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FRANCO-PRUSSIAN DIPLOMACY.

The exchange of the "lie direct" between the Cabinets of Paris and Berlin, reveals to the world a deeper shade of trickery than was supposed permissible in modern diplomacy. To be an accomplished diplomat it was well understood that a man should be shrewd, crafty and reasonably suspicious of his neighbours; that he should be able to forecast the consequences to his own nation and to others of any proposed new alliance, or change of

political jurisdiction; and, if in Europe, that he should at least manifest due respect for the preservation of the traditional balance of power, whatever he might privately think of its advantages. But Bismarck and Napoleon have stripped modern diplomacy of its garb of exterior decency, and exhibited it in the character of an organized conspiracy for plunder. That the schemes in the secret proposals entertained between them fell through is so far a fortunate circumstance; but Europe can hardly feel safe

with these powers in its midst unless when strong enough to resist their machinations. This involves enormous armaments which in turn burthen the finances and crush the industry of the people. It has been universally believed that there was a secret arrangement between Napoleon and Bismarck before the Austro-Prussian war; and that after that war Bismarck outwitted the Emperor, or in plain terms declined to fulfil the bond. The policy of Prussia has been actively aggressive since the crafty Bis-



GRAND FALLS, RIVER ST. JOHN. From a photograph.—See page 83.