

support given to the General is the hope that he will recover Alsace. To rush into a desperate struggle with Germany in order to restore to France Frenchmen who are German subjects against their will, would be, if a folly, yet a kind of generous madness. But any one who has read French papers with care will with difficulty believe that popular desire for "revenge" contributes more than a very subordinate element to the General's influence with the masses. The wish to get rid of government by an assembly is, one may venture to assert with some confidence, the motive which enlists voters in favor of Boulangist candidates. If this be admitted, it follows that the victory of Boulanger will be a blow to the cause of popular government throughout the world.

In England we are accustomed to think that we are unaffected by foreign opinion. In one sense this is true. Englishmen are ill-informed about foreign politics, and do not pay much attention to the speculations of Continental writers. But English-beliefs on political matters are greatly affected by the course of events in foreign countries. Whoever is old enough to look back to the state of sentiment prevalent in Great Britain from say 1856 to 1864, will recognize the fact that the course of events in other lands told strongly in favor of Conservatism in England. The revolutionary fiasco in 1848, the predominance of Southern influence throughout the United States, the apparent success of the Confederacy, and the expected dissolution of the Union, created a condition of feeling which would surprise the Conservatives of to-day. My own firm belief is, that had the Confederacy finally established its independence, the whole modern constitutional history of England would have been altered, through the indirect effect of the conviction produced thereby that the greatest experiment in democratic government which the world had witnessed had ended in failure. Nor can I for a moment doubt that the breakdown of Republicanism in France would retard the progress of popular government throughout Europe.

Secondly. The fall of the republic, if the republic be destined to fall, will be in the main due to the cause which, above all others, has in France been fatal to the stability of free institutions. This is, to put the matter shortly, the inability of defeated parties to acquiesce in the expressed will of the nation. To put the same thing in another shape, all parties in France have been, and are, revolutionary parties. In the early stages of the Great Revolution, the Court played into the hands of the Democrats; the King, and, still more, the Queen, intrigued with Jacobins in order to discredit La Fayette; and the same disastrous game has been played in one form or another ever since, by politicians who might call themselves Conservatives, but were, in truth, reactionaries or conspirators. At the present moment France is menaced with a return to despotism. It might have been expected by any man unacquainted with French history that all good citizens would, whatever their political preferences, rally round the republic in order to resist a movement which threatens to destroy the liberties of the country. What really has taken place is, that the party of every pretender is more than half disposed to aid Gen. Boulanger, under the hope that the general confusion produced by the overthrow of the republic may at last turn out for the benefit of some particular claimant, be he a Bonaparte or a Bourbon, to whose success a given faction is devoted. On this matter English opinion is densely stupid. Moderate men ask why the Orleanist Princes should be banished from France. The reply is, that no government can tolerate the pre-

sence of pretenders. Great is the power of forgetfulness, and Englishmen have so entirely forgotten their own history that they cannot understand why the French republic acts towards the Princes of the House of Orleans just as the constitutional monarchy of England acted during the last century towards the Stuarts.

Thirdly. The dislike or indifference with which large classes of Frenchmen regard the rule of the Assembly is merely the most striking example of a sentiment which, however much we may condemn it, is becoming prevalent in various countries of Europe, perhaps in almost all of them. The word "Parliamentarianism" is an awkward term enough in itself, and represents a feeling which has hitherto commanded little sympathy among Englishmen. The term, however, is coming into vogue, and its meaning is well understood in Switzerland, in France, in Prussia: it is the word by which Imperialists, Loyalists, or Democrats designate the weak side of government by an elected Assembly, or, in other words, by a Parliament. There was a time when, to all Englishmen, and to all men in every country who longed for freedom from oppression, Parliamentary government seemed to be the name for an ideal constitution which, wherever it existed, insured to those who enjoyed it all the blessings of freedom and of good administration. To-day it is far otherwise. In every country there are thinkers and politicians to whom Parliamentarianism means the rule of an Assembly torn by factions, whose strife is fatal to the existence of good administration, and sacrifices (as is alleged) to the interest of party the welfare, it may be the existence, of the country. What is the basis of these complaints, how far they may or may not be justifiable, how, if at all, they can be met, are questions with which, to-day, I do not concern myself. My object is not to support or attack any particular theory, but to point to an undoubted fact, namely, that the weakness of the French republic is a sign of the dislike which is spreading, even in Democratic countries, to that direct rule of an Assembly which is denounced as Parliamentarianism.

