in the form of a drama based upon one of the most exciting periods of English history, naturally caused no little stir in

literary circles. The interest aroused by the announcement was intensified when it became known that "Queen Mary" was the title of the drama, and that its subject embraced the chief incidents, religious, civil, and political, of the period from Mary Tudor's accession to her death in 1558. Now that the book has appeared, and that every literary critic, at least, has read it, it may be safe to hazard the opinion