

fled to America to find the liberty denied them at home. Catholicism is the only barrier at present in Prussia against a general and debasing despotism of the State over mind and action.—*Laing "Notes of a Traveler."*

Germany is now without a creed and without a free press.—*Mayhew.*

Any thoughtful man must cease to respect the Reformers in proportion to the extent of his reading. They appealed to the ignorant. Advanced thinkers are learning to esteem them less and less—the artistic failures of Protestantism are due to its purely transitional character.—*Hullam-Froude—Anthropological Review.*

Whatever is good in the New Zealander existed in him before our missionaries arrived, and these virtues are fading away under their assumed Christianity. The only fruit of Protestant teaching is to convert the native into an infidel.—*Trollope.*

"I will never go to Canossa," the famous declaration of Prince Bismarck, has ended in humiliating surrender, and he is now not alone standing at but thundering at the gate of Canossa. Recently in the German Chamber he made a complete and humiliating surrender to the Church which in the self-same Assembly he had so often outraged and insulted. In the first place, one of the first incidents of the war between Prince Bismarck and the Holy See was the withdrawal from the latter of the German Ambassador. This was an open and public announcement made to all the world of the fact that between the German Empire and the Holy See there was a quarrel—deadly, irreparable, to the death. In view of this incident, what, we may imagine, were the straits to which Bismarck was reduced when he made to the German Parliament the speech in which the last stage of the journey to Canossa was recorded. "It was intended," said the Prince, "to insert in the Prussian Budget an item providing for a diplomatic representative at the Holy See." In other words, Prince Bismarck, uninvited by the Pope, who has always regarded the persecution with defiance and disdain, is about to send an envoy to. "with bated breath and whispering humbleness," express the deep sorrow of the Prince for having ever entered on a conflict with the Eternal and Invincible City. Prince Bismarck was of course taunted by his old friends in the Chamber with having "gone over to Rome," and he answered in his usual tone of blunt frankness, "If I were really inclined to continue the struggle with the Church, I should be hindered by the fact that my former allies have deserted me and forced me into the arms of the Centre (Catholic) Party."

Bismarck is forced to kiss the rod, but he does not care to conceal how bitter the ordeal is for the proudest man in Europe. It remains to be seen, however, whether even his utter surrender to the Catholics can preserve the most detested statesman in Europe. United Germany, as built up by Prince Bismarck, has been an enormous failure. The people are poor, discontented, and turbulent, and it is only by a savage code of repressive laws that the Revolution is kept down for a time. There was a period in very recent history when the Emperor of Austria was the most unpopular of European sovereigns. At this moment no throne in Europe is so safe. A short time ago the Emperor visited Austrian Poland, a province whose risings have in our own time shaken Austria to the base. He was entirely unprotected by military or police, but he traversed the province with the most glorious body-

guard which ever surrounded a sovereign. In each parish the farmers of the country, splendidly mounted, rode cheering and huzzing by the side of the Emperor's horse, and the moment he crossed the boundry of the parish a new escort took up the duty, so that Francis Joseph passed right through the province of Cracow with no safeguard save the people's bodies, and no protection save the people's love. On the other hand, the Emperor of Germany has over and over again been shot at in the finest street of his capital, and strict precautions are necessary to save him from the fate of his nephew, the unfortunate Czar Alexander.

The truth is that the military system of Germany is a weapon of enormous oppression, and is rapidly becoming intolerable. "Prussia," said Bishop Dupanloup, "is not a great nation; it is a great camp," and never before was a sounder political truth shut up in a neat aphorism. A system which brings the flower of the nation to fester in camps for the best years of their lives is a system which may be just tolerated by France, the richest nation in the world, but cannot long be tolerated by a nation essentially poor. As long as the Emperor lives it is, no doubt, certain that the bloated ornaments of which he is so proud will be continued, but the Emperor is a very old monarch; his health is in a critical state, and he will be succeeded by a prince who has served with distinction in the field, but all whose tastes and inclinations are reported to be pacific. The accession of the Crown Prince to the German Throne might, but for one reason, eventuate in a policy of disarmament and peace. The one great force tending in the opposite direction is the annexation of Alsace-Lorraine. It is certain that as long as France is France her people will watch eagerly for a chance of winning back the fine province and the two great cities torn from her by military disaster. The pecuniary fine has long since been forgotten, but everyone knows that Germany will keep her flag flying over the conquered provinces only so long as she can hold them with the sword, and this it is which imposes on her the duty of a perpetual preparedness.

EDUCATIONAL NOTES.

READING.

I.

THE IMPORTANCE OF THE SUBJECT.

We imperil in no way our statement when we say that there is no other subject so worthy of the careful study and attention of a teacher as that of *reading*. Whether you dignify it with the title of elocution, surround it with the aurora of oratory, or give it the more common classroom term of reading, a study of the proper expression of thought through, that God-given gift voice, is and should be the most important subject in every school and college curriculum. But you may say, are you not attaching too much value to the subject of reading when you assign to it a superlative importance in the schoolroom? We think not. You have only to recognize the fact that it is through the medium of reading alone we reach the garnered wisdom of