"La Belle France."

It is no wonder that Frenchmen delight in the above affectionate compliment to their land. The exclamation of a stranger will most naturally be, "How pretty!" Greater solidity, broader enterprise, wider knowledge, may be found elsewhere; but for neat arrangements pleasing to the eye, and for graceful and even picturesque grouping, there is nothing to rival France. Already in some of our American cities we have taken a leaf out of the Gallic book. The removal of the black and repellent railings from parks and squares, the construction, and even the name, "Boulevards," the furnishing of seats in open places of resort, and the introduction of the finest flowers to the gaze of the poorest of the people—these are points in which London, New York, and other great capitals, wisely imitate Paris. It is not, surely, an unlikely thing that eyes habituated to freshness, order and beauty in the streets, will more readily crave it in the home than will those whose doors open on unsightly heaps of dirt, or piles of decaying rubbish.

The features of Paris have been so often described that it is useless to dwell on them. The only objects that strike one unpleasantly are the Hotel de Ville and the Tuileries, in ruins, a new street to run [illegible]nt of the latter, of which the only portion undestroyed is that which the late emperor had restored for the Prince Imperial, which still stands—a hopeless omen to the minds of the Bonapartists of the restoration of the family to power. There are the same clean streets, the same level drives, the same rivulets of clear water each morning flowing down what is no longer a "gutter" (Salt Lake City has a like arrangement), the same clean looking working people in the blue blouses, and the same courteous civility as of old. Your coachman, starting in the evening, finds himself without a match to light his lamps; he stops at a stand, asks for one and receives it with as much polite ceremony as if giver and receiver were dukes. It is a little matter, but it is one in which the Anglo-Saxons have something to learn.

The features of rural scenery in France have been less noticed than the attractions of Paris. Indeed French country life is hardly known at all to mere tourists, who pass hastily from great city to great city, many never stopping after they have quitted the capital. In contrast with English and American fields, there are practically no fences. Multitudinous farms lie alongside, with their crops disposed in narrow ribbons of wheat, oats, sanfoin, potatoes, turnips, hemp, and, in the South, vines, with no boundary that catches the eye. The variety of color is great, and the effect to the eye is pleasing, but the arrangement suggests the smallness of the farms and the multiplicity of proprietors. Machinery does little, the hand does most. In a ride of nine hours by rail, in harvest, only one reaping-machine was seen. One consequence of this arrangement is the utilization of every foot of the soil. Earl Russell once described Irish fences as earthen fortifications, along the road tops of which a carriage might be driven. There is an improvement in this respect, but there is room for more. No such waste occurs here. A man's wheat drops its heavy heads over the carrots of his neighbor, without a bit of unsightly or useless soil between.

The absence of cattle from the fields is a less agreeable feature. From Paris to Dijon, a run of over three hundred miles, in only two instances were cattle seen feeding. One could understand the heavy back-loads of grass, vine-leaves, and the like, being carried home by the women, who certainly take their full share, apparently, in the labors of the field. The cattle have to be provided for in their sheds. In a few cases flocks of sheep were seen in patches from which the crop had been removed, a man on one side, and a dog on the other defending the crops from them. Poor things! they looked embarrassed and uncomfortable, very like a company of Saxons making believe to be at their ease in the dreary interval that precedes a public dinner. One would rather see them ranging freely over the green expanse, as on the English downs, or the Scottish moors. If they think at all in France, they no doubt feel that, like bipeds in many places, "they are governed too much."

One misses also the birds which give so much pleasure in an English landscape. Even a solemn and reverend crow in his spotless black, or a pair of magpies with their look of self-satisfied impudence, one prefers to the total absence of birds. Under the impression that they were mischievous, the departments once set a premium on the heads of small birds, and their extermination was effected. Then it was found out, too late, that in obtaining their "board" the feathered visitors paid for their "lodging" by destroying the insects. But the evil was done; and it is easier to drive a good thing away than to win it back. As we send cheese, bacon, preserved fruits, and have begun to send iron, beef, and cotton prints, to Europe, so by and by we may be able to export our surplus sparrows. The days in which safety could only be had in towns are recalled to one's mind by the arrangements of life over much of France. One does not see small farm-houses in the middle of the farms. The people live in towns and villages. The eye ranges over miles of country, tilled as we have described it, without a dwelling. The social qualities of the people probably contribute to this plan, which in its turn gives a certain "town" character to all the people. There is no room for the awkward boorishness which grows up in the isolation of English farming-life. The thrift which must be exercised, in order to win moderate comfort, is everywhere apparent. The tall poplars, by far the most abundant tree, one finds stripped annually of their branches, apparently for fuel, and that coal-dust which every wind scatters around Pittsburgh, and so many other American centres of coal and iron-working, is here collected, compressed into huge bricks, or handsome round masses, and piled up for use at railway stations, with as much elegance and order as if the heaps were on exhibition. Of course, all Englishmen and Americans have learned from infancy upward their own immense superiority to the poor creatures who cannot speak English, and only babble in French; but a candid person will be compelled to admit, notwithstanding, that in matters of courtesy, taste, thrift, order, and arrangement, our Gallic friends can teach us something.—*N. Y. Ledger.*

