

possible a peaceful solution should be found for present difficulties. The German Emperor has for a long time been playing a part which can only eventuate in a serious imbroglio with the liberal section of his own subjects, unless, indeed, he follows the example of the Little Napoleon, and endeavors to distract the attention of his disaffected people from their domestic troubles by a foreign war. Germany seems to contain but one free man just now, and he is half a lunatic; the rest of the nation are slaves. The sixty or so editors who tried to utter a few words of freedom are all in gaol. The situation is, indeed, far more critical than that which preceded the wars with Denmark, Austria, and France, which, while consolidating the German Empire, wiped out the reform movement of the preceding quarter of a century; for, though the anti-socialist legislation has been somewhat modified, the last few years have seen hundreds of men punished for simply using language "disrespectful" to the Emperor or his dogs and horses. Freedom of speech is a thing of the past; and, with a vanity-stricken despot at the helm, only one outcome seems possible—war, at home or abroad.

Although Russia has her hands full, not only with nihilism, but with railroad and shipbuilding, in order to enable her to deal more effectually with China and Japan as well as with Turkey and the European powers, and could well afford to wait still longer to accomplish the scheme of conquering Constantinople, it is likely she will be forced to take advantage of the present circumstances to advance her frontiers. It is thought also by some, indeed, that she will do this without a protest from the Western Powers, and without the outlay of a copeck or the loss of a Cossack. If so, the reason will be that more serious matters will be engaging the attention of the other Powers, which will indicate equally dangerous conditions.

France is politically in an extremely feverish state. The mass of the French people, if left undisturbed to pursue their own path of thrift and enjoyment, would doubtless be quite content to continue the work of a gradual consolidation of the Republic; yet political partizans are so active and unscrupulous, and they so industriously and so vindictively pursue their selfish ends, that a *coup d'état* seems imminent almost daily. Such an event could only end in a military despotism; and this in turn would probably result in a repetition of the events of 1870, and a re-establishment of the Republic. So far as there is any union of the political parties, it is on the question of rehabilitating French "glory." The chief difficulty seems to be to settle which to avenge first—Sedan or Waterloo. Chance will most likely cast the die for them.

To Canadians, the condition of affairs in England is of most importance; and, indeed, throughout the world, the greatest interest is exhibited in the proceedings of the Government of the world's greatest empire. Liberals universally recognize that the world's progress—at all events for many years to come—is bound up with the progress and prosperity of Great Britain, and that any events which would seriously interrupt