

France to refrain from military occupation, obliged Italy to abstain from assaulting the Pope's territory and even to defend it if threatened. The Italian Government promised to discharge both obligations. But, on the fall of Sedan, popular sentiment proved too strong for King and Ministry, and on the 6th of September the decision was reached that Rome should be the capital of the monarchy. A plebiscite sanctioned the annexation by an overwhelming majority. The Vatican and so-called Leonine City were assigned to the Pope, who was allowed to retain certain prerogatives and privileges of a temporal sovereign and was offered a respectable civil list.

The Second Empire, as the regime of Napoleon the Third is called, belongs entirely to our half century. It was succeeded by the Third Republic, which, having held its ground for thirty years—for twenty-five since the adoption of the constitution—has come to be regarded as the final choice of the nation. It is somewhat curious that the Republic's one ally should be that despotic and ambitious power against which Napoleon the Third had successfully measured his strength in concert with England and Sardinia in defence of Turkey's integrity. His share, mostly indirect, in accomplishing the unity of Italy and Germany, and thus materially altering the political map of Central and Western Europe, is striking evidence of the oft-quoted saying of Thomas à Kempis—"Man proposes but God disposes." And perhaps, if we examine his policy in the Levant, we shall find the evidence no less interesting.

Certain it is that the Crimean War, which broke the long peace that followed Waterloo, if not largely of Napoleonic devising, was welcomed by the Emperor of the French as a safeguard to his throne and for the furtherance of his dynastic ambitions. The failure of his plans is thought to have broken the strong heart of the Czar Nicholas. In its immediate results the war but slightly modified the map. But, although it diverted Rus-

sia's ambition into directions more perilous to England than those in which Nicholas was tending, it did not save Turkey from the loss of the Principalities. A quarter of a century later, the quarrel was renewed between Russia and Turkey, and the Czar's army approached so near to Constantinople that, but for the protests of Austria and England, supported by the other Powers, the final step to Stamboul might have been taken. For a time the Russians maintained an attitude of defiance; but at last a Congress was agreed to and the reconstruction, qualified by Beaconsfield as "Peace with honour," took place. Save for the check to Russia, the issue was strangely in accordance with the plan confided by Czar Nicholas I to Sir Hamilton Seymour in 1853. He wished the principalities (Wallachia and Moldavia) to be independent: the kingdom of Roumania has long been familiar to us. He would have given Servia a like status, and it, too, has a king of its own. "So again with Bulgaria," said Emperor Nicholas; "there seems to be no reason why this province should not be an independent state." What the Czar had in his mind was the up-break of the Sultan's dominion in Europe. He desired a Russian protectorate in the Balkan peninsula. That he failed to win, though in return he was ready to acknowledge England's superior claim to Egypt. Nor would he even object to a British occupation of Candia. Both Egypt and Candia have ceased to recognize the Sultan's control. Since 1878, Cyprus, moreover, has been administered by an English governor, and the French occupation of Tunis, which followed in 1881, seemed to end the Ottoman rule in Africa. When Sebastopol was taken in 1855, the achievement was the cause of much loyal rejoicing in Canada. In the province of Quebec, especially, the Anglo-French alliance was a source of real satisfaction. But, as surveyed from the standpoint of to-day, the policy of which it was the fruit, does not appear to have been the wisest. There were other Powers whose inter-