

ing, save the heavens falling in. And the Ministry is applying reforms at a rattling pace, such being the reward for pluck, energy, and honest resolve. It may well go ahead for the nation is at its back. It has just scored a bumper majority in the Chamber, where it was expected to be defeated on the bill of the succession duties where the principle of the proportionate and progressive poundage has been adopted. All that in ten days! though the measure was on the stocks since as many years. That secures the passing of the coming Income Tax law too; then France will be, financially, on a level with modern nations. In the navy and army the same grit in the action of their respective Ministers is displayed; no playing any longer with reforms. Adopt or reject and let the electors decide. No wonder political trimmers and the sitters on fences commence to conclude the end of the world has arrived. The secret of the situation is this: the nation was weary with its legislature, preferring wind-bagism to work and merely postponing, not pushing forward, the ameliorations democracy demanded. Foreigners would be wrong in not following the exhumation of the Panama scandals. The resolve to peep into the charnel house will not be exactly repulsive, while the operation, painful though it be, reflects credit on the nation's honesty and must bring "good luck."

Admiral Gervais is receiving it hot and heavy for his extraordinary seamanship in conducting the four best and most modern of the French iron clads on a sandbank. He would be summarily disposed of, were we living in the times of the Committee of Public Safety, when a delegation of the national representatives followed in the rear of the commanders to instantly judge them if they suffered defeat, and forthwith passed them to the accompanying guillotine that had a place in every baggage train. That was the plan *pour encourager les autres*. As the Admiral has not yet given any official explanation, he ought not to be hurriedly condemned. It was he who commanded the French fleet at its visit to Cronstadt, and thus was able to afford the late Czar the opportunity to play the opening part in the Franco-Russo alliance.

The law will be voted declaring deputies and senators ineligible for the Chambers if they form part of any board of a financial institution. Had that law existed earlier, the Panama scandals could never have occurred, nor would Arton have had any work to do. The result will be to deprive the legislature of the councils of some economists. Perhaps Léon Say is the most notable; but his opposition to the Death Duties Bill and the proposed Income Tax Law, that he qualifies as nefarious and abominable, well knowing they work well in many lands of the free, have very much lessened his influence and weakened his authority. Besides, the new *couche* of public men that the Third Republic has developed, have among them many sound financial heads. Apart from all this, in every department of the State, they are its *chefs* who represent the ability, traditions, and experience, so at once coach up the new Minister when he enters upon office.

The 600 Carmaux strikers are rapidly being helped with the necessary capital of 500,000 frs. to establish a co-operative glass factory for themselves. It would not be a bad practice or experiment if persons with more money than they know what to do with would lend a little to the fixing up of workmen's own factories for production. If the scheme succeeded, well; if it failed, well also, as it would demonstrate the inutility of working men running establishments on their own account. In the case of Carmaux, one lady presented the strikers with 100,000 fr. gratis. Her name only accidentally leaked out; her landlord sued her for damaging a walnut tree by whacking off the branches too liberally. Now a proverb says:

"A wife, a spaniel and a walnut tree,
The more they're threshed, the better they be."

The magistrate was not of that opinion, as he fined the lady 5 frs., and condemned her to pay 200 frs. damages. Her counsel retorted that was very severe treatment for a lady who had just handed 100,000 frs. as a free gift to 700 of her countrymen, unemployed since six months, to set up professional house-keeping for themselves.

The Governor-General of Indo-China has arrived in Paris to obtain the consent of the Government to issuing a loan of 100 fr. millions for the development of the industrial resources of Tonkin, and the opening up of roads, and, above

all, of a trunk railway into the Chinese Province of Yunnan—that English Burma-Siam-Yunnan railway intends also to tap. Since Madagascar—about which no one speaks at present—the fever for colonial expansion has cooled down very much. The French are not in a very pliant mood just now to part with their savings; the future is too dark and the unknown too apparent and perilous. The tendency is to "take in sail" as sailors have it. Z.

Paris, Nov. 20, 1895.

Autumn Song.

[From the German of Friedrich Rückert.]

Heart, now so old, yet so foolish at times,
Hop'st thou from morning to morning,
All the bright blossoms the Spring failed to bring
Will linger for Autumn's adorning?

Never the wand'ring breeze ceases to play
Through the boughs where each blossom uncloses.
Roses unfold in the morn at his breath,
At evening he scatters the roses.

Never the wand'ring breeze ceases to play
Through the boughs till each blossom has perished.
All, O my heart, is a wind and a breath,
All we have loved and have cherished.

—LOIS SAUNDERS.

Diplomacy.

THE diplomatic staff of the various nations, whose duty it is to watch over the foreign policy of their neighbours for the guidance of their respective Governments, have, at the present moment, a great deal to occupy their minds. The strength developed by Japan, and the weakness shown by China has upset the calculations of foreign nations who have interests in the Pacific Ocean. It, therefore, becomes necessary to preserve the balance of power in Asia and protect China from being dominated in her weakness by Russia. British interests predominate in China. Hong Kong has outstripped all other ports on the Pacific, having a commerce of \$200,000,000 yearly. France has the Province of Tonquin on the south, and now it appears that Russia is trying to get possession of Manchuria on the north. In seeking for foreign officers to assist in the military organization of the Chinese army Germany has generally supplied them, and, at the same time, under Sir Robert Hart, a large staff of English officials has constantly, for the past 30 years, been retained by the Chinese Imperial Government for the purpose of collecting the revenue, which kept employed a number of gunboats. The United States and Canada are both interested in unlocking the doors of trade in China, being only separated from the Asiatic coast by the Pacific Ocean. In that respect their interests are identical with British interests. Whenever the British Government acquires territory in any part of the world she applies the principles of free trade to the part she governs, that is, all the nations of the earth are free to trade and receive the same protection as is accorded to her own people in her ports (the secret of the commercial predominance of Hong Kong), while the protective nations act upon a different principle. The sympathy of the people of this continent, whose policy is, or should be, the advance of civilization on Christian lines, coincides with the people of Great Britain, and the influence of the people of the United States and Canada should be exerted to assist in the opening out of the Chinese Empire to the progress of the world's civilization. Japan has had the good fortune to be governed, for the past 20 years, by men whose patriotism and statesmanship has only been excelled by their wisdom. She has already assumed a foremost place among nations on the lines of British policy and offers an excellent alliance to continue the wise principles they are striving to apply to their own nation. If wisdom is exercised by the Governments of the United States and Great Britain, supported by public opinion in Canada and Australia, a great danger to the peace of the world may be averted. At any rate Tennyson's words, "Britons, hold your own," inserted in his Jubilee ode, will come back again and again in every crisis where British policy is threatened abroad, and the knowledge that the people of Great Britain live again in Canada, Australia, and among the nations over whom she has thrown her