AN OBSERVER.

Correspondence.

THE AGE OF FREDERICK THE GREAT IN GERMAN LITERATURE.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE NATION:

SIR: Your correspondent "C. H. G." (in your issue of May 10) is mistaken in saying that Lessing's fear has not been realized, that the literary age in which he lived might one day be called the age of Frederick the Great.

Chapter xi of Scherer's 'Geschichte der Deutschen Litteratur' has the title, "Das Zeitalter Friedrichs des Grossen." In the notes at page 755 Scherer quotes Lessing's saying, and adds:

"But this warning does not frighten me at all. In the first place, 'Age of Frederick the Great' is a convenient name for the period from 1740 to 1786. And then there really exists a connection between Frederick's sentiments and policy and German enlightenment, between Frederick's deeds and German literature. Kant's and Goethe's testimony is well known, although such testimony is hardly necessary where the facts speak so plainly. I do not believe a word of the widespread fiction, that the growth of literature among the Germans has been quite other than with other nations: with us, also, high literary development depends upon high political development."

Scherer and those who follow him in this

are not "flatterers," as Lessing would have it. They see and declare the truth which Lessing failed to see.

ARTHUR H. PALMER.

ADELBERT COLLEGE, CLEVELAND, O., May 12, 1888.

NEWNHAM AND CAMBRIDGE.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE NATION:

SIR: A discussion in regard to the admission of English women to certain examinations and the university degree at Cambridge recently appeared in the *Nation*. In this connection, the following extract from a letter lately received from a Cambridge lady may be of interest:

"In your letter, you ask me to explain why women are not allowed to take the General and Special Examinations. The fact is that a great many rich young men come up to college and do not work hard. They are allowed to take the ordinary General and Special Examinations, which are very easy. They spend a great deal of time in boating, cricket, and games. It has been the custom to allow this state of things to go on, and though many members of the University have tried to put an end to it, as yet they have not succeeded.

"We at Newnham and our friends do not wish our students to take these unsatisfactory examinations, and therefore our students only go in for honors, viz., Triposes. Those who do not wish to go in for honors take the Higher Local Examination, which is much better and more varied than that for the Ordinary Degree. If a better Ordinary Degree were instituted, we should not object to their taking it.

"Many petitions have been sent up this summer asking for degrees for women. It is a very difficult question, for the undergraduates are under very strict rule in their colleges, and there are men proctors to see after them at night, etc. These rules could not be applied to women. Moreover, I do not think we are prepared for a mixed university. What may happen in twenty or fifty years no one can say, but we are not ready for a sudden change yet. It is much better when things come on gradually. The University authorities have been most kind and friendly to us. We seem to have won the regards of many of the best men. Only the other day a very distinguished man in the University, Mr. Coutts Trotter, who was Vice-Master of Trinity College, died and left us 2,450 books from his very valuable library. He had been from the beginning of the College one of our chief friends and advisers. He was our Vice-Chairman, and he was always at our meetings and ready to help us. His loss is indeed a great one, and his place can hardly be filled. He also left us £1,500 in money and many valuable physical instruments. It is indeed very touching to receive such gifts, which recall to us so strongly the giver.

"We feel we have won a place in the University. I would rather wait awhile till the members of the University feel they can do more for us—I mean the University in general, all parties and divisions. Such is my feeling, and I hope and trust all will end well. At present our students have certificates from the Vice-Chancellor, but they are not members of the University, and cannot vote or join in the business of the University. They have passed exactly the same examinations as the men. If the authorities find they can grant the B.A. degree without giving the vote to women in University matters, it might perhaps answer. At present, in a certain sense, we belong to the University, and there is a very good feeling towards the Women's Colleges, both among the authorities and the undergraduates."

Very respectfully,
CAMBRIDGE, MASS., March 17, 1888.

A. H.

Notes.

CASSELL & Co. are about to issue a new and revised edition of the novels of Mrs. Elizabeth Stoddard, beginning next month with 'Two Men,' to which Mr. E. C. Stedman will furnish a preface.

A fifth edition of Col. H. B. Carrington's 'Battles of the American Revolution,' revised, and with fresh notes, is promised this month by A. S. Barnes & Co.

Lee & Shepard, Boston, announce 'Noble Deeds of Our Fathers, as Told by Soldiers of the Revolution, Gathered around the Old Bell of Independence.'

