

PARIS LETTER.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

Although the majority in favor of the Republican form of government was small, it demonstrates the salient feature that there is in the Assembly a compact and resolute body of 350 deputies who have a definite and precise policy—the foundation of the Republic, as the only possible form of government for France of to-day, while an equal number are grouped around two monarchies and an empire, all as practically impossible to establish as their policies are irreconcilable.

Though not very hopeful to expect, there yet remains the possibility that many sensible and moderate Royalists will rally to the serious duty of aiding in the organization of the Republic, and so secure their distracted and drifting country several years of confidence and repose. Both Royalists and Republicans recognise fully that the Monarchy cannot be established; that the Empire must not be restored; that the Republic exists, that MacMahon has been named President for seven years; and that the Provisional—the trace of parties—is no longer possible, and is furthermore repugnant to the country.

The Chevaliers of the Right Divine in expecting the miracle that is to restore their King; the fanatics of Radicalism in their case-iron creed; the Bonapartists in reserving the chances of the Unknown by a cabalistic appeal to the people, must be eliminated from that new majority to be composed out of the moderate fractions of the Assembly, and we believe the solution is not in expedients, in ministerial empiricism and verbosity, but in a line of conduct lucid and precise, definite and energetic, of reparation and of construction, of toleration and of unexcusableness; it would be well to try this alliance of sensible and business deputies before resorting to the dissolution full of promise, but at the same time full of uncertainty; for the danger lies, not in proclaiming the Republic but in constituting it. The sole and efficacious means to combat the extreme parties is to oppose them with veritable institutions; with a government so constituted that the nation shall not be reduced each morning to demand how many days of assured peace it can count on, or what breeze, what event, is likely to sway the provisional.

Up to the present the revival of Bonapartism has been only artificial, the consequence of its having been rehabilitated by the wants of the late coalition cabinet. Its agitations are more noisy than decisive; and it is at best but a phantom. However, coarse language is not the means to compel Imperialism to still display modesty, for the nation is very far from pardoning its misdeeds. The agitation of the Bonapartists is the offering of the uncertainty of the situation, of the dread of revolutionary violences, of the sterility of the efforts to place France under the conditions of a regular 'regime,' and of the material losses and sufferings consequent on such a deplorable state of things. The Second Empire is a menace, and will be, so long as the Assembly leaves unoccupied the place that it filled. Hence, why the Imperialist deputies vote against every measure for the organization of all regular government. Such is their 'little game.' It behoves Liberals and Conservatives, if they wish to avoid a Bonapartist, or other autocracy, to terminate their tweedledum and tweedledee differences while there is time.

that he "wished to visit him, but could not, as the Queen had taken his 'carriage.'" Large vehicles drawn by six horses ran from Paris to distant out-skirts where passengers paid five sous for a place; these were the first omnibuses, and enabled the citizens to amuse themselves in hissing the travelers. It was only under the Restoration that the omnibuses of to-day were introduced.

Mung MacMahon a few days ago attended the annual festival in aid of the Musical artists. In stepping out of her carriage her foot became entangled in her dress and she fell; an ex-Minister ran to assist her, but she regained her feet alone, adding her regret that ex-Ministers are not so fortunate in so quickly rising after a tumble.

The publication for the first time of some new official documents by M. Roumain on the '18 Brumaire' is quite apropos to the present month, in which so many persons believe to see history repeating itself. The Consulate Government, which at the commencement was not better obeyed than the Directory, had nominated commissioners to inquire into all the branches of the public service—civil, military and judicial—to signalize the state of parties, their strength etc. The first point to notice is, how great the difference is between the promulgation of a law and the obeying of it. Functions had been everywhere created, on paper, but no officials could be found to fill them. Mayors, either under the influence of the clergy, or from pure discouragement, resigned. Paid officers were in a state of extreme penury—their modest salaries were months in arrears. Pensioners received but one-third of their pensions, and this was often six months unpaid. There were justices of the peace ignorant of all law; mayors charged with keeping the civil registers, who could neither read nor write; treasurers ignorant of book-keeping by any entry. Military officers seized the tax collectors' strong box, asserting riches and fortune were for the brave, and they would balance their debt at the cannon's mouth—all the consequence of Napoleon's lessons in Italy and of his conduct on the 18 Brumaire at St. Cloud. Of popular education there was none; parishes as well as towns were without schools; the schoolmaster was paid only by the fees, and when he demanded these the pupils were withdrawn. The founding hospitals were without resources; the salaries of the nurses were thirty months in arrears; in some localities 90 per cent of the infants died. Public works were allowed to run to decay; the stitch in time failing, more than nine were subsequently required; in Dauphine and Provence the two chief civil engineers died of hunger. The grocery trade was the only one that flourished, and towns like Valenciennes, that were destroyed almost by the siege in 1793, were not a fourth part reconstructed in 1802 when visited by the commissioners. (There is but little evidence of the invasion of 1870 now in France.) Brigandage became in several departments a profession; the inhabitants, when not criminal, made common cause with the criminals, and bandits condemned to be shot saw large subscriptions opened to save them. Quite a general difference existed respecting murders and robberies; an 'honest man' out of work took to both to live, discarding the business when he obtained other employment. To capture these criminals was difficult, as the women warned them on the approach of the officers of the law; if arrested and brought to trial, there were no witnesses forthcoming, and juries rarely saw the guilt of the accused.