A LEARNED sergeant was once accused of having disgraced the bar by taking silver from a client, the etiquette of the profession requiring that his fee should be in gold. "I took silver," he replied, "because I could not get gold; but I took every farthing the fellow had in the world, and I hope you do not call that disgracing the profession."

A Great Loss to France.

The announcement of the death of Thiers was startling in its suddenness. Though already an octogenarian, so wonderful was his vitality that he might reasonably have been expected to live for ten years more. His death, in the maturity of his powers, with every faculty alert and vigorous, is a great loss to the world, and may prove a great calamity to France.

Louis Adolphe Thiers was born at Marseilles in 1797, of *bourgeois* parentage. He at first intended to enter the army, but on the death of Napoleon I. his friends selected for him the profession of an advocate, and he was sent to the Academy of Aix. After a brilliant career as a student he was admitted to the bar in 1820, and began the practice of law in Paris. Meeting with little success, he soon turned his attention to journalism, becoming a contributor to *Le Constitutionnel*. His political articles in this journal attracted the favorable notice of Talleyrand, and not long after a wealthy admirer purchased for him a share in the proprietorship of the paper. In 1823 he made his appearance in the world of letters by publishing his *Histoire de la Revolution Francaise*—a work which at once attained a great and deserved popularity. During the whole of his busy life he was continually publishing pamphlets and bulky volumes, sufficient in themselves to have occupied the entire time of a man of ordinary industry. His *Histoire du Consulat et de l'Empire* is the most elaborate of these works.

But Thiers was not the man to choose the quiet of an author's life. He took a prominent part with Lafayette and others in the *coup d'etat* which overthrew Charles X., and became Minister of the Interior under Louis Philippe, and afterwards Minister of Commerce and Public Works. His energy and executive power were marvellous, and fresh life was infused into every department with which he was connected. In 1836 he became Premier, but was soon forced to resign, only to be recalled again in a few months. It was a critical time. The King was unpopular and his throne unstable, but with strange fatuity he refused heartily to support the only man who could have saved his government. Theirs again resigned, and resumed his literary labors.

After the overthrow of Louis Philippe in 1848, Thiers opposed Louis Napoleon's rise to power, and became so odious to the latter that he was arrested at the *coup d'etat* by which the President of the Republic made himself the Emperor Napoleon III. He was soon released, and after a few years' retirement made his appearance in the *Corps Legislatif* as the leader of a powerful opposition. His services to France as President of the Republic, after Napoleon's disastrous war with Germany, are too recent to need comment.

Thiers's well known preferences were of a limited monarchy, like that of the Orleans princes. But though a sincere monarchist, he was above all things else a patriot. This is the key to a political history which would otherwise seem to be that of a mere trimmer. France was his idol, and for France he was monarchist, imperialist, and republican by turns. During the last years of his life he accepted the Republic in good faith as probably the best possible government for his country in its present condition. And probably there was no other man in all France to whom so many eyes were turned, and in whom so many firmly trusted.

With little danger of exaggeration, Thiers might one week ago have been pronounced the greatest man in France, if not in Europe. Others there were in the Academy, of which he was a member, who had won greater laurels in literature; there were men who had far outstripped him at the bar; who had surpassed him as an orator; who wielded greater influence over the destinies of Europe. But in the combination of the man of letters and the man of affairs—as historian, lawyer, orator, statesman—there was not a man in all France, there were few in all Europe, who could be called his peer. When we add to this that his integrity was never called in question even by his enemies, and that he was a man of estimable private qualities, what wonder that he filled so many high posts in the State, and filled them with such honor to himself and such lasting benefit to his country? What wonder that all turned to him after the overthrow of the Commune, as the only man who could create a new future for France? What wonder that during the present troubles, arising from President MacMahon's arbitrary and revolutionary measures, the hopes of Republican France were centered in him!