Prof. Hosmer's 'Sir Harry Vane' is in the press of Houghton, Mifflin & Co., for publication in the fall.

Cupples & Hurd issue directly 'Social Life and Literature Fifty Years Ago'; 'Iona, a Lay of Ancient Greece,' by Payne Erskine; 'The Autobiography of Solomon Maimon,' by Prof. J. Clarke Murray; 'Miss Frances Merley,' a novel by John Elliott Curran; and 'Wit, Wisdom, and Pathos,' from the prose of Heine.

'Trees and Tree-Planting,' by Gen. James S. Brisbin; 'A Guide to the Conduct of Meetings,' by George T. Fish; and 'A Strange Manuscript Found in a Copper Cylinder,' a novel "written many years before the appearance of Mr. Rider Haggard's," are among the current announcements of Harper & Bros.

Anson D. F. Randolph & Co. will publish early next month 'Stubble or Wheat?' an anti-pessimistic story, by S. Bayard Dod.

Macaulay's 'Lays of Ancient Rome' is the latest addition to the pretty "Knickerbocker Nuggets" series of the Messrs. Putnam.

Pessimistic observers of American politics may be recommended to read the preface to the fourth revised edition of Simon Sterne's 'Constitutional History and Political Development of the United States' (Putnams). This work was originally published in 1881, and Mr. Sterne sees progress all along the line, except in the legal-tender decision of the Supreme Court and the labor aberration fostered by Henry George's speculations. The several steps in advance which he enumerates are afterwards dwelt upon in the addenda, where, also, corrections are grouped together. The book is a particularly useful one for the Presidential year. The short section of afterthought on the woman-suffrage question will, we think, seem somewhat superficial to those who watch most closely the drift of public opinion, of which the latest sign is the close division over the proposed equality of the two sexes as delegates to the Methodist General Conference in this city.

'The Ethics of Marriage,' by H. S. Pomeroy, M.D. (Funk & Wagnalls), is a work in good faith on a delicate subject of the utmost importance. The treatment is in unobjectionable taste, and if it still leaves much to be said, and from a different point of view, it is certain to win respect for the author among the thoughtful.

We have, from time to time, noticed the monographs upon cooperation published by the American Economic Association. These have now been collected, with some additions, and are published in a handsome volume under the auspices of the Johns Hopkins University. A tolerably complete summary of the history of cooperative enterprises in the different sections of the country is thus presented, furnishing probably the best mass of statistics available to the student. It is to be observed that the term cooperation is very loosely used, and includes almost every form of joint-stock association—even those employing laborers who have no interest in the stock of share in the profits. If its connotation were narrowed, there would be a saving of space and the matter would be more instructive.

Among the papers of the American Historical Association is one published several years since, but of present interest in connection with the attempt to divert the Federal revenues to the support of State schools. It is entitled 'History and Management of Land Grants for Education in the Northwest Territory,' by George

W. Knight (Putnams). If we regard the State as an entity apart from its subjects, nothing could be more shameful than this record. The State of Illinois, for example, has succeeded in disposing of about a million and a half acres of land, for which she has to show a fund of \$4,000,000. By an accident some 8,000 acres of land were retained, which are now worth two and a half million dollars. If the lands had been let on long leases instead of being sold, they would now be of fabulous value. But there is much to be said in favor of sustaining schools by taxation, and it is by no means improbable that the apparent loss to the State was more than offset by the gain to individuals. As Mr. Wright suggests, the State is ill-qualified for the functions of a landlord. The paper (vol. i, No. 3) is a very thorough piece of work, and is interesting as well as instructive.

The thirteenth volume of the *Century* (November, 1887-April, 1888) comes bound to our table, and, refreshing our memory of its contents from month to month, we turn over the six remarkable papers by Mr. George Kennan on Russian tyranny and political punishment; Mr. Stillman's estimate of Ruskin, Mr. Lowell's of Landor, and Mr. James's of Robert Louis Stevenson; the war papers, with the thrilling story of the Libby tunnel; the Lincoln biography, with its revelations of Seward's ambition to relegate the President to the condition of a British constitutional monarch, and to make himself premier; the English cathedral articles, and many more. Mr. Stockton's "The Dusanter," Mr. Eggleston's "The Graysons," and Mr. Cable's "Au Large" lead the fiction. Nothing is on the whole so striking among the illustrations as the composite photographic portraits presented by Prof. J. T. Stoddard. They—both male and female—must be allowed to be powerful arguments in favor of the higher education.

From the *Century* Co. we have also the second volume of the sumptuous 'Battles and Leaders of the Civil War,' which embraces some of the most picturesque and momentous events of the great struggle—the capture of New Orleans, Ball's Bluff and the Peninsula Campaign, Stonewall Jackson in the Shenandoah Valley, Pope's defeat and Lee's invasion of Maryland, Inka and Corinth. Among the illustrations that possess a curious interest is one from a photograph of Gen. O. O. Howard taken just before the battle in which he lost an arm, and showing both members intact; and another of the rude mess of the Orleans princes and suite, likewise from a photograph. Belonging to the class of imaginative illustrations (happily not many in this monumental work) that might have been dispensed with, is the frontispiece "The Despatch Bearer," in which the galloping horse was drawn by the generation that knew not Muybridge.

The *Library Journal* for March-April tells of the present and perhaps permanent abandonment of its purpose to give a list of the private libraries of the country containing one thousand volumes and upwards—of which it estimates there are 100,000. Many returns were made freely, but in some cases even legal objections were interposed. "Several frankly stated that they preferred not to make any public statement of the size of their libraries lest the local assessors should promptly rate up their taxes." Others objected to being made the target of circulars from dealers. "From all over the country we hear of, special collections in private hands often better and more full than those in the great libraries, particularly, for instance, in the department of Local History."

According to Mr. Foster's tenth annual re-

port, the Providence Public Library now numbers 37,767 volumes, and ranks eighth in size among those of New England. Some curious tables of circulation for the decade, and for eight years, are given. In the latter period, among "works other than fiction used 125 times and over," Longfellow's poetry stands third on the list (346 times), Lowell's thirty-first (159 times), Scott's thirty-eighth (145 times). "Kenilworth" led all the works of fiction, juvenile included (625 times).

The sale and exchange of public documents effected through the medium of the Interior Department appears, from the annual report of Mr. John G. Ames, Superintendent of Documents, to be proceeding very satisfactorily; yet, for want of power to make requisition on other departments, the Secretary of the Interior is practically shut up to his own. No fewer than 11,953 duplicate copies of the *Congressional Globe* and *Record* have been received from libraries, among which some backwardness in availing themselves of this privilege is remarked by the Superintendent. He recommends as a check on overprinting for distribution by Congressmen an increase in the number of lawful depositories. Complaint is made of the frequent duplicating of titles of the same public document, and of the binding together in unwieldy volumes unconnected documents sufficient each to make a volume in itself.

A memorial portrait of the late Prof. John Norton Pomeroy, the former Dean of the Law Faculty of the University of the City of New York, has been presented to that institution. A pamphlet has been issued containing the address delivered on the occasion by Mr. Chauncey B. Ripley, with biographical and bibliographical data concerning Prof. Pomeroy furnished by his family.

Mr. Charles G. Leland will thankfully receive any contribution towards his forthcoming 'Dictionary of American Colloquial Expressions,' newspaper peculiarities, current jokes on popular topics, fragments of songs used proverbially, etc. Any such matter should be sent to the address 2 White Hart Street, Paternoster Square, London, E. C.

For anyone in the habit of seeing several of the daily Paris papers, and of the lighter and more gossiping *revues*, the *Gazette Anecdotique* might not perhaps contain much that was new; but even in that case it would be found that there were few events desirable to remember or refer back to, in the political, literary, or artistic life of the moment, which were not preserved in the pages of this little periodical in a condensed and easily accessible form. Even the vagaries of *not' brav' général* and his followers are recorded under the proper dates, with quite as much detail as they deserve, side by side with the rise and fall of the successive ministries, and the production of the successive new plays which are the bubbles in this sparkling foam of Parisian journalism.

Brentanos have received the first fascicule of Albert Wolff's '*Figaro*—Salon, 1888,' of which four more are to come. The text thus far is cursory, and avowedly not based on a study of the canvases. The illustrations are of large size and excellent quality, in various "processes" which, a few years ago, would have been beyond the reach of such a publication, and in which Paris still takes the lead.

The second volume of the '*Société de Paris*,' by the anonymous Count Paul Vasili, has been issued from the press of the *Nouvelle Revue* (Boston: Schoenhof). Its special title is '*Le Monde politique*.' The first volume, '*Le Grand Monde*,' appeared last spring.

Plon & Nourrit have just published '*Mabil-*