The country was cured of royalty, but it had not rallied to the Republic, and only knew the latter by the misfortunes flowing from the revolts against it; the soil was covered with a luxuriant vegetation, and cattle were plentiful on hill and plain; but man remained barbarous in this spectacle of nature reconciled and peaceful. The anarchists became enthusiastic at the nation's victories abroad, the treaties of peace, and the heroic conduct of the government; but the royalists believed France never was so well beaten, as when most victorious. There was between old and new France a demarcation that a century could not efface. The state of the clergy was painful and pitiable; some prelates prohibited chanting in the churches and the ringing of bells; the Catholics of Paris had to share their churches with the theophilanthropists.

In some cities, as Marseilles and Toulon, there was no religion at all; at Paris the churches were occupied only by old men, women and girls, and these even declined to confess, or partake of the sacrament. One commissioner deplors that the Constituent Assembly did not declare France to be Protestant, and another, that it is quite a mistake to conclude that either the spread of education or philosophy can destroy religious prejudices, and that the first duty of politicians is to see men and things as they are. The Protestants and Israelites were alone contented and quiet in the enjoyment of their newly acquired state of freedom, but in other cases the nation was dejected; there was no civic spirit abroad, people voted no more, they disclaimed a public function; they were resigned to submit to everything. It is thus that they made no protest against the 'coup d'Etat' of the 18 Brumaire, nor against the consecration of universal suffrage; they had neither hatred nor gratitude for the usurpation; victories, defeats or treaties, touched them not. But what the nation felt was the precariousness of the power, all personal, of Napoleon,

which depended on his line; a power which was neither monarchic nor republican; that offered no kind of security, depended upon no permanent institutions, but on the life of an individual. France of 1874 has less reason to draw from her history of 1802—the necessity of depending on institutions, and not on individuals, as the best saviors of society.

Paris like the rest of France is for the moment afflicted with a political epidemic. People read nothing but newspapers, and newspapers contain nothing but politics. That part of Gambetta's journal devoted to political romances—the 'feuilleton,' now treats, strange to say, the modern practices for preparing gunpowder. The most powerful novel that might keep even Rip Van Winkle or the Fat Boy from dozing, fails to act the part of antidote against the spread of politics. Perhaps to escape the affliction, explains why so many persons are leaving town for the solitude of the country. The Victory of the French horse Boiard at Ascot, more than dispels the passing cloud that had fallen on the hippic world of Paris in the winning of the Grand Prix by the English horse 'Trent.' The fortunes of France commence to turn for the better at last.

A very exemplary punishment—two years imprisonment—has been inflicted on two employees of the Morgue, who have for some time been in the habit of abstracting the clothing and other articles found upon the unknown dead. After the bodies remain exposed the three days as required by law, to public gaze on the slabs in the Morgue, they are entered in the Pottery Field; the clothes are carefully preserved for one year, and articles of jewellery for two, with the view of enabling the unknown to be identified; these are the objects of the condemned robbed.

Some unpleasant correspondence is said to be going on between Ledru Rollin and Emile Olivier. The latter who seems to be the Chevalier of the Second Empire, to defend it against all challengers, has called Ledru Rollin to account for speaking in his late puerile discourse on Universal Suffrage disparagingly of Napoleon III. whose love the vain Olivier believes to have captured, just as he flatters himself to have converted de Morny to liberalism. It was the generosity of Ledru Rollin that enabled Olivier to complete his law studies, and Ledru Rollin has had occasion to remind Olivier there was here no room for any light-heartedness. No duel is of course expected. The most amusing part of the matter is this, that M. Olivier though openly repudiated by the Bonapartists, believes himself not the less to be the high priest of Imperialism.

Paris now enjoys its favorite vegetable, which is important from its political significance—tomatoes, dear to Chantilly as pears are to Neuilly. Louis Philippe adored tomatoes, and after listening to a discourse of four hours long from Thiers at the Privy Council without a turn of the eyebrow, the old King would tunch off half a yard of grilled pig's pudding and slices of raw tomato with salt. In the days of his exile, when Louis Philippe acted as school-master in Switzerland, it was with a monster tomato that he explained the revolution of the earth to his pupils, and a present of that loved vegetable could avert, it is said, the anger of that royal pedagogogue.

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