

Russians were beaten, and how entirely impossible it was under the circumstances that they should not have been beaten. Kuropatkin's great plan is no longer a popular topic of conversation. Staff-officers have lapsed into resolute silence on the subject of the war. The Rue St. Dominique was very badly let in by St. Petersburg regarding the military situation in Manchuria at the outbreak of the war. How is it to give greater credence to former boasts of military preparedness in Europe? Or rather, how can it avoid the too plain conclusion that this too was bluff, which Paris papers go on repeating is a Japanese invention? So much for Russophile France.

The proportion of the people which no longer pretends to be Russophile, and which may be estimated to have been multiplied by at least ten since February, is very tired of Russia and of Russian methods. The very small section of public opinion which was opposed from the outset to the alliance with Russia need merely be mentioned. The very great majority of the people welcomed the friendship of Russia with perfectly genuine, often gushing, but, after all, quite justifiable enthusiasm, as every one knows. That the Liberal Republican regretted the necessity for his country of accepting the alliance of such an autocracy as a means to an end is undoubted, but at the same time very few, even of the most uncompromising Socialists, were prepared to deny that the means was an effectual one, or to contest the commonsense proposition that the Franco-Russian alliance has helped France to regain her proper place in the councils of Europe. Now they have changed all that. French public opinion has been accused since the war of disloyalty towards an ally in a fix. What degree of loyalty had the ally shown to France before? For several years past the centre of intrigues against the Republican Government has been St. Petersburg. Official Russian society was a great deal more actively royalist than the Duc d'Orléans, and especially more Bonapartist than Prince Victor, whose one dread in life is that he will be harried away from his homely fireside in Belgium and bullied into