

small-pox. The wildest stretch of the imagination, could not conceive of the venerable Empress of Austria, or of the fair young Queen of the Netherlands, (whose life was also it is said attempted), as oppressors of their subjects. According to the murderer's own statement, he stabbed a woman principally to show that he was no coward. Were such crimes habitually committed against the persons of tyrannical despots, or even against the representatives of tyrannical despotism, they might be, not justifiable, but intelligible; the perpetrators might pretend that they were actuated by zeal for the interests of their country or of their class. But the records of this class of crime show that the presidents of republics, the freely chosen rulers of free peoples, are in just as much danger of assassination as any Czar, Sultan or Shah. Garfield or Carnot is no safer than Abdul Aziz or Alexander. The victims seem to be chosen, not because they are hated by their subject people, but because they are beloved by them. The animating spirit in all these crimes is not patriotism, but the spirit which animated Cain, the first murderer—the spirit of malice and envy. The life of our own Queen was attempted more than once, at a time when the whole nation practically was frantic with joy and inspired with new life over her accession. The Nihilists who try to intimidate the rulers of Russia into political reforms by the fear of assassination are bad enough, but they are at least intelligible. They may seek to justify their heinous crimes by claiming that "it is expedient that one man should die for the people," as humanity's greatest crime was sought to be justified; but the man who tries to kill a young girl, or a venerable lady, because, in addition to the ordinary troubles of life, she bears the burden of a crown, is either a madman or an incarnate fiend. Whatever the ultimate purpose of anarchism may be, its methods are always the most vile. It has sufficient crimes to its credit already to justify society in regarding it as a dangerous disease, to be stamped out like any other plague. Every member of the order to which Luccesi belonged is as guilty as he.

Owing to the abolition, many years ago, of capital punishment in Switzerland, it is just possible that the murderer may escape the extreme penalty of the law that would have ended his worthless life in any other country. Perhaps the best thing the Swiss courts could do would be to expel him from Switzerland, and turn him loose in Vienna.

#### EFFECTS OF THE ANGLO GERMAN AGREEMENT.

That Germany should have at last the shrewdness to adopt the only safe course left open to her, in order to extricate herself from a false and a dangerous situation, is a matter for sincere congratulation. Emperor William has sought and obtained from Great Britain the latter's consent to enter into an agreement, based both upon military and mercantile considera-

tions, to act in harmony in the future, instead of being periodically at loggerheads, in various parts of the globe, as in the past. It is needless to endeavor to inquire too closely into the reasons which prompted so sudden a change of front on the part of the young emperor. It may be that his eyes were suddenly opened to the fact that the Czar had all along been hoodwinking him in respect to Russia's policy in the Far East; or that he was scared by the possibility of an Anglo-American, Japanese, and even Chinese combination in that quarter, for the dismissal of Li Hung Chang proves that British influence is still paramount in the Flowery Kingdom; or that he had grown weary of his vain attempts to soften the acerbity of the sentiments with which the French people have regarded the Germans since 1871.

It is difficult to believe that the last-named conjecture is well founded. Yet that it is not quite improbable is apparent from the numerous steps which he has taken since he became Emperor to cultivate a friendly feeling with France. It is only a few years since he actually expressed the hope that he would soon be able to pay a visit to Paris. With a view to testing the opinion of the Parisians on the subject he made arrangements for his mother, the Dowager Empress Frederick, to go on a visit to her mother, Queen Victoria, by way of Paris; but for reasons best known to himself and the Dowager Empress, another route was adopted, and he himself gave up the idea of making a sojourn in the gay capital. That he should have seriously entertained such a notion is explained by the mystic side of his peculiar character. When speaking of *La Revanche*, and the reconquest of Alsace-Lorraine, Gambetta said to the French people: "*Pensez-y toujours; n'en parlez jamais.*" But they not only think of it all the time; they speak and write of it as well. Nobody in his senses, except young Emperor William, would dream of trying to conciliate France, while her "lost provinces" remain under the domination of the Teuton conqueror. A more practical way of allaying the chronic ill-feeling in France against Germany is that which, it is stated, will be proposed for discussion at the Czar's coming "Peace Conference;" and that is to make the provinces as independent as Switzerland or Belgium. This idea, it may be noted, was proposed by Leo XIII. over a decade ago; but it was rejected by both the powers interested because of the angry feeling then existing between them. France may now consent to take into consideration, at a conference of all the Great Powers, and on the motion of her new idol, the Czar, what she would not even discuss at the suggestion of the Pope.

Apart altogether from the commercial advantages which will accrue not only to the motherland, but to Canada and other colonies by the partition of China, which the Anglo-Germany agreement will entail, issues of vast import to humanity are involved in the virtual alliance of the two Powers. If, on one hand,