The death of a leader in the very midst of the shock of battle is always disheartening. The loss of such a leader is almost equivalent to a defeat. Theirs was unquestionably the chief obstacle to the *coup d'etat* which there seems good reason to believe the Marshal-President is meditating. The Republicans are numerically strong, but they lack a head. Gambetta, though for a year or two he has sobered wonderfully, is too erratic; he has not yet demonstrated his capacity as a leader, or prove that he would be a safe leader, if a capable one. There are trying days for France in the near future—days in which she will need all the wisdom, coolness, integrity and patriotism of a Thiers. It is in view of this fact that we say the death of her greatest man may prove to be not only a great loss but a great calamity.—*N. Y. Examiner and Chronicle.*

SWALLOWS.—In Sweden, the swallows, as soon as the winter begins to approach, plunge themselves into the lakes, where they remain asleep and hidden under the ice till the return of summer, when, revived by the new warmth, they come out from the water and fly away as formerly. While the lakes are frozen, if somebody will break the ice in those parts where it appears darker than the rest, he will find masses of swallows—cold, asleep, and half dead; which, by taking out of their retreat and warming, either with his hands or before a fire, he will see gradually vivify again and fly. In other countries they retire very often to the caverns, under the rocks. As many of these exist between the City of Caen and the sea, on the banks of the river Orne, there are found sometimes during the winter piles of swallows suspended in these vaults, like bunches of grapes. We have witnessed the same thing in Italy; where as well as in France, it is considered very lucky by the inhabitants when swallows build their nests on their habitations.

CONSCIENCE is a clock, which in one man strikes aloud and gives warning, in another the hands point silently to a figure but strike not; meantime, hours pass away, and death hastens, and after death comes judgment.

After the Battle of Plevna.

At 3 in the afternoon, after leaving Sistova, I was resting near one of these natural fountains, when a long line of ambulance wagons, enshrouded in dense clouds of dust, appeared over a hill in the distance. As the head of the line reached us and halted by the fountain, I learned of the heavy battle fought the day before in front of the Turkish fortifications around Plevna. The ambulance wagons gradually gathered, until the large space around the spring of cool water was covered with these conveyances, filled with human beings mangled in every conceivable form, who gasped for a drop of water. Some could not drink, as the attempts to swallow brought gushes of blood from gaping wounds in the throat and chest, which prevented them from cooling their parched tongues covered with the horrible dust which rose at the slightest movement upon the roads. Weary with this sorrowful scene, I mounted my horse and pushed on. A short distance from the fountain I encountered a second ambulance train loaded like its predecessor. For two hours they continued to pass me, and then came still longer trains of country passport carts, loaded with the less severe cases, intermixed with an apparently endless stream of ammunition wagons, surplus baggage carts, and camp equipages, until finally the road became completely blocked by the indiscriminate mass of horses, carts, wagons and mangled humanity, streaming toward Sistova. I was compelled to lead my horse to a hillock by the roadside and wait for an opportunity to pass on, as well as to allow my wagon to come up. For more than an hour I stood there watching the passage of this motley caravan, and beheld hundreds of gallant fellows roll by in open, springless carts, with a blazing sun pouring down upon their bloodstained forms, with choking clouds of dust parching their burning throats and settling in masses upon their agonizing countenances, until they ceased to look like human faces. While waiting for the road to be cleared, we were often asked if there were no troops coming to the rescue, and many were the bitter comments made on the folly of dashing those brave fellows against the vastly superior Moslem force, strongly intrenched on the height before Plevna. One officer who was badly wounded had led the extreme advance in the assault on the Turkish intrenchment. He had penetrated far into the Moslem lines, and said if he had been properly supported they could have carried the positions; but the column was not strong enough, from want of troops or generalship, and the Turks, finding this out, turned upon them and drove them back with fearful loss. "Not more than half of that column came back," was the mournful close of the wounded officer's statement. I learned here that the battle of the previous day had lasted from morning until night, the Russian attack being made on both wings of the Turkish lines under the command of Gen. Krudener, who led the right in person, while the Russian left was commanded by Gen. Prince Schakoffski. "We could not do anything with them; they were too strong for us," was the universal remark of officers and soldiers, and their cruel wounds told how wrathfully they had endeavored to carry out the senseless orders to carry Plevna by storm.

The above quotation really tells the story of the battle. The immense numbers of ammunition and transport wagons suggested momentarily a Russian retreat; but the absence of artillery refuted this idea, and I saw that the ammunition wagons were empty, and were evidently going for supplies, while the other wagons contained the tent and camp equipage of the dead and wounded, which were no longer needed at the front. While I was waiting at this place a poor fellow died in one of the wagons, and was buried by the roadside. At last, after the stream had been passing me for four hours, I was enabled to pursue my journey, and a short distance from my halting-place I came upon a mournful scene. The dead body of another Russian soldier lay beside an open grave by the roadside, while a party of Bulgarians were saying their funeral service.

Leaving this funeral group, I soon came upon an officer in command of the escort of the immense trains I had encountered on the roads. He said their losses had been terrific before Plevna, and that during the whole operations around that place they had probably lost 10,000 men killed, wounded, sick and prisoners. This number, of course, includes the 2,000 previously telegraphed to you from Bucharest as the results of the fighting of the 19th, 20th, and 21st of July. I believe the number to be about correct, judging from the wounded that I saw, and more especially by the thousands of knapsacks I met going to the rear, and which had belonged to the men put hors de combat before Plevna. After leaving this escort I passed through a valley containing about twenty ancient mounds, some of which had been opened in former days. They are probably burial places, constructed after some great battle of ancient times, as they could not be intended for any purposes of defense or for watchtowers down in this deep valley.—*Plevna Correspondence of the London Times.*

ANOTHER nephew named Ward was playing with a Mexican sixpence, and put it up his nose. He attempted to get it out again, but it worked its way farther in, and gave him a great deal of pain. He went and complained to his father, who held him firmly, and extracted the coin with a pair of pincers. The boy was indignant because his nostril was lacerated, and ran to his mother to tell her of his sufferings. He said:

"Mother, father is getting to be awful mean."

"Mean, child? What are you talking about?"

"Yes, I say mean, and I stick to it. He tore my nose all to pieces because he was afraid he would lose that sixpence! I wouldn't be so mean for anything!"—*Harper's Magazine.*

ARARAT AND THE ARK.—The legends of Noah and the Ark still cling to Ararat like its snows. The fissure where, under a snow drift, lie the remains of the ark is pointed out to visitors, and there is a piece of the wood of that vessel preserved in the treasure-house at Etchmaidzine. It looks very much like a bit of fossilized or petrified wood. There is only one place in the neighborhood where the olive grows—in a hollow on the lesser mountain; additional proof of the truth of the scriptural account of the Deluge. On the flank of the mountain stood a village, since destroyed by an avalanche or an earthquake, the name of which, Agourri ("He planted the vine"), recalls another incident in the life of Noah.

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It is better to shut out the enemy, Disease, than to battle with him after he has entered the fortress of the body. Therefore, if health is endangered by hurtful influences, such as a malarious atmosphere, unhealthy occupations, sedentary pursuits, and those which necessitate undue physical or mental strain or exposure in rough weather, it is the part of wisdom to protect it by the use of a reliable preventive. No article sold, advertised or prescribed is so well adapted for this purpose as Hostetter's Stomach Bitters, an agreeable and efficacious tonic, recommended by physicians as a medicinal stimulant and corrective, botanic in its derivation, and having for its spirituous basis old rye of the purest quality, which preserves in an undeteriorating form the potent vegetable juices and extracts combined with it. Fortified with this benign preventive, the system may bid defiance to disease, no matter how unfavorable the conditions.

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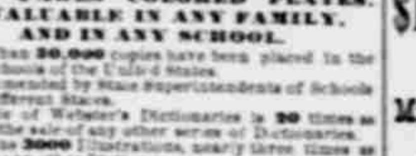

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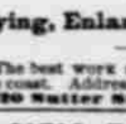

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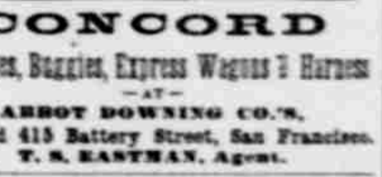

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