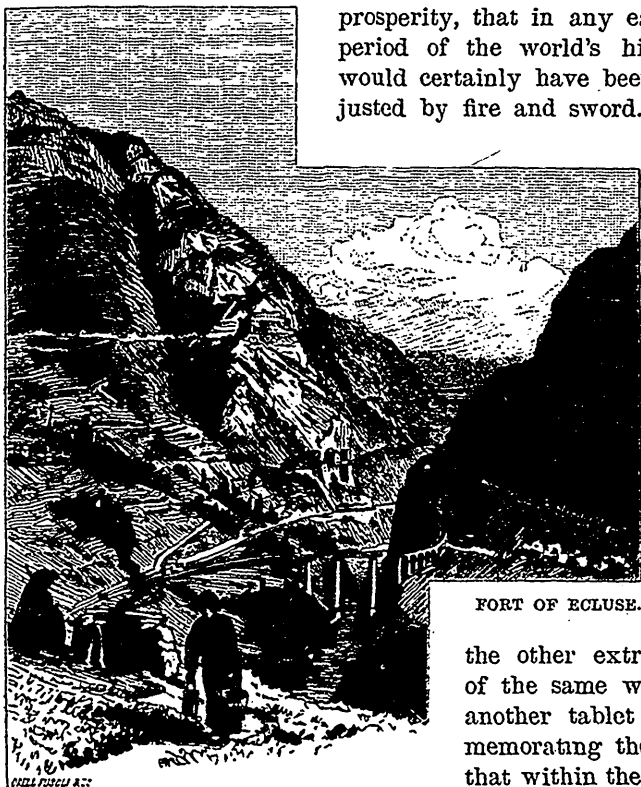


"It is very possible," says a recent writer, "that when two or three more centuries set the events in a new and larger perspective, it will be seen that the most potential influence that ever came out of Geneva came from the room in the Hotel de Ville in which the Alabama Commission held its sessions. At one extremity of the wall is a marble tablet commemorating the fact that within those walls, by the method of peaceful arbitration, two great nations settled differences that might easily have set

the torch of war to their common prosperity, that in any earlier period of the world's history would certainly have been adjusted by fire and sword. At



FORT OF ECLUSE.

the other extremity of the same wall is another tablet commemorating the fact that within the same walls met more re-

cently the representatives of the Great Powers, and agreed upon certain terms for the amelioration of the condition of the wounded on the field of battle. So much for the history written on the walls of this room—a history infinitely nobler and more significant than that written in the dismantled Schloss at Heidelberg, or in the ruins that crown the vine-clad hills of the Rhine. There is also a bit of prophecy in this room—a prophecy which springs like an inspiration out of its history.