

Delcasse's Return.

WHEN the mule of Gil Blais was on sale the prospective buyer secured the animal at a sacrifice by inducing certain outsiders, ostensibly disinterested and friendly to the owner, to show that the mule was worthless. Since the time of Bismarck Germany has never shrunk from trying to defeat the patriotic measures of French ministers by stirring up the French opposition against them. In the case of Delcasse, however, the mule was not sold.

Delcasse, Minister of Foreign Affairs in the Rouvier cabinet, after a debate on the Morocco incident, felt that he had not been treated fairly, and promptly resigned. The German press was exultant over the event. "All confidence in him," says the *Hamburger Nachrichten*, "is gone; his glory is at an end. His object had been to form a political clique a circle consisting of Italy, Spain, France, England and Russia, and this circle was intended to hem in Germany. There can indeed be no question that Frenchmen had full confidence in Delcasse, and considered him as seeking, through peaceful means the highest interests of France. But the day came when he permitted himself, apropos of the Morocco affair, to exhibit a want of foresight that was criminal."

This want of foresight was indeed a figment of the German brain. He was accused by Germany of neglecting to inform the German Government of the Anglo-French Convention, but, as the Paris correspondent of *The Times* points out, this is a mere pretext. No complaint was ever made because Germany was not informed of the convention between Austria-Hungary and Russia in 1897. Speaking of the

later incident the correspondent goes on:

"As a matter of fact Germany had not been consulted, nor to the best of my knowledge, was she subsequently officially informed of the understanding that had been arrived at, although it affected a part of the world where German commercial interests are involved to a much greater extent than in Morocco—namely, the Near East. The object of the agreement was very similar to that of the Anglo-French entente—namely, the maintenance of the political status quo, the restoration of order and security in the disturbed districts of the Balkan Peninsula, and the introduction of reforms."

But the point of the Delcasse incident is that Germany has not pushed things to extremes, but has simply given Emperor William an opportunity to stand forth personally as a champion of the Mussulman world. Meanwhile Delcasse has accepted back his portfolio. Perhaps he has not been guilty of a *coupe de theatre*, and we must take with a grain of salt these words of the *Daily News*, London:

"M. Delcasse has stepped back in order to take a better spring. Once again, in that language of the theatre, to which the French so naturally resort, picturing things in dramatic guise, he has made a *fausse sortie*, that is to say, his exit from the scene was only a pretended departure, so that he could return in a moment with tenfold effect. It is necessary, one observes, to have recourse to the French idiom in these matters, for English diplomacy is less gifted, ostensibly, at least, with these arts of finesse."

The *Spectator*, London, sums up the results of the incident thus: